Job Summary

My coop at The Climate Corporation as a Product Management Intern has been a great experience. From June 2013 to August 2013, I worked closely with mainly the Product Team in designing a fuller Product experience for the insights blog. The Climate Corporation (TCC) is a San Francisco based company that offers weather insurance for the Agricultural industry to ensure profits, on top of the government subsidized crop insurance.

a) Work Assignment:

Throughout my coop, my main project included producing an interactive animation map that showcases the prediction of our quantitative models for growth stages of different agricultural crops. I worked closely with the Quantitative team, as well as Business Intelligence, and utilized tools writing R scripts, Tableau, as well as SQL. My first task was to gather and collect the necessary crop growth stages prediction data through R scripts and extracting from JSON files. The next step is to link the output file to Tableau, which does a great job producing graphics. After which, a 3\textsuperscript{rd} party video recording software is used to record the animation, and updated on our insights blog, which is used to drive consumers to purchase our product and sign up for our subscriptions.

b) Assessment of Learning and Development:

I feel like this coop fits perfectly with what I want to do in the long term. Passionately about technology, but also interested in working in business/strategy, I thoroughly enjoyed this coop because I was able to grow and learn in both areas. On the technology side, I fully utilized my skills acquired at Cornell in SQL and R. On the other hand, I was required to coordinate with cross functional teams and fully understand the goals and specs of what a great product should look like. Because of the close interaction with many teams in the company, I was fortunate to be able to foster close connections with many people, and not just my own team. If I were able to go the same experience again, I would definitely take more time setting up meetings with co-workers and get a better sense of how my responsibilities coincide with other people's work.
c) Life outside of co-op

San Francisco is probably the most lively city I have ever lived in. Having grown up on the west coast, a good number of my friends from high school went to Berkeley and Stanford, so I was able to hang out with them on weekends and after work. I also spent a lot of time going to dinners with other interns on the weekend. The company hosted an intern event, where we went to the Exploratorium, which was a lot of fun.

d) Evaluation

I would say the best features of this job were the people that work here. People came from top tier universities to work here, and are truly passionate about what they do. I feel extremely motivated and fortunate to have the opportunity to work here with some of the brightest people I have ever met in my life. In addition, my manager gave me a lot of leeway in terms of finding a project I enjoyed. I definitely work better without being micro-managed, so I very much appreciated his trust in me.

Some things that could be improved would be the organization of the company. At times I felt a little bit disoriented, which is most likely due to the fact that the company was only active a few years ago, so a lot of the engineering and business intelligence systems are still in the process of maturing. However, it is also because nothing is set in stone just yet that allowed me to develop ideas and pitch them to managers without the obstacles of the bureaucratic process, which many large companies face.

Overall I definitely enjoyed working here, and would recommend anyone who is interested in the industry and type of work to work here.