

Internship – Green Building Services June-August 2007
Molly Palmer

In the summer of 2007 I moved to Portland, Oregon to complete my internship as my final requirement to graduate with a degree in Environmental Health. I took a slightly different path than the other students and decided to explore a new and upcoming field in sustainable development.

After many phone interviews and a plane trip later, I became an intern at Green Building Services. This was a new company designed to consult Architects, Engineers, and Contractors on how to integrate sustainable practices into their buildings, specifically pertaining to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). I became a member of the New Construction Team assigned to work on new buildings throughout the country aiming to achieve LEED Certification.

My daily tasks included collecting and completing LEED documentation, data entry, calculating annual water usage rates and daylight of a building based different designs, coordinating and attending design and construction meetings depending on the phase of a project, researching materials, reviewing contractor submittals and building specifications, and consulting in all aspects of LEED.

This internship was quite a learning experience for me based on the fact that I had no prior experience with construction, but I was trained on the job and eventually became a LEED Accredited Professional after passing the exam. I felt that I was also able to utilize and apply my environmental health knowledge to my every day work.

I was so grateful for this unique internship opportunity and am now a full-time employee at Green Building Services.

