

UBC Sustainability Scholars Program 2019

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on funded sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the mentorship of a partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing organizational sustainability goals.

For more information about the Sustainability Scholars Program and to apply to work on this project, please visit the [Student Opportunities](#) page.

Please review the application guide (PDF) before applying.

Applications close **midnight Monday February 25, 2019.**

Research project title:

Best practices in food waste avoidance & rescue in the commercial sector

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies:

- Greenest City Action Plan. Specific goal area (s): Zero Waste
- Healthy City Strategy. Specific goal area (s): Healthy, just, sustainable food system
- Other: Zero Waste 2040
 - Identify and pursue options to improve food rescue and redistribution systems
 - Become a Leading City in Food Waste Prevention

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to the City of Vancouver and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable:

Scope of work:

- Undertake a literature review of food waste avoidance and rescue best practices for grocery stores, and ways and means in which cities engage and influence their practices.
- Conduct interviews and site visits to identify which approaches have the most successful outcomes/impacts.
- Based on research and survey findings, develop recommendations for:
 - pilot testing food waste avoidance and rescue best practices in Vancouver grocery stores;
 - a toolkit of best practices for grocers that can be used by the City for its public engagement work on food waste avoidance and rescue.

Value to City and how and when will the scholar's work be actionable:

- This work will directly support the following ZW2040 transformative and priority actions:
 - Become a leading city in food waste prevention;

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- Identify and pursue options to improve food rescue and redistribution systems.
- Contingent on the extent of the recommendations coming out of this project, the scholar's work should be actionable as part of a Solid Waste Strategic Services Senior Project Manager's 2019-2020 portfolio focussed on developing and implementing actions to reduce food waste and increase food recovery, with specific focus on grocery stores in Vancouver.

Deliverables:

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of the completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders. The report should include:

- A comprehensive summary of food waste avoidance and rescue leading practices, and up to five detailed case study examples pertaining to grocery stores;
- Summary of the qualitative and quantitative results of consultations with grocers;
- Recommended ways and means for the City to effectively engage and influence food waste avoidance and rescue practices in grocery stores;
- Recommendations regarding pilot testing of food waste avoidance and rescue best practices in grocery stores;
- Recommendations regarding a toolkit for Vancouver grocers for the purpose of improving food waste avoidance and rescue;
- A public facing executive summary suitable for posting on the UBC Sustainability Initiative website.

Time Commitment:

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project should be completed between April 29 to August 12, 2019.
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 20 hours per week (however there may be the opportunity to provide flexibility with work times and hours per week)

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in research/literature review, surveys, engagement, problem solving, developing recommendations, zero waste and/or food waste avoidance and rescue.
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Strong technical writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong presentation and public speaking skills
- Community engagement experience desirable but not required
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills

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- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- Familiarity with behaviour change theories and implementation
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Class 5 driver's licence an asset, but field work could likely be completed using public transit and/or bike

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Apply here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

To learn more about the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program>

Read the application guidelines to confirm your eligibility to participate in the program here:

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/student-opportunities>

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions.