

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

Disrupting the heating business model

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Climate Leadership and Green Economic Development

Long Term Goal: Achieve home retrofit rates commensurate with community energy plans across Metro Vancouver

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the Scholar's work will be actionable.

- Consultation with Metro Vancouver and member municipalities identified home retrofits, and particularly heat pumps as a priority area for further action because local governments do not have the capacity to dedicate to driving a market transformation in retrofits / heating for existing buildings. A market transformation is required in this space if local governments are to achieve the targets in their CEEPs. Further detail is available from an unsuccessful FCM Transitions 2050 proposal including letters of support from local governments
- Recent work has been done on the technical potential and there is ongoing experimentation with grants.
- This project will build on existing work and will bridge the technical and business domains to outline business models (cost drivers and levels, revenues, supply chains, ownership – homeowner / lease through lead entity or 3rd party, trade-offs of delivery by type of organization – utility / electrician / municipality / other)
- This will involve a literature review of business models for heat pumps and equipment with similar characteristics in comparable jurisdictions, interviews and engagement with industry / utility / local government / homeowner stakeholders across Metro and analysis
- This project will provide guidance for local government and senior government policy / regulation changes to support business model innovation in this space and position the region to begin prototyping business models (prototyping with a view to building / adjusting / and growing rather than a one-off pilot)

Deliverables

Note that a final deliverable (either a full report or, if the report contains confidential information, an executive summary) is required by the end of the program (August 12, 2019). The deliverable will be archived in the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

- Final report including overview of research, key findings, workplan for prototyping, and local/senior government policy / regulatory opportunities
- Powerpoint presentation of findings in person and via webinar at a CEA Member meeting and at an open stakeholder meeting
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

Please indicate the total numbers of hours your Scholar will need to complete the project, the completion period (between April 29 and August 12), any critical dates for the project, and the optimal schedule for your Scholar's work.

- This project will take **350*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 29 and August 12
- The Scholar is to complete hours at their convenience and be available for meetings / calls, approximately 22 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis

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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.