Hudson Valley Regenerators Apprenticeship
2021 Summer Growing Season

*Regeneration* can be defined as “the process of renewal, restoration, or growth that makes life possible against the forces that cause disturbance or damage.” The ECP is currently seeking committed, visionary, diverse, and community-loving individuals to help us form a team of *Regenerators*. Together, we will work to demonstrate new ways to build just, healthy, and sovereign communities of joyful abundance.

**Background**

The [Ecological Citizen’s Project, Inc.](http://www.ecologicalcitizensproject.org) (ECP) is a non-profit organization based in Garrison, NY, that seeks to “develop citizen-led campaigns to build a more just, healthy, democratic, and regenerative way of life.” We believe that people working together at the local level can show that it is possible to make progress against our biggest social problems.

The ECP’s past work has helped move 40,000 Hudson Valley homes to 100% renewable energy, developed a Community Congress model that gives regular people the power to define their own community’s priorities, and created a road-map for local communities to build the movement towards carbon neutrality.

Last year we launched our Regenerative Communities (RC) program and this Regenerators Apprenticeship, training 5 people and placing 4 of them on land in the Hudson Valley to start a regenerative farm that is dedicated to food production and community engagement. Our RC program aims to use the establishment of these community farms in the Hudson Valley as a launching pad to regenerate communities by increasing food security of the surrounding community; increasing residents’ economic security and wealth through community-owned renewable energy; promoting housing and land affordability; and growing civic power.

**Regenerator apprenticeship details**

The ECP has *Regenerator Apprenticeship* positions available for the 2021 summer growing season (typically from late-May through August). We are looking for applicants willing to commit to the full summer growing season and a subsequent placement in developing the RC program at a Hudson Valley community farm site following completion of the summer apprenticeship program. The apprenticeship will take place in Garrison, NY, sharing land with [Longhaul Farm](http://www.longhaulfarm.org), where the family farmers practice regenerative living and agriculture, including running a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for 50 neighborhood families; managing a diversified, free-range livestock program including...
pigs, chickens and turkeys; and serving as a community hub.

**Expectations of apprentices:** While prior farming experience is not required, applicants should be enthusiastic about participating in all farm activities. This apprenticeship will require physical labor, working outdoors, working in the sun and, if raining, the rain. Apprentices must be able to lift 50 pounds, as well as work with their hands and at the soil-level (no tractors here!). Apprentices should be able to commit fifteen months (June 2021 - August 2022) to being a part of the RC project. Apprentices should be able to work both independently and as part of a small team. They should be eager to learn, read, discuss and attend on-farm discussions and local training sessions. They should be seeking opportunities to be civically involved and actively want to be part of a community, organizing to achieve meaningful gains in food, social, economic and ecological justice.

**Training program:** Participants will learn *regenerative farming skills* like building soil health, intensive growing practices, garden maintenance and harvesting, and animal husbandry; *sustainable life skills* like cooking, preserving, carpentry and budgeting; and *community leadership skills* like analysis of local social problems, community organizing, and how policy change is made at the local level.

**Compensation:** Apprentices will be paid $15 per hour for a 15-30 hour work week over the apprenticeship season. Apprentices will be considered part-time employees.

**Transportation, meals, housing:** There is currently apprentice housing available on-site. If an apprentice is already housed, the apprentice can commute to the farm site. It is a 10 minute drive from two MetroNorth train stations (Peekskill, Garrison) and we would be able to pick-up and drop-off apprentices on a regular schedule. We plan to share lunches together on workdays and apprentices are encouraged to bring home some of the garden bounty.

**After the apprenticeship:** Following completion of the on-farm apprenticeship component, the ECP’s goal is to help Regenerators secure land in the Hudson Valley so they can apply their new skills in regenerative farming and living, community building, and civic empowerment. We will work to secure funding to provide Regenerators a living-wage of at least $20 per hour to establish a community farm, help develop a community-owned renewable energy project, and help organize a local [Community Congress](#) initiative. Two of these farm sites have been secured for 2021-2022 and are located in Peekskill and Poughkeepsie.

**About us**

Apprentices would work closely with Jason Angell and Jocelyn Apicello, the two founders of the Ecological Citizen’s Project, Inc. and the farmers at Longhaul Farm, LLC. Here’s a bit more about us:

Jason Angell is currently the Executive Director of the Ecological Citizen’s Project, teaches American Government and Sociology at Bronx Community College, and is a farmer at Longhaul Farm. He has worked to make change in the past as the Director of the Center for Working Families (affiliated with the Working Families party), by advising political candidates, community organizing in Philadelphia, and building coalitions of communities of color in Portland, Or. Jason earned an M.P.A. from the Maxwell
School of Citizenship. Jason loves to cook, write, be a part of nature, and work with others to envision and build a better world.

Jocelyn Apicello is currently the Program Director of the Ecological Citizen’s Project and is a farmer at Longhaul Farm. She has been teaching public health courses with William Paterson University and the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) since 2012 and currently is the Faculty Advisor for BPI's Urban Farming & Sustainability program. She oversees gardening activities at several correctional facilities, incorporating academic and hands-on learning in the areas of regenerative agriculture, climate justice and land stewardship. Jocelyn earned her DrPH at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, writing about gentrification in New York City and its influence on the habitats of New Yorkers. She is committed to helping others learn to love nature, value all forms of life, and rise up as community leaders.

**How to apply**

We encourage any interested applicants to reach out to us directly and would welcome interested applicants to visit us or set-up a meeting with us closer to your home. For those who would like to apply, please complete this online application form, which will ask you to provide contact information and submit your current resume; a letter of recommendation from a past co-worker, friend, or community member; and a letter of interest or video of yourself responding to the following questions: *Why do you want to be a Regenerator? How do you engage with your community?*

We are committed to recruiting apprentices that represent diverse communities in the Hudson Valley. We are particularly recruiting from Newburgh, Peekskill and Poughkeepsie, NY, but encourage all applicants to apply. Please direct all questions and application materials to:

Jason Angell  
jason.angell@ecologicalcitizens.org  
845-309-0887

Jocelyn Apicello  
jocelyn.apicello@ecologicalcitizens.org  
845-514-6543

69 South Mountain Pass  
Garrison, NY 10524  
ecologicalcitizens.org  | @ecologicalcitizens

Longhaul Farm  
longhaulny.com  | @longhaulfarm