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 March 13, 2022.

Project Title: Mitigating the environmental impacts of anesthetic gases in healthcare

Project Background & Overview:
The healthcare sector is responsible for approximately 5% of Canada’s total greenhouse gas emissions (and approximately 5% globally). Provincially, the Lower Mainland Health Organizations (Fraser Health, PHC, PHSA, VCH), are required to reach annual carbon neutrality, which is done by way of carbon offsets. The three sources of emission included in obtaining carbon neutrality are stationary source (i.e., buildings), mobile sources (i.e., fleet vehicles), and paper.

There are many additional sources of greenhouse gases related to healthcare operations, such as anesthetic gases, that are not currently tracked, nor actively reduced within the health organizations. There is currently a need to better understand these “unreported” sources and their impact, as well as to prioritize action to mitigate their harmful impacts. This often includes direct or indirect impacts on public health; effects which different groups can disproportionately experience, highlighting the importance of examining the overlap between climate/environment, health, and equity.

The Energy and Environmental Sustainability Team (EES) is a collaborative program of the Lower Mainland health organizations. The team’s purpose is to inspire and empower all we work with to collaboratively enable systemic transformation to restore and regenerate the interdependence of people, place and planet, now and for future generations. The push for environmentally sustainable and climate resilient health-care can’t be done alone; EES unites efforts within the BC health-care community to drive the push for environmentally sustainable and climate resilient health-care.

Project description
The goal of this project is to gain a better understanding of the anesthetic gases currently resulting from the facilities and operations of the Lower Mainland Health Organizations and to prioritize the action needed to reduce their impact. This project will include stakeholder engagement and interviews, a literature scan, a baseline of emissions data, a summary of the various reduction initiatives for those sources currently taking place across the health organizations, and time permitting, a draft regional implementation plan for anesthetic gas reporting and reduction.
Key questions the Scholar will research include:
- How do anesthetic gases compare to other emissions sources?
- Where are the greatest opportunities to mitigate the impact of these emissions sources on the environment?
- What opportunities are there to build capacity of anesthetic gas emissions reduction across health organizations?

Project scope

1. Conduct a scan of best practices for anesthetic gas reporting methodologies used in 5 to 8 different health organizations around the world
2. Conduct 5 to 7 interviews with subject experts to understand current emissions reduction initiatives across the lower mainland health organizations
3. Based on the interviews, and additional research across a minimum of 3 lower mainland health organizations, develop an inventory of existing and prospective reduction initiatives, baseline data, data sources, and stakeholders/contacts.
4. Identify opportunities to align efforts and build capacity to reduce anesthetic gas emissions
5. Time permitting, develop a draft anesthetic gas reporting framework and implementation plan

Deliverables
- A final report summarizing research findings and recommendations
- A presentation to the EES Team
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.

Time Commitment
- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 2 and August 12.
- The scholar is to complete hours between Monday to Friday, approximately 16-20 hours per week.
- If applicable, list dates of any mandatory meetings, etc.

Required/preferred Skills and Background
☒ Excellent research and writing skills
☒ Demonstrated interest in sustainability
☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
☒ Community engagement experience
☒ Strong analytical skills
☒ Ability to work independently
☒ Deadline oriented
☒ Project management and organizational skills
☒ Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
☒ Interest or experience in measuring GHG emissions an asset
☒ Interest or experience in health care sustainability an asset.
Applications close **midnight Sunday March 13, 2022**
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**

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://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/current-students/graduate-pathways-success)

[https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services](https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services)