Terraform Industries, Inc.
terraformindustries.com
Los Angeles, California

Summer internship opportunity

- Have you personally built an amazing machine and/or electrical system?
- Or, have you applied your business intuition effectively for profit and growth?

If so, please apply!

What are we doing?

Terraform Industries is an early stage green tech start up. Our team has worked on everything from the Space Shuttle to Starlink satellites, aircraft fuel safety to GPS science. We’re backed by Patrick Collison (co-founder of Stripe) and Nat Friedman (Chairman of github).

We have the most absurdly brain-meltingly ambitious technical challenge imaginable.

Gigascale atmospheric hydrocarbon synthesis.

We’re going to make natural gas out of sunlight and air. Our waste products are oxygen and water. Our goal is to methodically displace oil and gas drilling as the preferred cheapest, easiest method of obtaining billions of tonnes of hydrocarbons. The success condition is driving the net flux of carbon from the crust to the atmosphere down by an order of magnitude, as quickly as possible. Like, by 2035. Every year we delay costs us another 50 GT of CO2 in the atmosphere, so we’re well motivated.

How are we doing this?

We are leveraging cheap solar power to: Pull CO2 from the air and concentrate it by 2000 times; Split water vapor into hydrogen and oxygen via the world’s cheapest electrolyzer; Combine the concentrated CO2 with hydrogen to create clean and pure natural gas; Waste by products are oxygen and steam.

Order of magnitude hardware cost target: $100/T-CO2/year. Operating cost target: $100/T-CO2.

If we can hit numbers like this, not only will we outcompete fossil fuel, we’ll also generate enough cash to be able to scale up quickly enough to make a difference. Our tech is not shiny unobtanium. Our value engineering emphasizes generic materials and non-specialized labor. LEGO and IKEA are fancy by comparison. We are fast, crude, and effective.
What will you do?

**Title** - we don’t have titles yet. Too busy. Whatever you work on, you will likely be the project lead. We have opportunities in each of the three core subsystems: CO2 capture, electrolysis, and fuel synthesis. We also have opportunities related to growing an international business extremely quickly.

**Functional team** - You will join a tight knit, multifunctional and cross-disciplinary team building a development prototype. Our short term goal is to aggressively retire technical risk. We will be building, operating, and improving test rigs on a daily basis.

**Reporting structure** - You will report directly to, and work with, the founding team.

**Areas of responsibility/deliverables** - You will be expected to be able to operate autonomously with considerable responsibility, design, and spending authority. Ideally, you will oversee the complete lifecycle of a test rig component from conception to design, construction, testing, and operation.

**Required education and training** - We want to see evidence of execution capacity. You don’t have to be half way through a MechE, EE, or ChemE degree from a fancy university, if you can show us a portfolio of an awesome hardware project you have personally built. No-one has ever made a system like ours before so we are looking for versatile people who have strong mechanical intuition and the ability to work safely, swiftly, and confidently in a fabrication shop.

**Soft skills/personality traits** - We are all humans, but we check our egos at the door. We’re here to solve a tough technical challenge. We have considerable patience for technical inexperience and learning, and zero patience for avoidable interpersonal drama. At Terraform, we are aggressively helpful, we promote great writing and communication, and we celebrate achievements.

**Location of the role** - We’re based in Burbank, near Los Angeles, California. Work is in person on site, our facility is very well ventilated, and all our people (you included) are maximally vaccinated/boosted.

**Remuneration/benefits** - This internship position is paid.

**Apply**

Send to [internships@terraformindustries.com](mailto:internships@terraformindustries.com) a one pager with your best evidence of execution ability, e.g. a resume or a description of a hands-on project you’ve worked on, or both! If you have YouTube or github links, please include them, as we will appreciate your work.

Not sure if you’re a fit? Send us an application anyway.

Think we’ve made a fundamental technical error? We’d love to hear about it.

We are flexible on preferred start date and internship length (typically 10-12 weeks). Want to start before the usual summer break? Send us an application and be sure to note your preferred timing.

For helpful tips on what we’re looking for in applications, check out [Casey’s blog post](https://www.terraformindustries.com/blog/).