

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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 Scholars 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: Research to develop toolkits and resources to enable the creation of circular innovation districts in other jurisdictions

Total Number of Scholars Required: 3

All positions for this project are the same and will require similar skills and backgrounds as noted below.

Project Background & Overview

The current climate crisis, coupled with the considerable impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy, supply chain resilience and not least COVID-amplified economic disparity, has meant that the urgent need for a global transition to 'green, just and inclusive' economic development is increasingly recognized and identified as an essential climate action and economic development direction by governments around the world.

European countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark, France and Belgium have successfully pioneered Circular Cities models (See C40 Cities), as a key aspect of their adaptation and resilience planning (both environmentally and economically) to address the Climate Crisis.

These models are based on the increased understanding that sustainable, locally resilient infrastructure for production and manufacturing, distribution, and operational, urban supporting functions (such as local manufacturing and production, food production and distribution, waste management and materials recovery) should be strategically positioned close to the demand areas for these goods, services and urban infrastructure. Doing so reduces environmental impact, drives economic resilience and creates sustainable, equitable, green cities that support complete communities and the citizens within them.

Protecting and leveraging light industrial, green innovation districts that house circular, green and economically inclusive activities in proximity to dense urban populations are key factors in reducing the overall environmental impacts and GHG emissions of city-serving infrastructure and consumer supply demands, resulting in environmentally sustainable and economically resilient circular cities and regions.

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To establish these new 'circular models' for 'climate-smart, green cities' urban planning and land use strategies that acknowledge the critical role industrial land and industrial zoning play in supporting cities' and regions' climate action goals. These 'green industrial innovation districts', such as the GrIID™ will be increasingly necessary to deliver sustainable, circular, urban functions, performing the work, producing and distributing the goods, offering the services and creating the green jobs required to meet the needs and demands of our urban centres.

Recycling Alternative's proposed GrIID™ model addresses both the climate crisis, as well as the need to commit to equitable, diverse and inclusive economic development, growth and resilience of our regions and cities. The GrIID™ is founded on principles of collaboration, responsible production and consumption, diverse and inclusive green jobs creation, and establishes a resilient supply chain approach that drives and strengthens local economic growth within a climate action and climate adaptive framework.

Project description

Recycling Alternative's vision to establish the GrIID™ in the False Creek Flats area (FLATS) proposes a precedent setting road map, providing templates and tool kits for other circular innovators and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to replicate in their regions or municipalities, building the foundation for localized economic growth and resilience that is circular, green, innovative and inclusive, in response to the urgent global need for climate action and equitable economic growth and resilience, grounded in localised action and planning at municipal and regional levels.

Recycling Alternative is working with circular innovator businesses and community partners including Vancouver Economic Commission, local non-profits and post secondary institutions to create the province's first Green Industrial Innovation District (GrIID™) in Vancouver's False Creek Flats (Flats).

As the Flats represents the last swath of industrial land available close to downtown Vancouver, the GrIID™ brings together green innovation businesses that are developing and delivering services, products and resource recovery that support local, circular models and distribution, such as materials recycling, materials re-purposing, de-construction, industrial symbiosis, local production, share and repair services.

In addition to circular, innovation models, the GrIID™ has the opportunity to overlay various elements of sustainable, local and equitable economic development through its partnerships with inclusive training and employment organizations, post secondary institutions Research & Development initiatives, local economic advocacy groups, circular infrastructure innovators and incubators, fleet electrification and e-vehicle infrastructure.

Over the years Recycling Alternative (RA) has been developing the concept of the GrIID™ model, exploring and researching mechanisms to iterate and land the province's first GrIID™ in the FLATS, RA has gained insights and understanding related to the required steps, policy levers, partnership opportunities, community activator and innovator collaborations that comprise a road map and action plan for the creation and implementation of the model.

RA now wishes to deepen and expand that road map, creating a user portal/platform including resources, templates, timelines, policy levers and partnerships that circular innovators can utilize to create GrIID™ models in their own cities and regions, beyond Vancouver.

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To that end we seek three Sustainability Scholars to research and develop a step by step resource kit of tools, templates, businesses cases, policy levers, stakeholder partnerships and benefits that would enable other jurisdictions to apply the GrIID™ model to create their own circular innovation districts.

Project scope

Develop and create road map materials and resources for the GrIID™ user platform/portal, that includes and demonstrates the tangible climate action benefits GrIID models deliver in urban areas and infrastructure.

The scope of work will include:

- Best practices review of two or three examples of successful GrIID models to identify information and other opportunities relevant to resources and tool kits to include in the road map
- Research, identify and present most common universal policy levers and aligned benefits delivered by potential GrIID™ models in cities and regions
- Research, identify and present climate action benefits and impacts that can achieved and measured through GrIID™ models
- Assess and evaluate the key potential components to be included in creating content for the Road Map to GrIID™s such as: checklists, templates, cases studies, tool-kits, GHG tracking inventories, climate action benefits and impacts, operational model options, sustainable/circular materials, and energy sharing collaborations between GrIID™ businesses and the resulting benefits related to reduced GHG's and climate impacts etc)
- Prioritize and present proposed list of potential GrIID™ Road Map materials and resources to inform the content of the user portal/visual story telling framework
- Work with mentor to develop and create content for agreed upon list of Road Map resources (i.e. tool kits, templates, messaging, etc

Deliverables

- Content for agreed upon list of Road Map resources (i.e. tool kits, templates, messaging, etc. as outlined in Project Scope above)
- A presentation on the final versions of Road Map resources and assets
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- 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 Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

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Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity preparing feasibility/case studies
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability, circular economy, green/sustainable infrastructure and operations, an asset
- Familiarity with industrial symbiosis models an asset

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>