UBC Sustainability Scholars Program

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on paid sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from one of our partner organizations, 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.

Don't forget to review the application guide (PDF) before applying.

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 22, 2019**.

Research project title
TransLink Sustainability: Supporting Ongoing Development of TransLink's Low Carbon Fleet Strategy and Renewable Energy Plan

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective
Support TransLink's sustainability goals of 80% greenhouse gas reduction by 2050 and utilization of 100% renewable energy across the enterprise by 2050.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the Scholar's work will be actionable.
TransLink is currently working on two key projects that will support the enterprise in reaching the sustainability goals stated above, those being the Low Carbon Fleet Strategy and the Facilities Renewable Energy Plan.

Project Background
TransLink has been working on a Low Carbon Fleet Strategy (currently focussed on the bus fleet of approx. 1,500 vehicles) since 2017 with the goal of providing the organization a Low Carbon Fleet Implementation Roadmap which will detail the:

- Electric bus purchase schedule;
- Required supporting on-route and depot charging infrastructure;
- Financial analysis and required funding;
- Potential implications to service;
- Timing schedule for electrical/construction work.

TransLink's Facility Renewable Energy Plan is currently in development and includes:

- Identifying energy conservation initiatives;
- Identifying fuel switching initiatives;
- Identifying on-site renewable energy generation opportunities;
- Identifying new build design criteria;
- Identifying financial incentive opportunities;
- Propose roadmap to implementation with financial model.

The Low Carbon Fleet Implementation Roadmap and Facilities Renewable Energy Plan will be presented to TransLink's Board in September 2019 and work will need to begin immediately following approval of the strategies.

The work TransLink seeks includes (details will be finalized at project kick-off meeting):

- Assessing the regional economic, environmental, social and health costs and benefits of transitioning to a low carbon fleet and to renewable energy.
- Assisting with data analysis and measurement of fleet and facility greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, % renewable energy, air contaminants, etc. for reporting annually in TransLink's Accountability Report.
- Depending on the Scholars skills and time permitting: Develop engagement materials for both the low carbon fleet strategy and renewable energy plan;
- Time permitting: Assist with potential grant applications/seek new funding opportunities not yet identified to assist TransLink with the transition to a low carbon fleet, and renewable energy in our facilities.

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 (March 15, 2020). The deliverable will be archived in the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.

- The main deliverable will be a Final Report outlining the regional economic, environmental, social and health costs and benefits of transitioning to a low carbon fleet and to renewable energy, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- An executive summary for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 21, 2019 and March 15, 2020
- The Scholar is to complete approximately 12 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

☒ Excellent research and writing skills
☒ Demonstrated interest in sustainability
☒ Statistical analysis
☒ Community engagement experience
☒ Strong analytical skills
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Deadline oriented
☒ Project management and organizational skills
☒ Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
☒ Design and layout skills an asset

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Apply here:
http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsopportunities

To learn more about the program here:
https://sustain.ubc.ca/ubc-sustainability-scholars-program

Read the FAQ and application guidelines to confirm your eligibility to participate in the program here:
http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsopportunities

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