

# 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: Best practices for a business sector campaign to reduce wasted food: encouraging behaviour change and sustainable practices

**Problem Statement:** What are the best methods and approaches for a City campaign to promote and encourage the adoption of voluntary operational changes to reduce wasted food and associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by food business sectors?

**Purpose of the Project:** The City's direct engagement with a selection of grocery retailers in 2019 has culminated in a menu of business-tested food waste reduction solutions for this sector. The approach for a campaign to promote the voluntary adoption of these or other solutions by the remaining Vancouver grocery stores is needed.

### Research supports the following policies:

- Greenest City Action Plan/ Climate Emergency Response Plan  
Specific goal area/ big move(s): Accelerated Action, 12. A, Reducing Wasted Food
- Healthy City Strategy  
Specific goal area (s): A healthy, just, and sustainable food system
- Other: Zero Waste 2040

### Outline scope of project and why it is of value to the City of Vancouver and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.

#### Scope of work:

- Undertake a literature review of best practices that encourage behavioural change within businesses in order to develop a campaign that encourages the voluntary implementation of practices, policies and training to reduce the occurrence of wasted food and associated GHG emissions within the grocery retail sector.
- Based on literature review and the findings of the City's own work with grocery retailers,
  - Create a rationale for the engagement approaches selected
  - Develop and test compelling elements of a campaign using these approaches
  - Workshop/focus group/test campaign approaches and elements
  - Include focus group findings in final report

*Value to the City and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable:*

- This work will directly support actions adapted from the Zero Waste 2040: To become a leading City in food loss and waste (FLW) diversion, reduction and prevention, and the Climate Change Emergency Response actions to,
  - “Identify and pursue opportunities to advance community actions to reduce wasted food across Vancouver, in partnership with local food businesses and food industry, with a dual focus to avoid wasted food in the supply chain and divert surplus food to people.”
- Additionally, researching, compiling and testing best practices for a campaign to reduce wasted food in the grocery retail sector builds on research conducted in 2019 on food waste avoidance best practices and the testing of interventions in select grocery stores in 2019-2020.
- Contingent on the recommendations and the results of the focus group, the Greenest City Scholar's work will be actionable as part of the Solid Waste Strategic Services (SWSS) Senior Project Manager's 2020 and 2021 portfolio focused on food waste diversion, reduction and prevention in the industry, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors.

**Deliverables**

The Scholar will deliver a final report on completed work including recommendations. A summary of the final report will be presented to key stakeholders.

- A summary of compiled and compared cultural and/or behavioural change management best practices
- Food waste reduction campaign approaches and elements to test with food business sectors and a rationale for the approaches selected
- Results from a focus group test of the campaign approaches and elements with up to 5 food businesses.
- A list of food business contacts representing sectors operating in the City of Vancouver.
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the online Sustainability Scholars Project Library and for use by the Solid Waste Strategic Services Senior Project Manager.

**Time Commitment**

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 4 and August 14, 2020
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday at approximately 16 hours per week (however, there may be the opportunity to provide flexibility with work times and hours per week.

**Skill set/background required/preferred**

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in research, literature review, surveys, problem solving, communications and cultural and/or behavioural change related to the climate emergency
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills is an asset.
- Strong technical writing skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong presentation and public speaking skills
- Community engagement experience desired but not required.
- Familiarity conducting focus group research



- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Demonstrated time management skills
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- ☒ Familiarity with behaviour change theories and implementation
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- ☒ A Class 5 license and access to a vehicle are nice-to-have (mileage costs to be reimbursed by the City), however work can be completed using public transit and/or bike.

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.

