

Summer 2021 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

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 January 31, 2021.

Research project title

Research to understand and assess the repair and reuse sector in Metro Vancouver

Project description

Overview:

One of the best ways to minimize waste and transition to a circular economy is by keeping materials in use as long as possible. Given its prominence in the waste management hierarchy, reuse is little-studied in comparison to more conventional recycling and energy recovery options. Metro Vancouver is currently updating its Solid Waste Management Plan and is seeking an improved understanding of reuse in the region in order to help measure progress and the prevalence of reuse activities. Through research of how and where reuse occurs in the region, Metro Vancouver seeks to build upon existing research on the reuse sector and streamline the process by which regional reuse is estimated.

Purpose of the Project:

To provide an overview of the reuse sector in Metro Vancouver and create an easily replicable methodology for estimating reuse in the region that builds upon an existing preliminary methodology and data resulting from the first two years of its use.

Deliverables

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work including an estimate of reuse in Metro Vancouver in 2020. The report should include

- An overview of repair and re-use by product, platform and location. This will include a scan of reuse and repair activities throughout the region, the types of materials that can be reused, how they are reused, and in which municipalities the activities take place.
- Analysis of different ways to calculate re-use, including estimating economic value, jobs created, tonnages, number of uses, or mapping reuse and repair activities.

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- Best practices for calculating reuse (e.g., is each transaction counted for the same item or only once? Does local reuse get counted differently than reuse abroad?).
- An updated and improved methodology for estimating annual reuse in the Metro Vancouver region focusing on textiles and repair, but taking into account the following activities:
 - Clothing re-use and donation
 - Online re-sale marketplace
 - Construction material salvage and re-use
 - Second hand markets for furniture, home goods and other materials
 - Food recovery and rescue
 - Any other forms of reuse in the region
- A total reuse estimate for the region for calendar 2020. Metro Vancouver estimates reuse annually based on a number of factors. This estimate will build upon the existing inputs subject to modifications proposed by the methodology developed in this study.
- A final report or executive summary for the online Scholars project library

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 3 and August 13, 2021
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday, approximately 20 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Experience conducting interviews is an asset
- Familiar with concepts to do with the circular economy, reuse, and repair
- Strong analytical skills

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 31, 2021**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 19. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

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>