

**It is critical to Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group Education Fund's mission that our work for a healthier, safer and more sustainable future include young people.** They are, after all, the future. At MASSPIRG Education Fund, we are proud of the many decades that our work has not only championed a better future for young people, but also provided them hands-on civic experience through our college campus chapters, program internships and other opportunities.

Our Civics in Action Internship Program (CAIP) teaches undergraduates and other students the civic skills and knowledge necessary to fully participate in a democratic society. The skills of research, writing, media outreach, advocacy and organizing, combined with a better understanding of our political process and the roles of corporations and non-profit organizations therein, are valuable tools for college students looking to make a positive impact on their community, both now and for the rest of their lives.

In the summer of 2016, in collaboration with our Public Interest Network partner organizations, we launched a pilot program to formalize and upgrade our internship program. Over the last three summers, 66 college and graduate school interns have worked on more than 30 campaigns for our network of public interest groups. These are the stories from the Class of 2018.

*MASSPIRG Education Fund's partner organizations for our  
Civics in Action Internship Program include:*

## the public interest network



FRONTIER GROUP





Maya (second from left) organizes a photo-petitioning event for the "Hold the Antibiotics" campaign outside a McDonald's.

**Maya Talwar-Hebert**, Vassar College, Class of 2020  
*MASSPIRG Education Fund, Stop the Overuse of Antibiotics*

As a public health major at Vassar College, Maya applied her academic interests to MASSPIRG's Campaign to Stop the Overuse of Antibiotics. Maya's internship focused on urging McDonald's to stop serving meat from farms that overuse life-saving antibiotics. She organized photo-petitioning events and press conferences, wrote letters-to-the-editor, and reached out to hundreds of people and organizations, identifying many new MASSPIRG coalition partners. Her favorite part of her work this summer was the people she met and their passion for the issues. In the future, Maya hopes to pursue public health law.



Ethan (left) talks with a local beekeeper at a "Save the Pollinators" coalition press event with Toxics Action Center.

**Ethan Brown**, Boston University, Class of 2021  
*Toxics Action Center, Communications*

As a Film & Television student at Boston University, Ethan wanted the opportunity to put his communications experience to work for his passion protecting the environment. With Toxics Action Center, Ethan learned about many different environmental issues facing New England. Ethan promoted Toxics Action Center campaigns through digital and social media. He researched the climate impacts on Maine's clam industry and had a letter to the editor published in the Portland Press Herald. Ethan is unsure what field he wants to go into after graduating, but he does know he wants to use his skills as an environmental communicator to spur bipartisan discussion and action on environmental issues.



Chris Lovett, of Boston Neighborhood Network News, interviews Netanya (right) and MASSPIRG Director Janet Domenitz for a segment on the MASSPIRG Education Fund report on toxics in school supplies.

**Netanya Perluss**, Wellesley College, Class of 2019  
*MASSPIRG, Zero Waste and Democracy Campaigns*

Netanya was driven to an internship with MASSPIRG because she believes the most pressing issue facing the United States is the disproportionate power that special interest groups have in the political system. Netanya worked with a broad coalition supporting Automatic Voter Registration, a process making it easier for people to register to vote, which passed and became state law in August. Netanya also researched and wrote a report as part of MASSPIRG's Zero Waste Program entitled "Trash in Massachusetts," which highlighted the need for policy-makers to focus on "reduce" and not just "recycle." Netanya wants to pursue a career which combines her passion for social justice with her research and writing skills.





*Katherine testifying in support of cleaner and more accessible transportation, before the Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation.*

**Katherine King**, Colby College, Class of 2019  
 MASSPIRG, Transportation Campaign

As an Environmental Policy major at Colby College, Katherine's internship this summer was relevant to her career path. Working with MASSPIRG on the 21st Century Transportation campaign, she conducted research and helped formulate a policy position on the Transportation Climate Initiative. Katherine honed her public speaking and advocacy skills testifying before the Governor's Commission on transportation, advocating for more clean transportation options in the state.



*Mayor Domenic Sarno and Councilor Jesse Lederman of Springfield joined Brian Quistberg (second from right) and Environment Massachusetts Director Ben Hellerstein at the Renewables on the Rise press conference.*

**Brian Quistberg**, Northwestern University, Class of 2020  
 Environment Massachusetts, 100% Renewable Energy Campaign

Inspired by a recent class at Northwestern University about environmental social movements, Brian applied and was accepted to intern with Environment Massachusetts. This summer, he worked on several projects related to the 100% Renewable Energy campaign. He organized press conferences to release Environment Massachusetts' Renewables on the Rise report, and built a coalition of supporters for the Red Sox Go Green campaign, which aims to get the Boston Red Sox to power Fenway Park with 100% renewable energy. He valued learning how the environmental movement can take such a big issue, like renewable energy, and create specific campaigns to advance local policies.



*Ariel speaks at a press conference at Bristol Community College for the 100% Renewable Energy Agenda.*

**Ariel Moyal**, Lewis & Clark College, Class of 2019  
 Environment Massachusetts, 100% Renewable Energy Campaign

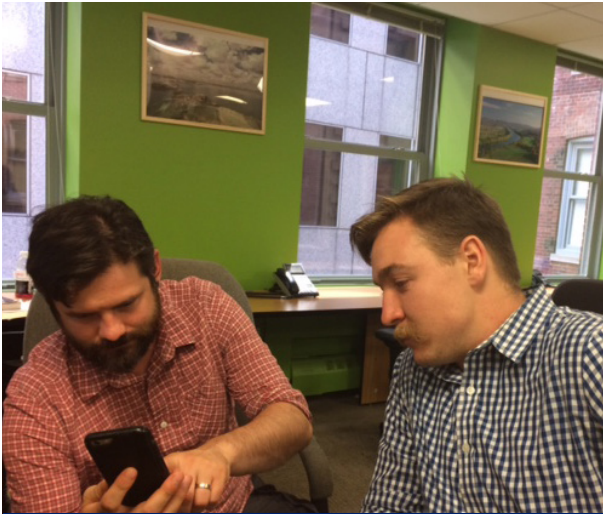
Ariel chose to do an internship with Environment Massachusetts to explore her passion for environmental policy and advocacy. Ariel planned nine press conferences across the state to release the 100% Renewable Energy Agenda report researched and written by Environment Massachusetts. She also researched, identified, recruited, and mobilized new coalition partners, and learned how to generate media coverage. She left the internship with a better understanding of organizing, and equipped with skills to move an ambitious goal forward through smart, incremental achievements. In the future, Ariel hopes to continue working on environmental policy.



*John stands next to a display of past and present student PIRG campaigns that the organization has championed.*

**John Marino**, Saint Joseph's University, Class of 2019  
 PIRG Campus Action

As a political science major, John was eager to apply his coursework to Student PIRG's work, learning how advocacy organizations like the Public Interest Network make social change. John researched and wrote online content for the Student PIRG campus chapters across the country. He developed his advocacy writing skills and learned about the legislative process. John also participated and helped with his fellow interns' campaigns. He was especially thrilled when he was able to watch from the Senate gallery the debate and passage of the Automatic Voter Registration bill, making it easier for people to register to vote. In the future, John hopes to work in policy, organizing, or law.



David (right) works with Nathan Proctor, director of the Right to Repair campaign, discussing faulty phone and technology warranties.

**David Peters, American University, Class of 2019**  
*U.S. PIRG, Right to Repair Campaign*

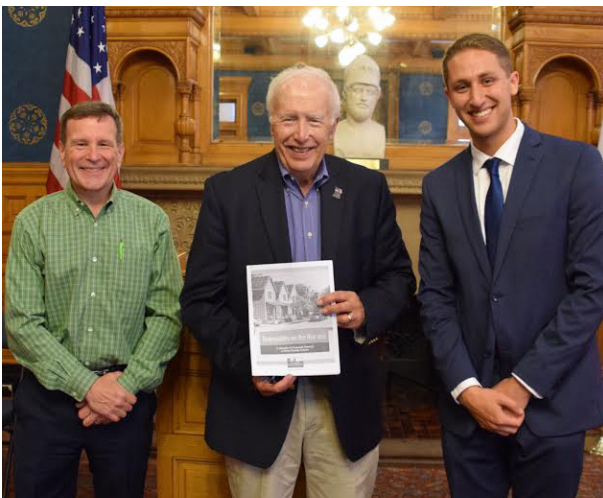
David's internship was with the New Economy Project at U.S. PIRG where he learned how we can stop measuring success through the size of our GDP and start promoting a better quality of life for Americans. David used his research and writing skills to investigate and compare product warranties and associated laws for governing consumers' "right to repair" their products. His research demonstrated how companies intentionally make appliances and products difficult to repair, producing more waste. David is interested in pursuing environmental policy and sustainable development.



Audrey (left), joined by leaders of NeighborWorks and Quincy Climate Action Network, to release Renewables on the Rise Report at a Quincy press conference.

**Audrey Davis, Princeton University, Class of 2020**  
*Environment America, 100% Renewable Campaign*

As a Public and International Affairs major at Princeton, Audrey believes climate change is the greatest problem facing her generation. This summer she interned with Environment America so that she could put her passion for fighting climate change to work. Audrey wrote and published letters-to-the-editor and opinion pieces. She also organized and spoke at a press conference in Fall River, Mass. calling for policies to promote renewable energy. When she graduates, Audrey hopes to work in public policy.



Mark Sandeen (left), Chair of Sustainable Lexington, and Lowell, Mass. Mayor William Samaras (center) join Jake at the Renewables on the Rise press event he organized.

**Jake Naimark, Columbia University, Class of 2020**  
*Environment America, 100% Renewable Energy Campaign*

Jake interned on the campaign for 100% Renewable Energy because he supports a global transition to clean energy to protect human health and well-being. Jake organized a press conference in Lowell, MA to release the Renewables on the Rise report. In addition to learning how to work with the media and generate news coverage, he identified new coalition partners including the Mayor of Lowell. Jake goes back to school with a renewed sense that citizens can take action, especially at the local level, to influence policy and policy-makers if they are willing to persevere and put themselves into new situations.





State Senator Michael Barrett (Lexington) joins CAIP interns including Olivia (back row, second from right) after a briefing on how the legislative process works and how to influence it.



Erica took photos at an Environment Massachusetts event capturing an important moment.

**Olivia Holmes**, Tufts University class of 2020  
*U.S. PIRG, Toxics Program*

Olivia chose to intern with U.S. PIRG this summer to develop the critical skills for advocacy and public policy work. Olivia researched and wrote a report on the harms to public health from glyphosate, a compound used in herbicides. Olivia’s report was part of the campaign to ban RoundUp, a toxic herbicide. Olivia hopes her education and experience will lead to a career in public advocacy.

**Erica Macri**, Boston College, Class of 2020  
*Public Interest GRFX, Creative Team*

As an English studies major, Erica interned with Public Interest GRFX, the internal graphics and publications team for many of the organizations within the Public Interest Network. Erica wrote content on campaign events for both internal and public forums. As a part of the creative team, she practiced and improved her writing skills and learned more about graphic design. Erica is confident her experience will help her in her communications-focused career goals.



Megan (middle) attends the orientation training for Public Interest Network interns.



Shimon (right side of table, third from top) participates in a lunch panel discussion on careers in the public interest.

**Megan Samuelrich**, Vanderbilt University, Class of 2020  
*Public Interest GRFX*

Megan chose to intern with GRFX to learn how to use her Marketing and Communications degree to serve a greater purpose in the marketing industry when she graduates. Megan wrote and designed material for the Public Interest Network partner organizations’ web sites, social media sites, and membership communication materials.

**Shimon Schaff**, Tulane University, Class of 2018  
*Frontier Group*

As an Environmental Studies and International Development major, Shimon’s work with Frontier Group this summer allowed him to improve his research and writing skills, particularly on environmental issues. This summer he researched and wrote a report on autonomous vehicle safety regulations, a complex topic. Shimon’s report will help inform important policy debates involving transportation efficiency, new technology, public safety, and consumer protection. In the future, Shimon would like to work in environmental policy or law and feels his internship gave him valuable experience and exposure to help him determine his path.



Tyler (center right) joined Environment Massachusetts and coalition partners for the "Save the Pollinators" press conference at the State House. Included in the photo are Rep. Carolyn Dykema (Holliston) and Sen. Jamie Eldridge (Acton).

**Tyler Stotland**, Tufts University, Class of 2021  
*Environment America, Clean Water Program*

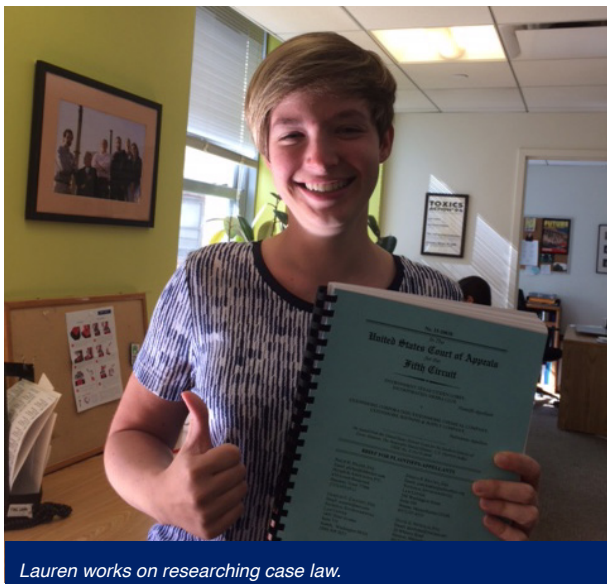
As a double major in Environmental Studies and Community Health at Tufts University, Tyler was involved in getting her college campus to commit to 100% renewable energy. She interned on Environment America's campaign for clean water. Tyler researched and wrote about algal blooms across the country, and generated support from small businesses in defending the Clean Water Act. Tyler gained a more comprehensive understanding of environmental policy, especially clean water issues, because of her internship experience.



Henry joined the Fund for the Public Interest canvass team on a Revere Beach clean-up, highlighting the need to ban polystyrene.

**Henry Hintermeister**, Tufts University, Class of 2019  
*Public Interest Network*

Henry interned for the Public Interest Network to gain experience in running campaigns and connecting with the public. This summer Henry wrote and published letters-to-the-editor and opinion articles on preserving antibiotics and reducing trash, specifically polystyrene. He also created field guides for campaigners to know more about the communities where they were working. In the future Henry would like to write on behalf of good causes, and felt this internship was a great way to practice and learn these skills.



Lauren works on researching case law.

**Lauren Mankowski**, Boston College Law School, Class of 2020  
*National Environmental Law Center*

As a first year law student, Lauren chose to intern with the National Environmental Law Center (NELC) because of their focus on environmental litigation. NELC brings enforcement actions against corporate entities that contribute to pollution when the government cannot or will not enforce our federal environmental laws. This summer, Lauren conducted legal research and drafted other legal documents. Lauren also worked with some of NELC's clients and victims and saw first-hand how the actions of corporate polluters have harmed individuals and communities. When she graduates, Lauren hopes to practice environmental law, potentially by safeguarding conservation lands and at-risk wildlife.





Jamie displays her blog post on Right to Repair issues, which generated national media attention.

**Jamie Allendorf**, Boston University, Class of 2018  
*U.S. PIRG, Right to Repair Campaign*

Jamie interned with U.S. PIRG this summer because she wanted to be part of an organization that she felt had a moral compass and was working towards bettering our world. Jamie researched and wrote about news related to the Right to Repair campaign for U.S. PIRG's website and social media outreach. She also used social media tools to mobilize citizens to get involved. Her most rewarding experience was seeing the reaction and engagement she received after her first blog post on the U.S. PIRG website.



Olivia and Lauren (second row, left) join CAIP interns and staff at a briefing with State Representative Jay Livingstone (Boston).

**Olivia Rolnik**, Boston University, Class of 2020  
*Public Interest Network, Recruitment Department*

Olivia interned with the Public Interest Network's recruitment department because she truly wants to grow the capacity for the organization's civic and environmental mission. As a member of the recruitment team, Olivia gained hands-on experience in non-profit operations doing recruitment outreach, and membership-building. Olivia learned recruitment and organizational skills as she identified and built a network of contacts that will be used to promote public interest careers and opportunities.

**Lauren Moriarty**, Colby College, Class of 2020  
*Public Interest Network, Recruitment Department*

Lauren interned with The Public Interest Network's (TPIN) recruitment department to learn how to build and staff non-profit organizations. TPIN stood out to Lauren for its emphasis on people power. Lauren reached out to hundreds of colleges and universities across the state and promoted job openings through social media, and other networks. In the future, Lauren wants to find a position where she can continue to build the base of organizations doing social change work.



Morganne (right) launching the Break Free from Plastic campaign at the Boston Harbor.



Kara is displaying a Network in Action post she helped create.

**Morganne McGuirk**, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Class of 2020  
*Environment America, 100% Renewables Campus campaign*

As a Communications and Public Policy major and student leader on campus, Morganne applied her interests and campus experience to her work on Environment America’s 100% Renewables Campus campaign. Morganne identified and developed important campus contacts who were interested in joining or starting local efforts to adopt campus policies to get to 100% renewable energy. She also developed writing and communication skills through publishing a series of blog posts. When she graduates, Morganne wants to do marketing and outreach for non-profits. Her internship was instrumental in developing the skills to be successful in this field.

**Kara Brand**, Lafayette College, Class of 2020  
*Public Interest GRFX*

This summer with Public Interest GRFX, Kara was able to explore her interests in public service and social change. She wrote Network in Action posts, which is an internal newsletter for staff of the many organizations within the Public Interest Network. She also created social media posts for a number of different campaigns and organizations throughout the Public Interest Network. As a Government and Law student, Kara is confident the communication and outreach skills she learned and developed are both academically and pragmatically useful in her path forward.



Dr. Sujit Suchindran, Infectious Disease specialist at Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, (center left, holding sign) briefed the CAIP interns about the clinical impact of antibiotic resistance on his patients, and the need for U.S. PIRG’s campaign to Stop the Overuse of Antibiotics.