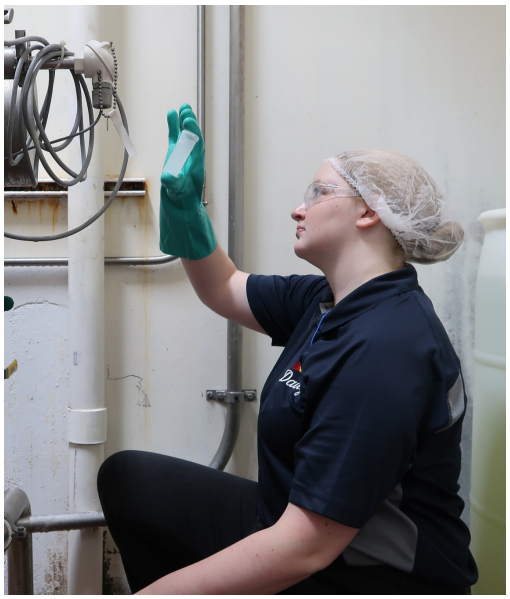
Pollution Prevention INTERN PROGRAM







» APPLY NOW FOR A 2027 INTERNSHIP

Build your résumé with hands-on experience at a top Iowa company while earning a great salary and receiving training from experts in your field.

To be considered for an internship, submit:

- » Application
- » Cover letter
- » Résumé
- » Unofficial transcript
- » List of Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 courses

Selection of 2027 interns will begin in November and continue into the spring until project assignments are finalized.

Interns with the 2027 Pollution Prevention Intern Program will make a 12-week commitment from May 17–August 6, 2027.

Please submit completed application packet to:

*** CyHire**
*** Handshake**
Or submit via email to p2services@iowa.dnr.gov

JUMP-START YOUR CAREER!

Enriching, confidence-building, rewarding, and a career boost are words interns use to describe their experience. Host companies praise the fresh perspectives, credible information, and bottom-line savings interns bring to their operations. Twenty-five percent of past interns report job offers resulting from their internship.

Solve real problems and produce real results

» Interns serve as project managers at their host companies and receive technical support from Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Pollution Prevention Services engineers.

Host companies have saved more than $122.5 million and bolstered environmental performance as a result of implementing their intern's recommendations. Since 2001, companies have confirmed implementation of the following environmental improvements:

- » Reduced energy usage by more than 518.4 million kWh and 27 million therms.
- » Conserved more than 6.5 billion gallons of water.
- » Diverted more than 286,763 tons of solid and special waste.
- » Reduced usage of hazardous materials by 10,493 tons.

Go to www.iowap2interns.com to get started!

Working together to achieve economic and environmental results.

THE POLLUTION PREVENTION INTERN PROGRAM

IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

As an intern in the nationally recognized Pollution Prevention Intern Program, you will work onsite at a company or institution dedicated to protecting the environment and saving money through projects aimed at reducing or eliminating waste and inefficiencies.

PROJECT AREAS IMPLEMENTED

- Compressed air efficiency
- Boiler/steam efficiency
- Heat recovery
- Heating and ventilation efficiency
- Water conservation & reuse
- Wastewater treatment
- Interior & exterior thermographic analysis
- Solid waste reduction & management
- Process improvements
- Hazardous chemical substitution with less-toxic alternatives
- Refrigeration
- Interior & exterior thermographic analysis
- Chiller/cooling tower efficiency
- Lighting retrofits
- Carbon capture

"I felt very rewarded by the people onsite who recognized my work during my P2 internship. The continuous support, both onsite and from the DNR, ensured I always had the necessary tools to get the work done. This internship provided valuable insight into the industry and the daily aspects of this type of work. The professional connections I made throughout this experience have also been extremely beneficial."
— AUSTIN LEE, GRINNELL COLLEGE

"The P2 internship offers a unique opportunity to complete a truly meaningful project that can significantly impact the host company. While the task may seem overwhelming at first, you are given the time, tools, and necessary resources to complete the given project. This internship experience has been incredibly valuable, providing professional work experience that I believe will lead to excellent future opportunities."
— ZACHARY DIXON, JBS USA, LLC

"My P2 internship allowed me to shadow multiple professionals and focus on various aspects of engineering. This experience significantly expanded my engineering knowledge while also benefiting the host company and the environment."
— TYLER CASEY, JBS SWIFT PORK

"This internship was my first time working in industry and I couldn't have asked for a better first impression. The people and the program were both amazing and I ended the summer with a better understanding of my area of study and my future plans. The independence and responsibility, combined with excellent support when needed, created the ideal learning environment for me. I am incredibly grateful for my experience as part of the P2 program."
— VIOLET KRIDER, KEMIN INDUSTRIES

FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS POLLUTION PREVENTION?

Pollution Prevention is the act of changing client processes to reduce or eliminate waste and pollutants at the source, minimizing the need for treatment or disposal.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN INTERNSHIP?

Upper-level undergraduate students and graduate program candidates are eligible. Selected applicants will be matched to a project based on academic performance, relevant experience, and technical skills. Up to 12 internships will be funded in 2027.

HOW DO PROJECTS WORK?

Interns report to a company supervisor who provides onsite resources and garners management support. They also report to a P2 program advisor who provides technical support. The intern will assess a process, research options, evaluate feasibility, and develop cost comparisons for their assigned project. Interns will also initiate implementation of their recommendations at their host company. Deliverables include a final report documenting results, a case summary of the project, and a presentation to host company management.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL I HAVE?

Internships will begin on May17th with a week of training. Interns will learn how to complete an assessment and identify inefficiencies, how to apply P2 methodologies to improve performance and reduce waste, and how to quantify economic and environmental savings. All interns will be assigned a P2 Program Adviser who will provide technical support and resources throughout the internship.

BACKGROUND

Pollution Prevention Services is a team of DNR experts offering non-regulatory environmental technical assistance to business and industry, institutions, and government agencies. The internship program matches host companies with students, refines project goals, helps generate ideas, and keeps projects focused on pollution prevention.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER