Rocky Mountain Institute is an independent, entrepreneurial, nonprofit think-and-do tank that drives the efficient and restorative use of resources. RMI is focused on accelerating the U.S. transition from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables, and our ideas are summarized in our recent book, *Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for a New Energy Era*. Co-founded in 1982 by Amory Lovins, RMI began as a small group of colleagues focused on energy solutions. It has since grown into a broad-based Institute with approximately 150 full-time staff, an annual budget of $24 million, and a global reach.

RMI is engaged in research and collaborative implementation (mainly with the private sector) that addresses pragmatic designs, practices, and policies rather than social theories or laboratory experiments. RMI emphasizes strategic influence—changing the mindset of the people who make the rules—and “institutional acupuncture” to get blocked business logic flowing. We work in the four energy-intensive sectors: buildings, transportation, industry, and electricity.

RMI’s 2016 Schneider Fellows will work as part of our electricity practice. The goal of RMI’s electricity practice is to accelerate the transformation of the U.S. electricity system to one that is efficient, renewable, distributed, and customer-centric. We do this by demonstrating the credibility of that future vision, developing practical solutions to key technical, economic, business, and regulatory barriers, and working with leading utilities, regulators, and communities to implement solutions.

Schneider Fellows will work on a discrete piece(s) of the electricity practice’s work (outlined below), selected based on current status and needs of our work as well as on the Fellows’ particular interests and abilities. Schneider Fellows’ work will be core to the team’s strategic focus and will have a defined scope with clear deliverables. Fellows will be integral members of RMI and will conduct project work under the guidance of a full-time team member, usually as part of a small team. In addition, we encourage a highly collaborative work environment, which provides our Fellows access to a number of senior practitioners and other team members.

During 2016, the electricity practice’s work will focus on three areas:

1. **Targeted consulting with individual utilities and regulatory agencies**
   RMI works directly with utilities, regulators, and other industry businesses to test and refine solutions. These fast-paced projects frequently involve interaction with clients, analysis of real-world data, and economic and technical evaluation of proposed strategies. Efforts in 2016 are likely to focus on developing new electric utility business model solutions that enable increased adoption of distributed energy resources. Current examples include a project that analyzes the role that distributed resources can play in deferring central investments in the grid, and work with a state utility regulator as a strategic advisor as they develop an initiative to transition toward a more market-based regulatory system that better enables distributed energy resources.

2. **Collaborative learning and innovation involving multiple stakeholders**
   e’Lab (Electricity Innovation Lab) is a working group representing a microcosm of the electricity system: utilities, technology companies, customers, regulators, and NGOs are working together to find solutions to overcome the obstacles to achieving a cleaner and more reliable electricity future.
3. Partnership with jurisdictions and communities

The electricity practice seeks to work with forward-looking national-, state-, and local-level jurisdictions to develop ambitious energy, environmental, and resiliency goals, and strategies to achieve those goals. This work often entails direct engagement with government and a broad set of stakeholders, facilitation of conversations among key stakeholders, and economic and energy analysis to inform goals and strategies. Current examples include a partnership with China’s National Development and Reform Commission to develop policy recommendations that will guide and advance the country’s global clean energy efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Candidates must be senior undergraduate or graduate-level students, preferably majoring in engineering, economics, and/or physical sciences with experience in energy issues and the electric system. Excellent quantitative analysis skills (including working with spreadsheets) are an important requirement, as is ability to work effectively with a team and communicate technical ideas. We specifically look for applicants with a functional knowledge of key issues and concepts in one or more of the following focus areas:

- Energy efficiency in buildings and industry.
- Distributed and renewable energy.
- Electric utility resource planning and strategy.
- Quantitative modeling.
- Energy economics and policy.
- Business strategy, finance, and decision-making.

In addition, we value and seek the following qualities in our candidates: intense curiosity, self-motivating with the ability to work independently, willingness to plunge into unfamiliar disciplines, creativity and willingness to take risks by exploring and testing new ideas, and a passion for making the world better.

LOCATION: RMI has offices in New York, NY; Washington, DC; Boulder and Snowmass, Colorado. Location will be driven by the location of the supervisor with a good possibility of being based in Colorado.

EXTENSION: There is an opportunity to extend the fellowship for an additional 12 weeks for a total of 24 weeks (6 months). The additional 12 weeks will be paid directly by RMI at a rate of $2,000 per month (full-time).

CONTACT: Human Resources, humanresources@rmi.org

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS: Resume, Cover Letter, Transcripts (official or unofficial), Writing Sample, Letter(s) of Recommendation