

## 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: Review of Best Practices to Mobilize Community Climate Action and Development of Climate Literacy Materials**

#### **Project Background & Overview:**

On November 17th, 2020, Vancouver Council passed the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) outlining the bold actions that the City will be exploring to increase our efforts to tackle climate change. Responding to the climate emergency, and achieving the necessary emissions reductions is a challenge that no one person, organization, business, or government can face alone. In this complex context we need to find a way to work together, experiment, learn and scale new solutions. We need to mobilize and engage our diverse community in climate action.

The City has a long history of undertaking community mobilization work through programs such as Greenest City Grants, Greenest City Scholars, Women4Climate Mentorship Program, Climate Emergency Amplifiers Network, Greenest City Newsletter and Social Media, and more.

In 2020, the City formed a community mobilization working group to review the community mobilization efforts that the City has taken to date. This group identified four main outcomes that Vancouver's mobilization work should achieve, all driving towards the impact of "Vancouver residents, businesses and organizations are calling for and taking climate action that reflects the scale and urgency of the climate emergency":

1. A high level of climate literacy amongst community
2. A community that supports the City to take climate action
3. Broad and diverse community participation and leadership in climate initiatives
4. Strong and diverse network of climate-supporting relationships

Research completed by a Greenest City Scholar last year, who developed a framework for measuring social capital and how it influences mobilization climate action, identified a number of areas to more closely understand the link between social capital and mobilization. One of the areas of work identified was to build a campaign to build climate confidence. From the report: "Climate confidence is a cognitive social capital dimension that supports a system of meaning toward climate action. Climate confidence affirms people's values that drive action, through conversations open to debate with confidence in supported science, economics, and a sustainable future."

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Project description

This project aims to support the City's community mobilization work through best practice research to determine the role other cities are playing in mobilizing their community around meaningful climate action, as well as utilizing those findings to create a common set of climate literacy materials applicable to the participants/members of the City's existing mobilization networks and beyond.

## Project scope

1. Research best practices around the roles other cities are taking to support community to take meaningful climate action - with attention to actions that align with the City of Vancouver's four community mobilization outcomes
  - Become familiar with the City's community mobilization impact statement, desired objectives, and current outputs (i.e. programs)
  - Conduct interviews with other cities where possible to uncover what other municipalities are doing/ what and how they are communicating, lessons learned, the effort, the results, etc.
  - Review existing research including [2021 GC Scholar report](#) and [One Earth report](#)
  - Summarize findings and lessons
  - Generate recommendations on best opportunities for City of Vancouver to fill gaps
2. Utilizing the findings from above, develop framing and a set of draft materials that could be used across the City's various programs
  - Assess the climate literacy needs of the existing City-run community mobilization programs (timing, audience, desired/optimal format, etc.)
  - Identify the types of material that could be used or created for this shared resource, considering longevity, ease of maintenance, etc.
  - Develop and, time-permitting, design first draft of the climate literacy focused communications material(s)

## Deliverables

The Scholar will deliver a final report containing a summary of their completed work complemented by a final presentation to key stakeholders. The report should include:

- Summary of the best practice research
- First draft of communication materials that utilize the findings and support the building of climate literacy
- A public-facing final report (or executive summary) for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

The intent is that at the conclusion of the project, the Scholar will have helped to develop a set of shared climate literacy materials to help mobilize a broad section of the community to take action towards the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

## 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 16 hours per week.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- ☒ Excellent research and writing skills.
- ☒ Demonstrated interest in climate change, climate justice, social justice, movement building, community organizing, psychology, sociology.
- ☒ Experience conducting interviews
- ☒ Familiarity with communications and marketing and communications skills
- ☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- ☒ Community engagement experience
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Demonstrated time management skills
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
- ☒ Familiarity with quantitative research methodologies and implementation
- ☒ Familiarity with behaviour change theories and implementation
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys

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>