

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

Exploring Opportunities to Expand and/or Replicate the Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Network

Project Description

Overview

There are 27 remote First Nations communities in British Columbia, the majority of which still rely on diesel power generation. Diesel generation is an expensive form of power production that releases greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to climate change. Relying on diesel generation increases vulnerability and decreases resiliency in remote communities, as communities rely on a volatile fuel to power their lives. Moreover, reliance on energy sources that exacerbate harm to all our relations, both human and non-human, is often not aligned with the worldviews of First Nations.

One important pathway to reducing diesel dependency and increasing resiliency in remote Indigenous communities is increasing local capacity to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. This involves both hiring a community member to take on this work and providing them with necessary resources and support.

The Great Bear Initiative Climate Action Network was formed in 2018 and is a new program that serves eight remote Indigenous communities throughout the North and Central Coast of BC. Local Climate Action Coordinators (CACs) have been hired in seven of these communities to work on their nation's priorities and visions related to climate mitigation and adaptation. The CACs are supported by the Climate Action Network which provides 1:1 support and regular check-ins, monthly team meetings, and group and individual training opportunities.

Purpose of the Project

Our network funding is scheduled to end in March 2022. Since inception, there have been requests from other First Nations to join the Network, an action that cannot be accommodated under our current structure. As we plan for the next phase of work, we would like to explore expanding or replicating the Climate Action Network to other remote Indigenous communities

in British Columbia. An essential component of this expansion or replication would be to answer the two following research questions:

- 1) How are other Indigenous organizations building local capacity to complete complicated projects that relate to the priorities and visions of the community, and
- 2) How are other Indigenous organizations implementing climate mitigation and adaptation solutions.

To answer these questions, we would like to understand:

- What other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations exist;
- How other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations are structured;
- What support other climate / energy related Indigenous organizations receive regarding:
 - o training
 - o mentorship
 - o other areas as identified by the scholar and mentors;
- How do network activities advance the Rights of Indigenous Peoples beyond energy sovereignty?
- How do we further braid Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing into the Network structure?
- Are there other example of success, and what contributed to this success; and
- Key lessons for the Climate Action Network.

Value of the Project

The current Climate Action Network has secured funding until March 2022, after which time there are currently no funds in place to continue this valuable program. Additionally, there are other diesel dependant Indigenous communities that could benefit from participating in a local climate action network. The outcomes of this research will be used when planning for the continuation and possible expansion of the existing network, and will inform the province and related stakeholders as they work to determine how to best support communities not currently services by a climate action network.

Deliverables

- Summary report of interviews with stakeholders from different communities.
- A final report inclusive of:
 - o An executive summary;
 - o Case studies of other Indigenous-led capacity building programs in BC, Canada and Internationally, including summary from each program of history, personnel structure, goals and objectives, challenges and opportunities etc.
 - o High-level recommendations for expanding or replicating the Climate Action Network.
- A presentation of research results.

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational 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>