

## 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.**

---

### **Project Title: Mitigating environmental and public health impacts of refrigerants and other out-of-scope greenhouse gas emissions 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 that are not currently tracked, nor actively reduced within the health organizations. There is currently a need to better understand these "out-of-scope" 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 out of scope emissions currently resulting from the facilities and operations of the Lower Mainland Health Organizations, to prioritize the action needed to reduce their impact, and to understand their impact on public health. This project will include a literature review, a baseline of emissions data, a summary of the various reduction initiatives for those sources currently taking place across the health organizations, and potentially support the development of a pilot project. This project will address Refrigerants and Anesthetic Gases or Metered Dose Inhalers.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Key questions the Scholar will research include:

- How do out-of-scope emissions compare to reported ('in-scope') emissions?
- How are these out-of-scope sources impacting environmental and public health?
- Where are the greatest opportunities to mitigate the impact of these emissions sources on public health and environment?
- What opportunities are there to build capacity of out-of-scope emission mitigation across health organizations?

## Project scope

1. Conduct a scan of emissions best practices reporting (for focus sources) by other health care organizations (UK National Health Service, Practices Greenhealth members, Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care members) to understand sources and reporting methodologies.
2. Based on the scan of emissions reporting best practices develop standardized emissions calculation methodology (for focus emissions sources)
3. Conduct (internal) stakeholder interviews to collect information on current emissions reduction initiatives, and to identify opportunities
4. Develop an inventory of existing and prospective reduction initiatives, data, and sources within the LMHOs (for focus sources)
5. Identify opportunities to align efforts and build capacity to reduce out-of-scope emissions.
6. Conduct a literature review of the public health impact of each of the focus sources
7. Support the development or implementation or evaluation of emissions reduction pilot projects for focus sources

## 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 500 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 32-40 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
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies
- Interest or experience in measuring GHG emissions an asset
- Interest or experience in health care sustainability an asset.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 30, 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

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>