



## **AdvantageGreen Energy Internships Program - Position Description**

### **About the Internship Program:**

[AdvantageWest](#), the economic development partnership for Western North Carolina, has received funding from the State Energy Office of North Carolina to support the **AdvantageGreen Energy Internships Program**. This program will place nine, 12-month paid-internships with regional clean energy businesses and organizations providing experiential learning and training in a well-supported and supervised work environment. Through these positions, the program aims to create a pathway to full-time employment for talented recent graduates of NC colleges and universities, while at the same time helping expand our regional clean energy businesses.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Applicants must be either (1) a graduate within the preceding three years of an accredited institution of higher education in the State of North Carolina; or (2) be a permanent resident of North Carolina who has graduated from an accredited out-of-state institution of higher education within the preceding three years.

### Host Business Info

**Business Name:** Blue Ridge Biofuels, LLC

**Business Address:** 109 Roberts St.  
Asheville, NC 28801

**Type of Business:** Biodiesel manufacturing and distribution

**Website:** <http://www.blueridgebiofuels.com/>

### Internship Position Information

**Position Name:** Biodiesel Production Assistant

### **Position Description:**

The Production Assistant will work directly under the Production Manager of Blue Ridge Biofuels (BRB) and will be an integral member of a company actively producing alternative energy in Western North Carolina. He or she will learn and master all aspects of biodiesel fuel manufacturing from raw materials handling, to production, to finished product distribution, and to managing side-streams.

### **Learning Objectives:**

The Production Assistant's duties include managing raw materials, lab testing and quality control of feedstocks through an esterification process, chemical and additive preparation for

production, operating a continuous-flow cavitation reactor through a transesterification process, operating a centrifuge and methanol recovery system, washing and drying biodiesel, tracking and process documentation, maintaining equipment, managing side streams and their proper disposal, operating a waste water treatment system, and quality control and lab testing of finished biodiesel. As the Production Assistant becomes more experienced in running the production plant, he or she will be given more responsibilities with the ultimate goal that by the end of the year, the Production Assistant can run the plant in the Production Manager's absence. The Production Assistant will have the opportunity to conduct research and development of new processes and techniques to increase efficiency, to allow the plant to use alternate feedstocks, and to turn waste-streams into value-added products.

It is Blue Ridge Biofuels' objective that the on-the-job skills learned through hands-on, experiential training will be valuable at many other types of businesses, not just the biodiesel manufacturing sector. Attention to detail, quality control, inventory tracking, safety precautions, being a self-directed member of an integrated team, and knowing how to assess and affectively deal with problems are all highly-prized skills in small businesses and manufacturing companies across the country.

**Additional Position Information:**

The intern will work both individually and as a team. We are a small, tightly-knit, very supportive staff that functions on a more horizontal rather than top-down basis. With such a small staff, we all wear many hats and the intern will have the ability to take on new responsibilities, start research projects, and learn any additional aspects of running a successful biodiesel manufacturing company he or she wishes, such as raw materials sourcing, sales and distribution, governmental policy, marketing and public relations.

**Duration:** The position will start in October 2010 and last 12 months  
40 hours/week, Monday – Friday

**Compensation:** \$15 / hr

**To Apply:** Please submit a resume, cover letter, and at least 3 references by email to:  
**Melita Kyriakou, Business Administrator & Partner** [office@blueridgebiofuels.com](mailto:office@blueridgebiofuels.com)

\*At least one of your references should be from the college or university from which you recently graduated

**Applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted on an ongoing basis. This position is expected to be filled by September 22<sup>nd</sup>.**