

## 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.**

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### **Research Project Title: Building Toolkits for First Nations Sustainable Energy Development**

#### **Project Background**

There are 27 remote First Nations communities in British Columbia, the majority of which still rely on diesel power generation. Diesel generation is an expensive form of power production that releases greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to climate change. Relying on diesel generation increases vulnerability and decreases resiliency in remote communities, as communities rely on a volatile fuel to power their lives. Moreover, reliance on energy sources that exacerbate harm to all our relations, both human and non-human, is often not aligned with the worldviews of First Nations.

One important pathway to reducing diesel dependency and increasing resiliency in remote Indigenous communities is increasing local capacity to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. This involves both hiring a community member to take on this work and providing them with necessary resources and support.

The Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative (CFN-GBI) Climate Action Network is a new program that currently serves eight remote First Nations communities throughout the North and Central Coast of BC. Local Climate Action Coordinators (CACs) have been hired in seven of these communities to work on their nations priorities and visions related to climate mitigation and adaptation. In the near future, the Climate Action Network will be expanded to support additional First Nations communities who currently rely on diesel generation for their electricity.

#### **Project description**

The Climate Action Network worked with a UBC Scholar in 2021 to complete a research project looking at ways to improve the current Network structure. One of the recommendations from this project was to create toolkits to build off of lessons learned and support implementation of complex projects in remote communities.

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We'd like to explore the creation of an accessible toolkit to better understand and share pathways to success in remote community's transition to sustainable energy systems. Toolkit themes will be discussed closer to the research project, and could include:

- How to complete community-wide heat pump installation and maintenance;
- How to increase energy efficiency in remote communities;
- How to complete a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP);
- How to manage the different stages of a renewable energy project;
- How to engage with communities in energy planning.

In preparation for this project, our team will do research on the type of toolkit we would like developed. We will have prepared a proposed structure for the toolkit, based on our audience and pre-existing toolkits available.

## Value of the Project

Each community is unique and at a different stage of their pathway to developing sustainable energy systems. Through the transfer of knowledge, this project will support local staff of remote First Nations to successfully complete projects related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing sovereignty.

## Project scope

As mentioned in the project description, our team will prepare for the research by deciding the type of toolkit and toolkit content based on our audience and available information. We hope that this will set the UBC Scholar up for success in populating the toolkit.

In order to populate the toolkit, we foresee the following research activities:

- Background research and literature review on chosen toolkit themes
- Interviews with stakeholders in remote communities to understand the process and nuance of project development in this context
  - We will support this process by connecting to Climate Action Coordinators and other stakeholders
- Development of an accessible toolkit based on themes
- Development of the final report including lessons learned and recommendations

## Deliverables

- Toolkit(s) based on research, literature reviews, and interviews with stakeholders from different remote communities.
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed including toolkit content, lessons learned and recommendations for future toolkit development. This will serve as the final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A presentation of research results to CACs and CFN-GBI staff.

## Time Commitment

- This project will take **250** hours to complete.
- This project will begin be completed between **May 2 and August 12**.
- The scholar is to complete hours between **9am-5pm, 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
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have strong knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous cultural experience.
- Background in energy planning work in Indigenous communities, an asset

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>