

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Fall 2020

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 sustainability across the region.

Note: Projects must be completed remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the [application guide](#) to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday September 20, 2020.

Research project title: Identifying legal reforms to support regenerative, communal and distributive models of production and consumption in Canada

Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Responsible Consumption and Production: This work relates to all three of Ecojustice's priority areas of work – healthy communities, protecting biodiversity and ensuring a safe and livable climate.

Project Overview

Ecojustice is a Canada's largest environmental law charity. We use the court and the power of the law to defend, nature, combat climate change, and fight for a healthy environment for all. Our strategic, innovative public interest lawsuits lead to legal precedents that deliver lasting solutions to our most urgent environmental problems.

The purpose of this project will be to ascertain the barriers and opportunities that exist in law towards shifting away from linear models of production and consumption that are based on extraction and disposal towards enabling new regenerative, communal and distributive models (e.g. sharing economy, collaborative consumption, and circular economy). This work will help inform the law reform campaigns that Ecojustice and our partner organizations bring forward in the future.

As part of this project we are looking for specific recommendations for reforms to law (including property law, corporate law, contract law) and related-systems based on a review of the Canadian legal landscape and a scan of leading examples in other jurisdictions.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Linear modes of production and consumption - where resources are extracted and then disposed of - are proving to be unsustainable and unjust. Numerous actors, including non-profits and states, are recognizing this reality and exploring opportunities to re-envision existing models of production and consumption towards a more sustainable economy. These new models are already being employed in some jurisdictions. Possible alternative models include the promotion of sharing economies, circular economies, and collaborative consumption opportunities.

Purpose of the Project:

Various jurisdictions, including Canada, are exploring ways to transition the economy and related-systems of production and consumption towards more circular and sharing models. Ecojustice would like to learn what other jurisdictions are doing, and to determine what is possible in Canada. This requires an analysis of the legal and policy barriers and opportunities that currently exist towards implementing these new models. The outcomes of this project will help to determine next steps for Ecojustice's law reform efforts in this regard.

Scope of Work:

- Conduct legal research to identify other jurisdictions around the world that are implementing new models of production and consumption, with a focus on commonwealth countries.
- Identify key jurisdictions where experiences have the greatest potential applicability to Canada.
- Identify the legal and related policy mechanisms and tools that have been used in other jurisdictions to implement these new models and the legal barriers that had to be overcome to do so.
- Conduct interviews with legal experts in other key jurisdictions to understand this issue more fully and confirm the accuracy of your conclusion re: the legal challenges and opportunities in implementing new models.
- Legal intervention research: identify key barriers and opportunities for reform in the Canadian context and answer the questions: what key changes to the Canadian legal system (national and sub-national level) are necessary to increase the uptake of new models of production and consumption and their effectiveness? This analysis should be informed by the jurisdictional analysis conducted earlier during the term. As the scope of this research question could be quite broad-sweeping, frequent check-ins will be required to narrow in and hone the research product. It may be that only preliminary research can be conducted and a draft outline produced on this topic within the time allotted.

Deliverables

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work complemented and a final presentation to key stakeholders:

- The report should include a summary of completed work with specific recommendations for reforms to law (including property law, corporate law, contract law) and related-systems based on a review of Canadian legal landscape and a jurisdictional scan of leading examples in other jurisdictions
- The final report will be complemented by a final presentation to key staff members.
- A final report for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Time Commitment

The program runs for 22 weeks from October 19, 2020 to March 12, 2021, during which students work an average of 12 hours per week for a total of 250 hours.

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 19, 2020 and March 12, 2021
- The Scholar is to complete hours on a flexible schedule, but should be generally available during standard work hours when meetings/check-ins with mentor is required

Required/preferred Skills and Background

This section will be used to match students with your project. Please be as specific as possible in describing the

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Strong technical and drafting skills
- Demonstrated experience in conducting legal research and analysis
- Understanding of public policy an asset.

Additional information UBC should know to help find a suitable candidate for this project.

(e.g., UBC departments/faculty, reminder about what worked well in the past, etc.)

Applications close **midnight Sunday September 20, 2020.**

Apply here: <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarsapply>

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

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Useful Resources

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume and cover letter (there are many more online). Some of these resources also provide information on preparing for your interview.

Resume workshop for prospective Sustainability Scholars: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/resume-workshop-for-prospective-sustainability-scholars-tickets-117422877989>

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/resumes-cover-letters-curricula-vitae>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduate-pathways-success>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>