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 March 8 , 2020.**

Research project title: Research to understand the opportunities to improve the City of New West's GHG community energy program

Energy Save New West (ESNW) is one of the longest running and most comprehensive community energy efficiency and GHG emission reduction programs in Canada. Since launching in July 2013, ESNW has grown into a trusted engagement platform for local residents, businesses, non-profit organizations and the design and construction community. The program provides support services, program incentives and training resources to help drive improved building performance and uptake of renewable energy in the City of New Westminster.

ESNW's Existing Home program provides a subsidy for homeowners to complete an EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) energy evaluation of their house. The purpose of the ERS energy evaluation is to provide homeowners with a detailed analysis of the energy performance of their home, identify suitable energy upgrades and provide a home energy rating. With over 300 energy evaluations completed in New Westminster, ESNW is looking to evaluate program data and to survey participants to quantify energy-saving opportunities, gather program feedback and analyze impacts from installed energy conservation measures.

For more information on Energy Save New West visit: www.energysavenewwest.ca.

Goal or Operations Plan objective

1. Review and evaluate ESNW's Existing Homes program data to quantify energy-saving opportunities and impacts from installed energy conservation measures.
2. Gain program participant insight through a qualitative survey to better understand motivations, barriers, and opportunities with energy retrofits on existing homes.
3. Build on the success of the ESNW program with an additional layer of community engagement and research that could be used to inform future community programs and policies.
4. Provide valuable insights on ESNW progress and opportunities to support the City with targets and objectives for New Westminster's Community Energy & Emissions Plan and GHG emissions reduction target as set out in its Official Community Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.

- Complete technical data analysis from ~300 EnerGuide Rating System (ERS) energy evaluations completed through ESNW to better understand home profiles (e.g. average age, size, type, etc.) and quantity/type of energy upgrade opportunities (e.g. insulation, heating systems, domestic hot water, windows, etc.) identified.
- Support the City of New West's engagement with the Province of BC, FortisBC and BC Hydro to gather additional program participation information from utility (e.g. Home Renovation Rebate) and government (e.g. Better Homes BC) programs.
- Design and execute an online survey to gather qualitative insights from ESNW participants to gather feedback and insights on program experiences, motivations and barriers with energy evaluations and retrofits.
- Identify and review practices from select other US/Canadian demand side management programs to identify alternative practices, program delivery models and incentive/rebate structures that could inform future program initiatives.

Deliverables

- Development of a workflow document that can be used to guide the process, tasks, milestones and timing of the project.
- Best practices review of other US/Canadian jurisdictions to identify alternative demand side management program design and delivery practices, incentives, etc.
- Design and execution of an online survey to gather input from ESNW participants on their experiences with the community energy program.
- Provision of a final report, containing a summary of completed work with recommendations, complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders.
- Provision of an Executive Summary for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

It is anticipated the scholar work May 4 and complete all 250 hours by August 15th, 2020. Projected hours would be split at ~80 hours per month over the course of the project. The scholar is to complete hours between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research, writing and communication skills.
- Demonstrated interest in residential energy-efficiency and community energy programs.
- Experience conducting data analysis
- Experience developing and executing surveys
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills

Applications close **midnight Sunday March 8, 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.

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