

Jakob Barton

Summer 2022

Research Associate Intern

Sustainable Energy Advantage

Hi! My name is Jakob, and I just finished up my summer 2022 internship at Sustainable Energy Advantage (SEA). And what a summer it has been! The people at SEA are amazing to the nth degree; everyone is so knowledgeable, helpful, engaged, and accommodating – not to mention super friendly – which made the work all the more fun! And, I learned more in my three months there than I ever could have hoped for.

I mainly worked on “Eyes and Ears,” which is SEA’s weekly renewable energy market and policy analysis and summarization service. Every week, I worked on writing the stories that were sent out to Eyes and Ears subscribers each Monday. I learned so much through reading and writing stories about everything from offshore wind to energy storage to electric vehicles. My experience was really a great example of how hands-on learning can teach you so much. There is certainly no shortage of this kind of learning at SEA.

I knew that writing on Eyes and Ears was important work. SEA’s subscribers run the gamut of important renewable energy market players and policy actors. Each week, I was sure that the stories I wrote were being read by people who really mattered. Knowing this, Eyes and Ears work always felt rewarding. I wouldn’t go as far to say that “a day without Eyes and Ears is a day without sunshine,” but this is exactly what one of SEA’s subscribers said. Is this a good time for a quick plug for the new [Eyes and Ears website](#) on which you can find this testimonial and others? I guess we’ll never know.

Although I spent a lot of my time on Eyes and Ears writing, it was by no means the only work I completed during my summer at SEA. One of the other main tasks I worked on was expanding Eyes and Ears, which currently exists for New England and New York, to the PJM Interconnection region (which includes the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland, among others). Basically, I did a deep dive into the legislative and policy environments of the specific states within the PJM region. I helped create the materials that will allow SEA to expand Eyes and Ears (and other services) to this new region. This work was incredibly rewarding as I knew that I was being tasked with real, important work that the company valued and would use going forward.

During my time at SEA, I was also able to work on the New York Renewable Energy Market Outlook (NY-REMO) service and the Massachusetts Solar Market Study (MA-SMS). For NY-REMO, I conducted research on a variety of cost projection analyses that have been published by different entities in order to better understand technology segmented cost trends in renewable energy markets. For MA-SMS, I worked on updating the short-term regression model to include the most current data.

In addition to my work with Eyes and Ears, NY-REMO, and MA-SMS, I was pulled in by different SEA staff members to work on two client projects. These projects were:

- An analysis of the cost to ratepayers of long-term renewable energy power purchase agreements
- A geospatial renewable energy land-use analysis

I was hired to work on SEA's Eyes and Ears service. As is evident from the examples above, I did so much more this summer. There is no doubt that working at SEA means you will be working on many different interesting and exciting projects, and you can be sure that you will learn a ton while doing it.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work at this wonderful company. If you are looking to learn about the renewable energy world in the Northeast (and really the entire U.S.), SEA is the place to be. I could not recommend it enough.

Jakob Barton