



# 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.**

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## **Research project title**

Developing sector-specific emission reduction guides for SMEs engaged in voluntary carbon emission reductions

## **Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective**

Climate Leadership

Engaging Small to Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) in the private sector in emission reductions

Long Term Goal: Demonstrate the business case of bold and quantifiable carbon emission reductions among SMEs in Canada

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

### About Climate Smart

Climate Smart delivers practical and solutions-based training, advisory services, and data analysis for SMEs to profitably track and reduce GHG emissions. Climate Smart emphasizes the business case for GHG reduction: operational efficiencies, cost savings, and competitive advantage.

Using an SME tailored approach, Climate Smart provides innovative tools and programming for our host partners on the front lines—cities, ports, airports, chambers, and financial institutions—to disrupt old economic trajectories and invest in more efficient technologies to deliver cleaner products and services.

Climate Smart also links SMEs to global impacts through harnessing the power of SME derived data to inform estimates of emissions from SMEs at different geographical scales, through our [Business Energy and Emissions Profiles](#) (BEEPs). Climate Smart was awarded the Grand Prize in the [2016 MIT Climate CoLab contest](#) and was judges' choice in 2018 for our BEEPs. We have produced BEEPs for cities across Canada and the US.

Since 2007, Climate Smart has worked with 40+ host partners to engage close to 1000 businesses to prepare for and participate in the low-carbon economy. [Case studies](#) from a sampling of 78 Climate Smart businesses show a total annual cost savings of \$2.6 million.

- The overall aim of this project is to ensure that new and existing businesses working with Climate Smart are matched with reduction opportunities that have both a solid business case and are relevant to their sector. (The specific sectors and comparison criteria will be determined in consultation with the project mentor and relevant Climate Smart stakeholders.)
- The resulting guidance materials should provide clear, actionable (SMART) initiatives that SMEs can take to reduce their Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, including both behaviour change and structural changes (financial investments). Guidance should allow new businesses to identify “low-hanging fruit,” and more sophisticated/advanced businesses to identify means of pursuing deeper reductions or paths to demonstrating climate action leadership
- The project will involve a review of the current state and a gap analysis by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sector to determine which areas require further resources, and research by sector to determine how to fill identified gaps.
- Depending on the Scholar’s skillset: analysis of the current dataset along with recommendations on improved data gathering would be advantageous.

### **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](#).*

- A summary of the current state and a gap analysis of reduction strategies by sector (sectors and format to be determined in consultation with the project mentor)
- Final report including reduction strategies (new or existing) by NAICS industry sector
- Recommendations on next steps and a process to ensure on-going relevance of reduction strategies to new and on-going Climate Smart businesses

### **Time Commitment**

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 21, 2019 and March 15, 2020
- Much of the work can be done remotely, however the Scholar must be available to work approximately 12 hours per week and to attend occasional meetings at the Climate Smart Offices during standard business hours. Meetings will be coordinated to accommodate the Scholars academic schedule.

### **Required/preferred Skills and Background**

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical/systems thinking skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- qualitative data analysis
- understanding of opportunities and limitations of small business sector
- familiarity with proven emission reduction strategies for businesses an asset
- familiarity with community based social marketing an asset

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 22.**

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](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca) if you have questions.