

Keeley Bombard

Spring 2022 Research Associate Intern

Sustainable Energy Advantage

My name is Keeley Bombard, and I am a senior at Boston University pursuing a dual degree BA/MS program, with a BA in Environmental Analysis and Policy and an MS in Energy and Environment. I have been interning at SEA since mid-January 2022 and have had an incredible experience here.

I initially found SEA while searching for internships on the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center internship portal. As someone with an interest in environmental consulting, SEA seemed like a good fit for me at first glance. Then, after interacting with the team through the interview process, I could tell that the team aligned well with interest in clean energy and my goal to improve my quantitative analysis skills.

During my first week, I got the chance to meet with different members of the team across all focus areas, which was extremely interesting. Having exposure to the different experts at SEA made me feel comfortable reaching out to them throughout my internship to ask questions related to their expertise, even if it was not related to my work. Throughout my experience, I met with Tom Michelman to ask assorted questions about net metering, and he made the time to talk with me even though it was not related to an actual assignment. I also met with John Keene to discuss a personal interest in electricity markets, and we jumped on a call a couple of times to talk about interesting things happening in the market. Additionally, some younger employees reached out to me individually to set up a call for a coffee chat and to talk with me about my experience, including Mary McMahon and Eric Pinsker-Smith. Even SEA's founder and president, Bob Grace, reached out to me to have a one-on-one meeting towards the beginning of my internship. He made the time to meet with me after work hours on a Friday, which showed how committed he was to get to know his employees, even at the intern level.

My primary task at SEA was to research the voluntary renewable energy credit (REC) market in New England. This consisted of a lot of research in the beginning half of my internship, and then more quantitative Excel work during the final half of my internship. My supervisor, Jason Gifford, was extremely helpful, patient, and understanding as I navigated learning new things in Excel and as I attempted to consolidate information about individual commitments to renewable energy from colleges and businesses throughout New England, which can be nebulous at times. It was extremely satisfying to watch the task transform from a very qualitative research task to an actual Excel model to estimate demand in the REC market out to 2050. There is certainly more work to be done after I leave, but it was exciting to contribute to it and I learned a lot.

I also helped Cal Brown on a more policy focused task related to researching the PJM energy markets. I helped to put together a slide deck with an overview of the energy market in all the states that make up PJM, which gave me an overview of what the landscape is there for renewable energy incentives. Specifically, I worked on Ohio and Delaware. I also helped Tobin Armstrong on a task related to looking on the horizon for renewable energy projects being approved by going through meeting notes from the ISO New England Reliability Committee.

Overall, I had the most fantastic experience interning at SEA. The people were extremely knowledgeable and helpful, the work was fulfilling and interesting, and the skills I gained were tangible and useful. I eagerly accepted an offer to extend my internship by six weeks, from April 1st to May 12th, because I knew that I could learn so much at SEA. Working here is an absolute joy and privilege and I am sad to go. The opportunity to work alongside such passionate and driven people at the intersection of clean energy and policy is one that I would highly recommend!

Best,

Keeley Bombard