

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: Developing a sustainability action plan for the West Vancouver Police Department

Project Background & Overview:

The policing industry has largely escaped scrutiny of their lack of sustainable practices and negative environmental impacts. There are many aspects of policing that are ripe to incorporate and implement sustainable practices. The West Vancouver Police feel that it is incumbent on them to do their part to increase their sustainability efforts and reduce their impact on climate change.

Currently, the sustainability efforts of the WVPD are not organized or clearly defined. The WVPD has a few sustainability practices in place including a recycling and food waste program, and we are slowly transitioning to hybrid vehicles and considering some fully electric options.

The WVPD would benefit from some needed structure around and management of ongoing and new sustainability work. Currently, the WVPD does not have the knowledge to properly develop sustainability driven projects, nor do they have the knowledge of the sustainability work being done within the policing industry. This project will address these and other knowledge gaps that exist within the WVPD on the topic of sustainability. This project will greatly improve institutional knowledge of the sustainability field.

Project description

The West Vancouver Police want to do their part to help mitigate the impact of climate change and adapt policing to a more environmentally sustainable model. This project will support the development of a sustainability action plan to help the organization move forward with their environmental sustainability efforts by looking at current practices to assess areas where sustainability practices can be implemented, and provide options for implementation.

The goal is to build an implementation timeline, which describes each initiative/deliverable for this project. Recommendations will be considered and implemented on a schedule, with some aspects of the sustainability plan implemented as soon as practicable. The goal is to start implementation of this sustainability strategic plan in the fall of 2022, with the bulk of the recommendations actioned in 2023 and 2024.

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An important first step in this project will be an in-depth look at current practices, which will involve an audit of the WVPD current sustainability practices, specifically looking at emissions and waste data. A scan of sustainability best practices will also be conducted in the early part of this project. That scan will look at practices within policing locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Project scope

The scope of this project is to examine the operating procedures in three key areas: vehicle emissions, waste, and procurement strategies and develop a plan to help us understand how we are doing and where we can do better and how to measure improvement.

Work will include:

- a. Compile and synthesize best practices from five to eight police departments from around the world. These departments will be comparable in size and scale to the West Vancouver Police Department. Particular attention will be paid to their sustainability practices and strategies pertaining to emissions, waste, and procurement.
- b. Undertake a review of the WVPD's activities and practices looking specifically at emissions, waste, and procurement. In this process, conduct four to six in-depth phone or in-person interviews with WVPD staff to understand effectiveness, strengths, and lessons learned.
- c. Conduct an audit of reporting data (emissions, waste, procurement) to understand what data is available and what additional data would be required to track progress and establish a baseline for future reporting.
- d. Based on the best practices scan and review of current practices, develop a strategic 3- to 5-year plan informing next steps and best practices to guide the WVPD's sustainability activities and procedures. The plan should include an implementation schedule, key stakeholders, recommendations on measuring success, time permitting it should also include any baseline data and recommendations on when and how to continue tracking/benchmarking sustainability efforts, as well as suggestions for ensuring compliance and fostering participation.

Deliverables

- A final draft of a 3- to 5-year plan document
- An executive summary of the work completed 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 be available for meetings and correspondence during standard business hours Monday to Friday, approximately 17 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
- Statistical analysis
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Criminal Record Check required [note that the project partner is responsible for reimbursing the successful candidate's reasonable expenses to get a criminal record check done]
- Familiarity developing strategic and implementation plans, 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>