Lauren McLaughlin is a senior studying Economics, with a concentration in the Environment & Natural Resources. She is passionate about the intersection of sustainable investing, the integration of risk into the investment process, and values creation opportunities in the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) space.

Lauren's field of research in R&DE Sustainability focused on energy, water and waste data analytics. She used a host of industry applications to analyze data and assist R&DE in critical decisions that impact R&DE utilities across the campus. Lauren's first project used Compology, an artificial intelligence-powered software to analyze historical contamination, servicing, and fullness level waste data at EVGR to unpack increasing waste volumes on site and to make the bin servicing schedule more cost-effective.

In the area of water consumption, Lauren harnessed historical leak data from WaterSmart, a customer engagement and data analytics platform that help utilities reduce cost while improving operational efficiency. Lauren used the software to redefine leakage thresholds (by minimum flow rate) for Continuous and Burst leaks on campus, in order to reduce the number of leak alerts to a manageable volume. Because of the pandemic, Lauren has also been working on quantitatively assessing the energy, water, and waste impact of COVID-19 on Stanford's campus using Recycle IQ data and historical energy and water usage and meter data from
Outside of her work as a data analyst for R&DE, Lauren is the co-chief investment officer at Smart Women Securities, a female financial literacy organization on campus. This summer she worked at BlackRock as an ETF & Index Investing Analyst, where she will be returning full-time in the fall. Lauren hopes to pursue a career in sustainable investing with a specialization in ESG risk analytics.

**Q & A**

**What do you find most rewarding in your internship with R&DE Sustainability?**

*I found most rewarding my employment and advancement of a quantitative skillset to address sustainability related problems at Stanford, produce realistic solutions, and observe genuine changes take place.*

**What experience/s in your internship will help you in your career goals?**

*What will be most helpful in my future endeavors will be my developed data analysis dexterity (re: cleaning, managing, slicing, dicing, and presenting data), facility with pivot tables, and comfortability of problem solving in large and complex data sets. This arsenal of experiences will be useful in my upcoming role as an Analyst in the ETF & Index Investing division at BlackRock after graduation.*

**How does it feel to be making a significant contribution to Stanford’s sustainability goals?**

*It feels like a little fish in a big pond can actually make a small yet measurable improvement of Stanford’s energy use, water use, and waste creation/disposal efficiency.*