In the summer of 2016, UCS’s Schneider Fellow will work directly with Climate and Energy (C&E) Program staff in our Cambridge, MA office. We are searching for a candidate with a strong interest in energy and climate-related issues, who has solid research and writing skills, and a willingness to take on new tasks and work in a team setting. Graduate level experience in energy systems, public policy, economics, science, or engineering is preferred; though undergraduates will also be considered. While we typically tailor the Fellow’s projects to best fit their skills and interest as well as our needs at the time of the Fellowship, some of our current priorities include:

- Ensuring states develop strong plans for complying with the power plant carbon emission reduction targets under the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, which represents one of the best opportunities to make significant national progress in addressing global warming and transitioning to a clean energy economy. The Schneider Fellow will work with the C&E team to ensure that renewable energy and energy efficiency are prioritized in the compliance plans submitted by a set of UCS-identified target states. Initial state compliance plans are due to the EPA in September 2016. The Fellow’s responsibilities could include participating in state-level stakeholder processes and comment development, evaluating the costs and benefits of proposed compliance plans, or developing briefing materials for decision makers and allies on the benefits of renewable energy as a cost-effective climate solution.

- Supporting our clean energy campaign efforts to broaden access to solar PV and highlight opportunities to build a solar future for everyone. Solar is incredibly popular among consumers, but remains under attack from utilities and fossil fuel interests. The Schneider Fellow will work with C&E analysts and outreach specialists to develop research and develop materials (e.g. white paper, policy memo, best practices, infographic, etc.) that show how we can expand access to solar power to all consumers, but especially in economically disadvantaged communities. This research would also highlight how all ratepayers are served through rooftop, community-based, and large-scale solar projects, and identify ways to broaden the reach even further, including possibly through case studies and guidance for consumers.

- Supporting UCS’ communication and advocacy efforts advancing clean energy policies at the state and federal level. The Schneider Fellow would work with the C&E analysts to provide rapid response data, talking points, resources, and other material helping to set the record straight in response to disinformation about the Clean Power Plan, renewable electricity standards, net metering and other clean energy laws, as well as expose the fossil fuel, nuclear, and utility interests behind misleading attacks.

- Researching new utility business model dialogues. As more and more consumers invest in energy efficiency and rooftop solar, and look for more choices for the types of power they consume and how they use it, there is growing urgency to explore what the utility of the future opportunities to make significant national progress in addressing global warming and transitioning to a clean energy economy. The Schneider Fellow will work with the C&E team to ensure that renewable energy and energy efficiency are prioritized in the compliance plans submitted by a set of UCS-identified target states. Initial state compliance plans are due to the EPA in September 2016. The Fellow’s responsibilities could include participating in state-level stakeholder processes and comment development, evaluating the costs and benefits of proposed compliance plans, or developing briefing materials for decision makers and allies on the benefits of renewable energy as a cost-effective climate solution.

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will look like. The standard business model that has served the power industry for a century—focusing on sales growth and large asset acquisition—needs re-evaluation. Several states, including New York, Minnesota, California, and Hawaii are now leading the way in exploring and shaping new utility business models and practices. The Schneider Fellow would research and summarize these efforts in a briefing paper, highlighting key commonalities and differences in approaches, identifying best practices and guidance for other states, and exploring opportunities for possible future UCS research.

- Assessing and updating content on one or more of our high profile web pages from the Clean Energy section of the UCS website. The Schneider Fellow would conduct a thorough review of existing content, then research and provide a detailed update to the material. Possible web pages of focus include: How Wind Energy Works, Hidden Costs of Fossil Fuels, How the Electricity Grid Works, and How Energy Storage Works.