

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.

Research Project Title: Reclaimed Water Pricing Structures and Benefits Assessment for the Metro Vancouver Region

Project Background & Overview:

Metro Vancouver has five wastewater treatment plants that treat and release wastewater. The treated wastewater has the potential to be used for a variety of purposes, displacing potable water use. In some cases, additional treatment is required to meet water quality standards.

Metro Vancouver is currently developing a policy to guide the evaluation of reclaimed water projects, with intent to displace potable water use. Doing so could provide financial savings (from deferred or avoided water infrastructure costs) and could provide environmental benefits.

Metro Vancouver is interested in exploring the potential value of benefits achievable from the use of reclaimed water and examples of reclaimed water pricing models, to aid policy implementation and the evaluation of potential future projects.

Project description

The project concerns estimating the value of and documenting the challenges of providing reclaimed water to the public, displacing potable water use. Projects that would provide reclaimed water to the public will be sourced from treated wastewater (effluent).

Metro Vancouver is interested in exploring the potential value of benefits achievable from the use of reclaimed water and examples of reclaimed water pricing models, to aid policy implementation and the evaluation of potential future projects. Identification of existing and planned reclaimed water pricing structures will be valuable for informing Metro Vancouver's planned efforts in this area. Efforts to identify, document, quantify and discuss transferability of financial and environmental benefits associated with reclaimed water use will be valuable to Metro Vancouver's efforts to analyze the potential value of reclaimed water use projects.

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Project scope

The project concerns estimating the value of and documenting the challenges of providing reclaimed water to the public, displacing potable water use. Projects that would provide reclaimed water to the public will be sourced from treated wastewater (effluent).

This project will:

1. Collect examples of the estimated quantitative benefits, including efforts to monetize those benefits, of reclaimed water use at a variety of different quality levels.
2. Collect examples of reclaimed water use at a variety of different quality levels, and summarize the financial costs and pricing models chosen.
3. Drawing upon the material above, and building upon past assessments of potential reclaimed water use in the Metro Vancouver region, propose:
 - a. appropriate reclaimed water pricing model(s) for the Metro Vancouver region, and
 - b. how local reclaimed water benefits could be evaluated, for the purpose of inclusion in benefit-cost analyses of potential reclaimed water use projects sourcing reclaimed water from Metro Vancouver wastewater treatment plants.

Deliverables

- An interim report consisting of a full report outline and draft text as of midway point
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, including an executive summary
- A presentation of the final report
- A version of the executive summary appropriate 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, 2022 and August 12, 2022
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- Weekly update meetings will take place by phone or videocall.
- A longer meeting will take place halfway through the project to outline and discuss progress, and adjust plans if necessary.
- A final meeting to make a presentation concerning the final report is required. A larger audience within Metro Vancouver may be invited.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis

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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>