

Someone once said to me that the world is run by those who show up. This is evident in all facets of our society from politics to celebrity, the people with all the power are the people (good or bad) that cared enough to take a stand and be present. As a young person I was starting to feel like no one was showing up for me. None of my peers seemed to understand that we are the ones who will inherit all the problems that the older generations don't deem important enough to solve: environmental degradation as well as social injustice. So I decided to start showing up, and my internship with the Climate Change Leadership Institute (CCLI) is a step towards giving my generation its voice.

Since coming to work with the CCLI I have learned a lot, not just about environmental issues, but about organizing as an activist around these issues. I have learned that it is not easy to reach people. It is not easy to put an idea out into the world and have it materialize, but it is not impossible. Working with the CCLI has taught me that patience and determination go a long way in activism. The revolution toward a more sustainable planet *is* coming maybe not as quickly as we need it to, but it is happening all around the world. Being a part of the CCLI is just one way to further this revolution, and I have loved being a part of it.

I think the most important thing I learned through my internship is that we cannot rely on our elected officials to bring around solid and comprehensive change to our society and the way it feels about our resources. We can't sit around and wait for them to pass some law or make some decree; we have to take it upon ourselves to bring information to our community in the hopes that when armed with knowledge people will start being the change they wish to see for this planet. We need to encourage things as small as turning off the water when you brush your teeth in the hopes that someday that will turn into a house powered by solar panels. All the great revolutions have started from the people; they have all started on the ground and rose up. CCLI is a part of a larger movement of roots all aiming to grow strong, and it was a pleasure to be a part of it.