

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: Leveraging data to build an energy and emissions profile to target policies and investment to maximize low-carbon benefits for small and medium-sized businesses

Project description

Overview

Climate Smart works with partners on the front lines – cities, ports, airports, chambers of commerce, and financial institutions – to help small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) across Canada to participate in the low carbon economy. Our business energy, and emissions profile (BEEP or beep.eco) uses data to highlight opportunities for business engagement and emissions reductions at the municipal level, enabling clear insights and actions in the transition to a greener economy.

The BEEP empowers Climate Smart's partners to engage directly with businesses on their GHG emissions, target recruitment to programs, inform the development of incentives, communicate with wider audiences on climate, etc.

To put into perspective why working with this business sector is so important to community emissions, consider that Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are:

- Our economic backbone - representing 99.7% of total businesses
- An employment powerhouse - provide 9 out of 10 private-sector positions
- A jobs juggernaut - Between 2005 and 2015, SMEs created 1.2 million jobs or over 95% of all new positions added to the economy
- A hotbed of innovation - SMEs account for 45% of all Canadian R&D spending

All of this adds up to SMEs' impact on Canada's GHG inventory. We estimate emissions from this sector to be in excess of 200 million tonnes, or nearly 30% of Canada's total.

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Purpose of the Project

While Climate Smart has created a novel SME data set: we haven't uncovered its full potential. We seek a Sustainability Scholar to analyze and synthesize our BEEP data to identify opportunities for the tool to be used to support climate strategy. Seeking insights and novel uses of the data, the Scholar will be helping us to understand the best uses for the tool, such as better-targeted reduction strategies, in addition to developing an understanding of the cost savings associated with emissions reductions outlined in the tool.

Scope of Work:

- Research new ways data from Climate Smart and external sources can be deployed to develop a clearer understanding of cost savings associated with emissions reductions
- Develop and prototype concepts for the integration of qualitative information with quantitative data visualization, such as the integration of case studies in the BEEP
- Conduct desktop research and interviews with Climate Smart data team and select SMEs to identify success factors in deploying energy efficiency incentives and policy
 - Based on interviews, create a series of 3-5 case studies focused on success factors where government and business collaborated to achieve emissions reductions based on BEEP data
- Conduct a global scan to identify best practices from select municipalities around the world that have plans, programs, and/or policies to work with their SMEs on emissions reductions strategies

Deliverables

- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders
- Summary of research findings presented to Climate Smart team covering best practices in municipalities and the novel ways the data can be understood and leveraged
- Summary report of interviews with stakeholders, including several case studies
- A final report [or Executive Summary] for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library

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. Please also use this space to indicate any critical dates for the project, and the optimal schedule for your Scholar's work if known.

- 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 between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday, approximately 12 hours per week

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Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis and comfortable working with large data sets in Excel
- Familiarity with GHG emissions accounting and/or policy is a bonus, but not a prerequisite

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

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>