

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Summer 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.

- 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 February 2, 2020.**

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## Research project title: Role of local governments in supporting Energy Advisor capacity in small and rural communities

### Sustainability Goal or Operations Plan objective

Advancing Energy Step Code implementation

Long Term Goal: Net-zero energy ready buildings in all BC communities

### Project description

The lack of local Energy Advisors (EAs) is one of the top barriers to many smaller and rural communities adopting the Energy Step Code. Community Energy Association (CEA) supports small/medium communities with Step Code implementation, including assisting with industry consultation and policy development. We have worked with communities that are ready to adopt the Step Code, but feel they cannot until there is reliable EA capacity locally (or within a short drive).

This project will identify ways in which small and rural local governments can support Energy Advisor (EA) capacity in communities that currently do not have a local EA. Furthermore, the outcomes of the research will help inform the Energy Step Code Council about possible interim solutions to the EA capacity crunch in advance of future Building Code updates that will require the use of an EA for compliance.

### Scope of Work:

- Conduct a scan of available studies, research, and recommendations regarding EA capacity in BC.
- Conduct interviews with local government staff, members of the Energy Step Code Council including the Energy Advisor and Compliance Subcommittee, Service Organizations, Energy Advisors, and Natural Resources Canada
- Select 3-5 regions in BC with local governments interested in adopting the Step Code, and analyse upcoming EA demand by region
- Conduct analysis of various solutions and scope out the costs in each test region to make the solutions viable
- Create a report outlining:
  - Barriers to EA capacity growth under the current market-driven model

- A range of solutions (and their implications) for local governments to help grow local EA capacity
- Examples of viable solutions in each test region including cost estimates
- Recommendations to the Energy Step Code Council and other stakeholders including potential funders

### Deliverables

- Summary report of interviews with stakeholders
- A final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- A final report [or 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 May 4 and August 14, 2020
- The Scholar will coordinate with the staff mentors to confirm hours worked. Most work will happen remotely or at our co-working office.

### Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis
- Interest in market transformation, worker transition, and advancing high performance buildings.

Applications close **midnight Sunday February 2, 2020.**

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

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto: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.

<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>

The Centre for Student Involvement & Careers will host a resume & cover letter webinar tailored for graduate students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 from 12:00-1:30. Registration will open approximately two weeks before the webinar, and can be accessed at Careers Online.

