



New Belgium Brewing Company Internship

May 2011 – February 2012

I had the extreme pleasure of interning in the Risk Management and Environmental Affairs Department at New Belgium Brewing Company in Ft. Collins, Colorado. It was an honor to work for a deeply respected company in the community, and to work for someone who's paving the way for improved environmental stewardship and safety.

Fortunately, I had many diverse opportunities under the umbrella of Environmental Health during my internship. I worked extensively in brewery safety, including identifying and improving upon workplace hazards, providing solutions to safety problems, enhancing employee / contractor recognition and training in safety concepts, and learning federal Occupational Safety and Health Association standards and how they apply to brewing.



I became certified in control of hazardous energies (lock out – tag out), forklifting procedures, and Hazwoper (emergency response and hazardous waste). These certifications became significant contributions to my resume and marketed me as a desirable employee when applying for jobs later on.

I also was exposed to various environmental testing procedures, including groundwater monitoring of onsite wells (to ensure our wastewater wasn't leaching into underground water sources), radiation testing with a Geiger Counter (to ensure employees aren't exposed to dangerous amounts of radiation when x-ray scanning beer bottles for fill height), and storm water testing of onsite pools of water (to ensure there are no abnormal pH levels indicating chemical leakage).



The majority of my internship entailed supervising the waste management and landfill diversion practices of the brewery. The ultimate goal at New Belgium is to send the least amount of waste to the landfill as possible. I was responsible for ensuring easy, prompt, and sensible recycling practices for everything from chip bags and Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs to damaged pallets and spent grain. I served as a liaison between employee and brewery recycling needs and



the recycling companies. I also answered customer inquiries about New Belgium recycling practices and logged all recycling data to track landfill diversion rates.

Perhaps the coolest part of my internship was a “field trip” with the City of Ft. Collins to various recycling facilities in Denver. We visited A1 Organics Composting Facility, Big Star Textile Recycling, and the Denver Waste Management facility. Not only was this trip super informative, but it also gave the incredible opportunity to network with sustainability experts right in my community.

Ultimately, the New Belgium was a superior company to work for and gave me the extraordinary opportunity to hands on experience the realm of Environmental Health.