



Cal Poly Humboldt Schatz Energy Research Center

Paid Internship: Student Research Intern, Battery Siting

Position at a Glance

Position: Student Research Intern, Battery Siting

Who can apply: Cal Poly Humboldt undergraduates

Term: October 2026–Spring 2027

Time commitment: approximately 8–10 hours/week

Compensation: \$5,000 stipend, paid monthly to the student's university account

Work location: Hybrid, with flexible work hours

Application deadline: Applications due by Monday, September 14, 2026, at 8am Pacific

Apply now: <https://forms.gle/pQuXw2rpKTv4a1Nt9>

About the internship

The Schatz Energy Research Center has an opening for an undergraduate student research intern to join our team to conduct battery siting research. This paid internship is expected to start in October 2026 and continue through the Spring 2027 semester. The internship is supported by the Philip & Yuriko Anton Climate Endowment.

About the Research

California has set a goal to reach 100% clean electricity and carbon neutrality by 2045. Meeting this goal will require major investments in renewable energy infrastructure to generate, transport, and store this energy. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are necessary to ensure clean energy is available during peak demand, and the state is currently aiming for roughly 52 GW of battery storage by 2045. These projects require permits from

many federal, state, and local agencies, and must include meaningful community engagement and Tribal consultation to understand and address potential impacts.

What you will do

In this position, the student research Intern will support research on social, policy, and environmental factors that shape the siting of BESS facilities in California. The student research intern will contribute to a larger comparative case study of BESS facilities proposed or built in California, Oregon, and Idaho, as well as analysis of the state policies that govern BESS siting and permitting. Tasks may include gathering data to develop community profiles and project timelines, helping to identify interviewees, and supporting the analysis of how community engagement, Tribal consultation, and regulatory processes affect project outcomes.

Your work may include:

- Research and summarize policies, regulations, and permitting requirements for BESS facilities with guidance from the project team.
- Compile and synthesize information from multiple sources into clear, accessible summaries and tables.
- Organize research materials, citations, and data using word processing, spreadsheets, and online tools.
- Contribute to written reports, memos, presentations, and other communication materials.
- Participate in team meetings, share updates, and adapt to new tasks or tools as needed.

Note: The list of responsibilities is subject to change.

What you can expect to learn

This internship offers hands-on experience contributing to applied energy policy research as part of a collaborative research team. You will strengthen skills in policy and regulatory analysis, synthesizing information from multiple sources, and communicating research findings

clearly, while gaining a deeper understanding of how community engagement, Tribal consultation, and permitting processes shape battery energy storage projects.

Minimum qualifications

Education and Experience

- Eligible applicants must be undergraduate students in good academic standing at Cal Poly Humboldt who are registered for at least 6.0 units in Fall 2026.
- Experience with policy and/or regulatory analysis gained through academic coursework, projects, work experience, or other relevant activities.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities

- Interest in contributing to applied research related to clean energy, energy storage, climate policy, community engagement, or environmental justice.
- Proficiency with word processing and basic online research tools.
- Ability to learn and apply policy and regulatory analysis techniques relevant to siting BESS facilities.
- Ability to synthesize information from multiple sources into clear, accurate, and accessible written materials.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to convey complex information clearly to diverse audiences.
- Ability and willingness to work effectively and respectfully as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- Willingness to learn and use new tools or methods to support research and collaboration.

Schedule and work arrangement

This position is expected to average approximately 8–10 hours per week during the academic semesters. Work hours are flexible and can be scheduled around the student's class schedule and other academic commitments. The project team will work with the selected intern to establish a regular schedule that supports both the student and the project.

The position is hybrid, with a combination of onsite and remote work. The intern is encouraged to spend some time onsite at the Schatz Center each week, ideally during times when their mentor or supervisor is also available. Specific onsite hours and meeting times will be determined with the selected intern based on their class schedule and project needs.

Compensation and Internship Duration

The student research intern will receive a **total stipend of \$5,000** for contributions to the project during Fall 2026 and Spring 2027. The stipend will be paid in monthly installments to the student's university account and will first be applied to any outstanding university fees or charges. Any remaining balance will be refunded to the student according to the university's standard refund process.

The internship is expected to begin in October 2026 and continue through the Spring 2027 semester. The intern is expected to complete approximately 250 hours of project work over the appointment period.

How to apply

Deadline

All application materials must be received by **Monday, September 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time.**

Materials

Applicants must submit all required application materials through the official application form

<https://forms.gle/pQuXw2rpKTv4a1Nt9>

The form will ask you to provide your contact information, indicate how you learned about the vacancy, and upload the application materials listed below.

Please prepare the following materials for submission:

1. **Formal letter of application / cover letter:** A formal letter of application (cover letter) addressed to the Schatz Hiring Committee that includes the following:
 - a. Describe your background and what motivates you to apply.
 - b. Describe your experience related to the qualifications above, including examples of relevant work, projects, research, and/or college or university coursework.**Note:** Your cover letter will be used as a writing sample to assess the quality of your writing.
2. **Resume:** A resume of 3 pages or fewer is preferred; however, we encourage you to include all relevant and transferable experience and skills you wish us to consider.

Additional materials may be required from candidates invited to interview.

What counts as relevant experience?

You may demonstrate your qualifications through any combination of the following.

- Paid employment and internships
- Volunteer service and community engagement
- Leadership or participation in clubs, student organizations, or other extracurriculars
- Independent or course-based projects, research, or fieldwork
- Relevant college or university coursework successfully completed or in progress

Questions? For additional information about this opportunity, please email schatzenergy@humboldt.edu or call (707) 826-4345.

About the Schatz Center

Who we are

Since 1989, the Schatz Center has been a leader in applied research and project development for clean and renewable energy. Our current portfolio includes microgrid development, sustainable transportation design, carbon life cycle analysis, solar product testing, offshore wind feasibility studies, and planning and policy for clean energy access around the globe.

As residents of a rural coastal community, we are keenly aware of our social and environmental responsibilities. We are committed to increasing energy access and resilience for communities worldwide — and do so through clean and renewable design that reduces climate change and restores environmental and human health.

Our organizational commitments

Our Vision

The Schatz Center envisions a healthy planet with thriving, equitable, resilient communities powered by clean energy.

Our Purpose

Our team is committed to addressing climate change and improving human and ecosystem health through work that supports clean energy, climate-resilience, equity, and justice. Our work includes:

- Research and development – we do applied research focused on energy and environmental issues.
- Technology deployment – we design, integrate, build, test, and operate innovative, renewable, and resilient energy systems that are responsive to social and environmental needs.
- Collaboration – we work with public and private partners including Tribal Nations, communities, agencies, academic institutions, foundations, and industry to exchange knowledge and implement innovative solutions locally and internationally.
- Education and Training – we support learning that provides practical, hands-on experience for current and future practitioners and leaders.

Our Values

We value:

- Kindness: Treating people and the planet with care and respect through acts of inclusion, helpfulness, generosity, and encouragement.
- Integrity: Approaching one another and our interdisciplinary research with curiosity, open-mindedness, transparency, and humility.

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Providing a nourishing and rewarding environment for Center staff, students, and partners. Respecting the differences of our colleagues and actively seeking to identify and remove barriers to ensure opportunities to thrive.
- Justice: Working to advance racial justice, gender equality and women's empowerment, LGBTQIA+ rights, economic equality, and environmental justice.
- Teamwork and Collaboration: Supporting internal and external community building and engagement to create inclusive and innovative solutions. Sharing knowledge with and learning from our colleagues, collaborators, community partners, and the public to advance understanding.
- Effectiveness: Using our technical, scientific, and policy expertise to do good work that makes a difference.

About the Philip & Yuriko Anton Climate Endowment

This internship is made possible through generous support from the [Philip & Yuriko Anton Climate Endowment](#). Philip and Yuriko Anton are pleased to support research assistantships at the Schatz Energy Research Center through their Anton Climate Fund. Support will go to undergraduate students pursuing extracurricular work at the Center related to clean energy and climate change, with a preference for supporting student involvement in projects involving renewable energy technologies such as offshore wind energy.

Questions, accommodations, and assistance

- For additional information about this opportunity, please email schatzenergy@humboldt.edu or call (707) 826-4345.
- For assistance with the application process, please submit an [Accommodation Request Form](#) or contact the campus ADA Coordinator at (707) 826-4678 or ada@humboldt.edu.
- For more information regarding accommodation, you may also visit the [Cal Poly Humboldt Campus Disability Resource Center](#).
- Individuals in need of a telecommunications relay service may contact the California Relay Service at (877) 735-2929 TTY.
- Learn more about our employment opportunities at schatzcenter.org/jobs.