

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: Reducing GHG Emissions from Food Consumption – Opportunities for Cities

Research supports the following City of Vancouver policies -

- Greenest City Action Plan. Specific goal areas: Local Food, Lighter Footprint
- Healthy City Strategy. Specific goal areas: Feeding Ourselves Well
- Renewable City Action Plan
- Vancouver Food Strategy
- Green Operations Plan
- Local Food Action Plan

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

Recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggest that capping global warming at 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels is necessary to reduce many devastating impacts of climate change including species extinction, sea level rise, and life-threatening weather extremes. To achieve the 1.5 degree target will require ambitious reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors.

The *Greenest City Action Plan* (GCAP) and *Renewable City Action Plan* (RCAP) outline the City of Vancouver's commitment to reducing its Scope 1 GHG emissions (direct emissions from owned or controlled sources), Scope 2 GHG emissions (those associated with the generation of purchased energy) and ecological footprint. Scope 3 GHG emissions (such as those associated with the food system), while not currently addressed in these policies, are being considered for inclusion in updates to these policies and others at the City and are receiving increasing attention in international forums.

Given that limited food production occurs within city limits, the City's role in supporting food system GHG emissions reduction will likely focus on residents' eating habits and institutional food provision. To inform an update of the GCAP, the City is interested in understanding how these dietary changes could contribute to its emissions reductions targets. Recognizing both that residents affected by systemic

marginalization and inequality are often at greater risk from climate change impacts and have fewer resources to respond and adapt and that dietary choices are inherently linked to cultural backgrounds and practices, this question must be addressed within an equity framework.

The scope of work may include:

- Develop a high-level framework to categorize and assess emissions impact levels for City food services and procurement;
- Based on results from the emissions impact assessment, identify policy priorities for the City of Vancouver's operations;
- Research best practices for ensuring the recommended policy approaches are culturally appropriate and grounded in a food justice and social equity approach.

The Scholar's work may inform the City's update of the Greenest City Action Plan, Green Operations Plan and the Vancouver Food Strategy, as well as potential future public outreach around food choices and environmental impact.

Deliverables

- A research document summarizing findings
- Presentation of findings to City staff
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC Sustainability Initiative website

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 29 – August 12
- The scholar is to complete hours between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, approximately 16-18 hours per week.

Skill set/background required/preferred

The project supervisors are open to students with any suitable background, but anticipate that likely candidates may come from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, School of Community and Regional Planning, or the Resources, Environment, and Sustainability program within IRES.

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in food systems, food policy, sustainability, and a social justice/equity approach to climate change mitigation
- Experience with GHG accounting
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in data analysis with Microsoft Excel or other data analysis tools and ability to manage large datasets
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- Strong interpersonal skills, comfortable interacting with strangers to gather information
- Writing sample required.**

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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.