

Summer 2022 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 30, 2022.

>> This is a Collective Impact (CI) Project >>

Collective Impact (CI) projects involve multiple Scholars working in collaboration on one larger project. Some CI projects require with similar skills while some require Scholars with different skills. If you are a strong communicator and like the idea of achieving high impact through collaboration, this project might be for you. Read on for more details.

Project Title: Virtual Community Engagement on Climate Impacts and Preparedness in Northeast BC

Total Number of Scholars Required: 3

We are seeking to bring together a multi-disciplinary team to work on this project, but in general the roles of the three Scholars will be similar.

Project Background & Overview:

There is an urgent need to prepare for climate hazards and disaster risks in Northeast BC. Weather models predict an increase in weather variability, including increasing temperatures year-round, increasing precipitation, and more frequent extreme weather events. In recent years, communities have witnessed a number of severe flood and wildfire events. These current and future impacts are critically affecting the region's infrastructure, economy and community.

The Northeast Climate Resilience Network (NECRN) has been working collaboratively to address these impacts. The NECRN is a network of six local and regional authorities that are working together to assess and manage climate risks. Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and Northern Health have established the Northeast Climate Resilience Network. Together they have laid a foundation for climate preparedness with regional climate projections and community-based assessments to advance preparedness and adaptation planning. More information can be found here: https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/Northeast_Climate_Resilience_Network.html

In this project, Sustainability Scholars will work with the Fraser Basin Council in collaboration with the Northeast Climate Resilience Network to raise awareness about climate risks and actions to the general

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public of the Northeast. The public, and particularly homeowners in flood risk areas, will also learn how to protect their homes from flooding. Currently, there is low public engagement on climate change and our local government project partners have identified climate awareness and floodproofing as priority actions for the region. This project will also equip governments in the Northeast with knowledge on successful climate communications, which will further enable them to take climate action in their jurisdictions.

Project description

The Northeast Climate Resilience Network is interested in having greater community engagement around climate change projections and impacts in general, and homeowner flood prevention in particular. This project would develop climate resilience knowledge, tools and skills for government staff and community members in order to help Northeast BC learn about climate change and prepare for flooding.

The project will have two primary outputs: a set of case studies and a pilot virtual engagement project. The case studies will showcase 10 examples of successful virtual engagements on climate impacts (more details in below section). The case studies will focus primarily on how other local governments have undertaken this engagement, with a couple non-local government examples for broader perspective. The case studies report will also illustrate the lessons and best practices that inform the design of the pilot project. The pilot project will be a virtual engagement program to teach community members about climate impacts and to encourage residents to take flood proofing measures for their homes, ideally incorporating a fun and creative way to do this (e.g., a contest).

The work that the Sustainability Scholars do will be very valuable because it will increase community members' awareness of the present and future impacts of climate change for the Northeast BC region, as well as their awareness of concrete actions they can take to address a climate impact. Homeowners will have a better understanding of what they can do to prepare for floods, which are a priority risk in the region. As well, government employees in the region will receive a set of case studies that will help them to initiate future virtual discussions and engagement campaigns around climate change.

The pilot project will be actionable during the term of the Sustainability Scholars Program. The pilot will be an important case study in itself, and learnings from the pilot will be documented to inform future virtual climate initiatives. The case studies will have immediate knowledge benefits for the region and will be shared widely through Fraser Basin Council's climate networks. The case study information will be actionable in future engagements that the Northeast Climate Resilience Network conduct with the public in the Northeast region.

Project scope

The Scholars will initially meet the Northeast Climate Resilience Network and do research on the region in order to familiarize themselves with the area, its history, current priorities, and climate work that the Network members are leading.

Following this, the Scholars will conduct research on the best ways to virtually engage community members in the Northeast on climate impacts, government action on climate change, and resident flood preparedness. During this research, Scholars will collect 10 case studies focusing on virtual engagement in resident flood preparedness that can be included in the case study document. General information on

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climate impact engagement and awareness-raising about government action on climate change will be incorporated into the final aspect of the project, the pilot project.

The virtual pilot project will be run in partnership with one or several Northeast Climate Resilience Network members (to be decided in collaboration with the Network members). It will build on the information gathered to teach community members about climate impacts and actions and to encourage residents to take flood proofing measures for their homes. The pilot project will ideally be creative and fun, and may include a webinar to educate residents on home floodproofing. Gamification is one option for the pilot project, as well as inclusion of Community Based Social Marketing techniques. The pilot project will be monitored and evaluated, and findings will be shared with the Network to inform future online climate engagements.

Deliverables

- Project manage a key component of the larger project (key component to be determined in discussion with the Project Mentor).
- Work as part of a team on the project.
- Contribute to the research, writing, and ideation for all elements of the project which includes:
 - Research and development of 10 case studies
 - Development, delivery, and evaluation of a pilot engagement project, which may include activities such as delivering webinars, developing a contest, researching best practices in online engagement, developing toolkits and communication pieces, etc.
 - Research to understand the Northeast BC region, best approaches to engage with residents in Northeast BC, and the area's climate issues to understand how their communities approach climate action
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.
- A final case studies report containing 10 case studies
- A pilot engagement project and evaluation of the project
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

Time Commitment

- Each position is for 270 hours of work.
- This project must be completed between May 2 and August 12, 2022.
- The scholars are to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Thursday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- FBC will meet with the Scholars on a weekly basis for an hour.
- Scholars are welcome to attend the Fraser Basin Council Climate Change and Air Quality team meetings, which are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 2-3:30pm.

Required/preferred Skills and Background*

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in local government policies and engagement
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques

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- Community engagement experience
- Statistical analysis an asset
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to take and give constructive criticism
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated interest in graphic design an asset
- Design and layout skills an asset
- Experience hosting public or virtual events an asset
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability and climate action
- Familiarity with present and future impacts of climate change for the Northeast BC region an asset
- Familiarity with climate change adaptation, disaster planning, emergency preparedness or flood preparedness practices an asset

*Please note that we will be choosing a team with a range of skillsets, so if you have some of the above skills but not all, we still encourage you to apply.

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 30, 2022**

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>