

## 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

Understanding Best Practices and Key Barriers to Scaling Zero Emissions Homes in BC

### Project Overview

The Near Zero Emissions Building program was launched in 2018 with two main objectives. The first objective is to incentivize architects, general contractors and homeowners to pursue a near-zero emissions target for new homes. The second objective is to collect as much information as possible regarding the design, construction and occupancy of the new home – mostly via questionnaires. The information is analyzed to uncover trends, barriers and solutions which are shared with the building industry at large in order to build capacity for this important climate change-related endeavour. The program is a green initiative that was originally funded by the City of Vancouver and then by the Province through CleanBC. One round of trend analysis was completed in 2020 with the information available at the time and another round will be done in 2021 with new information collected since the first analysis was completed. The trend analysis will be graphically prepared by the ZEBx team for promotion on the ZEBx website and social media channels. The aim is to encourage and support the building industry and homeowners to transition to cost-effective, zero emissions new construction.

Through the Near Zero Emissions Building program, ZEBx collects design and construction information on small near zero emissions residential buildings. The Scholar will compile construction information on the buildings in order to analyze trends which will be highlighted in a report published by ZEBx.

### Project description

The outcome of this project will identify emerging best practices and key barriers to scaling zero emissions homes in BC. The project will also compare how the best practices and key barriers align with existing knowledge and resources and identify gaps where appropriate.

### Scope of Work:

- Review existing documentation, including drawings, budgets, photos, completed builder/designer questionnaires to identify trends in solutions and barriers associated with building near zero emissions homes in Vancouver.
- Interview select builders/designers to collect additional data as required.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Derive key categories of importance from the review of information and collate findings into those categories
- Summarize solutions and barriers in a consolidated short report or presentation.
- Cross reference barriers and solutions with previous trends analysis (completed by 2020 UBC Sustainability Scholar) and identify gaps in knowledge between empirical data and existing resources.
- Conduct additional interviews with builders/designers and municipal staff to develop actionable next steps required to advance solutions or overcome identified barriers.
- Consolidate findings into a report (or executive summary) and a presentation. (Report or executive summary to also serve as final UBC Project Library report).

The scholar will be guided by the ZEBx team, and in particular, the Director of Programs.

## Deliverables

- Report (5 – 15 pages) on findings and/or short executive summary for UBC
- 10 to 15 slides for presentation to participants in the NZEB program
- Selection of graphics, architectural details, graphs, charts, photos for a ZEBx resource on the topic

## Time Commitment

- This project will take **250\*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **May 3 and August 13.**
- The scholar schedule is flexible though it is expected that at least half of the time will be spent during office operating hours which are **9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.** The scholar is expected to work approximately **16** hours per week.
- Site visits to the projects are recommended, but not mandatory.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Strong technical and drafting skills
- Demonstrated experience in building science
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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

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

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