The City of Huntingburg is investigating the best solution for residential trash and recycling pick-up. Currently, Huntingburg does not provide curbside trash pick-up; instead, residents must bring their trash directly to the landfill/dumpster sites or contract with a local trash pick-up company. Currently, there are multiple trash collection services that collect trash from residents, which means a variety of large vehicles are utilizing streets on a weekly basis.

The sustainability intern with the City of Huntingburg will be tasked with evaluating the city’s current trash collection services and identifying the most cost-effective, environmentally responsible option. This may include researching similar cities collection procedures through personal interviews with managers, evaluating recycling options and diversion requirements, upfront and ongoing costs and social benefits related to a municipal waste collection program, and the costs and benefits to awarding a city-wide contract to a single private entity. The intern will work closely with the mayor’s office, the planning and community development department and the parks department to examine existing processes and identify opportunities to enhance sustainability. The intern will be expected to complete an in-depth report that includes cost-benefit analysis of various proposals and present his or her findings to the Mayor and City Council.

The intern will report to Mayor Dennis Spinner. Participation in staff and city council meetings will be required. Compensation will be in the form of a stipend through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The intern will work full time for 10 weeks beginning in May and ending in August. Exact beginning and end dates are negotiable. Interns will be required to attend a bootcamp from May 14-18.

The intern will be given regular feedback on progress and performance. Success in the internship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The intern should learn how government operates, how to balance competing priorities and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.