

## PRACTICUM REPORT - SYNOPSIS

**Student:** Jennifer Nelson

**Advisor:** Eric Thomas



SWRPC

**Employer:** Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC)

**Job Title:** Planning Intern

**Supervisor:** Todd Horner (thorner@swrpc.org)

**Employment Dates:** February - May 2022

In the spring of 2022, I completed a Planning Internship with the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) in Keene, New Hampshire. Under the supervision of Todd Horner, Senior Planner, I assisted with research, created external communications material, and organized meetings with external stakeholders for three grant-funded projects: (1) electric vehicle (EV) readiness, (2) community economic development, and (3) food security.

The goal of the internship was to add planning, public policy, and data analytics experience to my repertoire of communications and marketing knowledge, sufficiently preparing me to enter the urban sustainability field with a toolkit of hard and soft skills. Through my research for the EV readiness project, I learned about land use policy, zoning, local/state/federal programs and funding opportunities, and economic and social impacts of EVSE installation on rural municipalities in the SWRPC region. Through the community economic development project, I learned to identify demographic and economic trends and assess what this data means in the grand web of municipal development. Through the food security project, I learned about family farmers' financial, environmental, and social concerns and possible avenues for relief from state, regional, and municipal bodies. By the end of my internship, I left with several deliverables, including four blog posts (three of which were published on [SWRPC's website](#)), a [survey](#) for stakeholders engaged in the EV readiness project, a [draft economic development chapter](#) for the town of Jaffrey, and a [question set](#) for agricultural producers in the Monadnock Region.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Todd and the rest of the SWRPC staff. This internship was an invaluable learning experience that supplemented my training from the University of Massachusetts' Masters in Sustainability Science (MS3) program with practical knowledge of regional planning projects as they relate to economic development and ecological resilience.