

**Ash Institute Summer Fellowship in Urban Policy
Project Description | 2009**

**City of Los Angeles
Mayor's Office**

Building the Green Economy in Los Angeles: helping to establish LA as a Global Capital of Clean Technology

1. Background

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is committed to transforming Los Angeles into the cleanest and greenest big city in America. Since taking office, he has spearheaded some of the most aggressive environmental policies in the nation, covering areas such as green building, water conservation, and, most recently, solar electricity generation.

Los Angeles is moving quickly to turn these environmental solutions into economic opportunities, specifically jobs for Angelenos. With this in mind, Mayor Villaraigosa has made turning Los Angeles a global leader in clean technology one of his top priorities.

Los Angeles has already made substantial progress in the area of clean technology. For example, the city recently created a clean technology “corridor” along the Los Angeles River to provide space for innovative clean technology companies.¹ However, there is still much to be done. The Ash Summer Fellow would play a key role in furthering the Los Angeles’ clean technology strategy, by tackling a concrete, on-going project in this area. For additional information, please see: EnvironmentLA.org and CleantechLA.org

2. Potential Projects and Opportunities

While projects are in various stages of development, potential projects could include:

- Help develop policies and infrastructure to tie greening of the Hollywood studios to creating jobs and economic development
- Identifying highest impact leverage the City has (e.g., purchasing power and other assets) to further the development of the clean technology industry and make policy recommendations
- Help analyze and develop specific economic development components of the Solar LA plan (the largest solar program in the United States)

These and other potential projects would provide the Fellow with an opportunity to:

- Interact with high-level officials and other policymakers throughout Los Angeles
- Perform research and analysis that will have a significant impact on city policymaking in the area of clean technology
- Gain an understanding of the inner-workings of the Los Angeles Mayor's Office as well as other city departments through close collaboration with city staff
- Improve written and oral presentation skills (e.g., Creating a work product such as a PowerPoint presentation or written report to convey findings and serve as a blueprint for city action)

3. Supervision

The Fellow will work with the Economic development and Energy & Environment teams of the Mayor's Office, under the supervision of Sean Arian, Director of Economic Development. The fellow will be given a desk with the Mayor's Economic Development Team.