

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: Comparative analysis and evaluation of nature-based climate solutions for local governments

Project Description and Scope

Climate Caucus is a non-partisan network of 250+ elected local leaders working collectively to create and implement policy which aligns with Canada's fair share of holding global temperature to 1.5°C. We are developing a Councillors Handbook of practical climate solutions to assist our members in delivering in climate action in their communities. A key area for this action is nature based climate solutions which have the potential to deliver significant emissions reductions while also protecting and restoring the natural environment, effectively addressing the dual ecological and climate crises that we face. The research from this project would be delivered directly to local governments for implementation by our councillor members.

Nature based climate solutions can be highly cost effective for climate mitigation and adaptation. Surprisingly, little research has been done in this area with respect to local governments although various nature based projects have been implemented around the world in a variety of cities.

Climate Caucus has developed a draft list of potential nature based climate solutions that are a fit for local governments, along with a few case studies. The objectives of this research project would be to:

- Assess this list to fill in gaps and locate additional relevant case studies.
- Evaluate the initiatives in terms of:
 - feasibility for implementation by local governments,
 - potential concerns - likely areas of push back and how to address these (e.g., private land issues, conflicting land uses), and

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- benefits (e.g., flood control, ecosystem preservation) and co-benefits (e.g., health and wellness, recreation).
- Select the best initiatives for each of rural and urban municipalities and locate relevant case studies, bylaws, resolutions.
- Prepare a short briefing paper for each of the prioritized initiatives.

Some material can be found online, but some of the most useful information for local governments is often found within the files of other municipalities - the briefing papers and resolutions. - and in the views of staff and councillors involved. So a significant portion of the research would involve connecting with local government officials in jurisdictions where these projects have been implemented.

Deliverables

- A final report that identifies the three best nature based climate solutions for local governments in each of urban and rural municipalities.
- For each of the prioritized initiatives:
 - 2-3 relevant case studies,
 - resolutions, bylaws where available, and
 - a 1-2 page briefing paper for councillors to aid them in selling the plan to their councils.
- Summary report of interviews with local government staff and councillors.
- Final report (or Executive Summary) for the UBC online Scholars Project Library

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Comfortable interacting with local government staff and councillors
- Ability to work independently
- Comfortable conducting interviews, including note taking, and performing qualitative analysis of interview notes and findings
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with nature based solutions is an asset
- Familiarity with local governments is an asset

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

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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>