

## What You Give and What You Get

The Summer of Solutions is a life-changing experience that gives you a network of friends who are reshaping the world, a platform for supporting yourself while developing sustainable communities, and concrete ideas, skills, and experiences to support new projects, new leaders, and even new careers. This is not just a summer job where you get paid for doing stuff, it's not just an academic experience where you have someone give you intelligence, and it's not just hanging out and having a good time. Instead, it is learning by doing in ways that are life-changing and create the real results in both community benefit and personal ability that demonstrate what is possible.

### **The tangible stuff:**

If you're a volunteer, you do work that inspires you and you feel good about and you learn skills and experiences that help you out in your future work.

If you're a full-time fellow, you do a lot more work that is even more exciting and empowering, plus you get regular mentorship and valuable additional training and experience working with leaders in the green economy field. Working with others, you get to shape the course of what you are doing. Because you're dedicating your whole summer to this effort, you get compensation for your work, which is need-based so that you can participate. As such, you have a role in defining what you need is and as a member of the team, you'll be responsible for helping fill those needs (we'll support you in learning how to find monetary or non-monetary resources that can support the program, which is also a valuable skill for the work we do). Compensation is based on what you need to participate and can come in the form of:

- A fellowship stipend – we are raising grant funding and grassroots donations for fellowship stipends.
- If you're in school, creating of a credit-bearing internship or independent research project that fills your needs.
- Providing free or low-cost housing, food, and transportation options.

### **The Soul:**

We'll unite a team of truly amazing people, work closely with inspiring and deeply rooted community leaders, and introduce solutions that redefine what's possible. As a team, each of us will put our passion, brilliance, and insight into the process, and work together to empower, support, and connect each other, the other people in our local community, and other communities around the country. In the words of someone who took the leap of faith to join us for our first program two years ago:

"For me, Summer of Solutions was an incredible experience. It's hard to quantify or communicate all the ways in which it impacted me, and I'm sure that I will not know or understand all of those impacts until years from now. Suffice it to say that I was absolutely blown away...It is the empowerment that comes part and parcel with being part of building solutions that are really REAL, and knowing that those projects and initiatives were started by people my age - my friends and co-organizers. If they can do it, we can do it too. And we will - because we can."

- Callista Perry, SoS Twin Cities '08 participant, SoS Worcester '09 leader.