

## Fall 2022 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub 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 September 18, 2022.**

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### **Project title: Climate Change Accountability: Measuring Progress to Greenhouse Gas Targets**

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

The Government of British Columbia has legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets of 40% for 2030, 60% for 2040, and 80% for 2050, with plans to revise these targets to be net-zero by 2050. To achieve these targets, the BC government has published the CleanBC: Roadmap to 2030. This strategy document builds on the previous CleanBC climate plan to achieve the remaining emissions reductions to reach our 2030 goal and set up success for 2040 and 2050 goals.

The Province of BC has also published Climate Change Accountability Reports, public reports that measure progress to targets. Progress is not measured solely by emissions reductions, in fact, globally governments are identifying other ways of measuring GHG reduction progress through developing a wide range of indicators to assess the effectiveness of climate policy. These indicators are meant to be “substitute” or “leading” indicators for GHGs. This ensures that government can report on indicators that act as substitutes for GHG quantification measures, due to the long lag required to report strictly on GHGs reduced (approximately 18–24-month lag).

#### **Project description**

We are seeking a Sustainability Scholar to support the work of the BC Government by conducting a jurisdictional scan of governments reporting on climate policy indicators. The scan could also include academic literature on indicators. Indicators, in this sense, are specific and measurable achievements (e.g., electric vehicle sales rates, heat pump installation rates, cooling shelter accessibility, etc.). The Scholar will report back on best practices found, and the method/data used to measure the indicator. The Scholar will also report on which indicators the BC Government could implement to better capture progress to targets.

#### **Project scope**

The Scholar will conduct a jurisdictional scan, likely involving phone interviews and literature reviews, of current efforts by other governments to report on climate change targets and indicators. The Scholar will

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also review current indicators reported by BC Government and make recommendations on which new indicators could be used for the CleanBC: Roadmap to 2030, along with methods and data needed to measure indicator progress.

## Activities:

- Become familiar with the current list of indicators that the BC Government uses in the Climate Change Accountability Report.
- Working with BC Government staff, engage subject matter experts and collect data on indicators used by other governments/suggested by academia.
- Compile necessary data and perform a comparative analysis where gaps in BC's current approach can be addressed.
- Prepare a report on the findings with recommendations on which indicators should be prioritized for reporting purposes.

## Deliverables

- A report on the current state of climate indicator work, including data, methods, and sources, and identified best practices that the BC government should consider pursuing.
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between October 17, 2022 and March 15, 2023
- The scholars are to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 10 to 12 hours per week.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Familiarity with BC's Climate Change Accountability Report(s)
- Familiarity with climate policies, including CleanBC and CleanBC: Roadmap to 2030Project management and organizational skills
- Ability to work independently
- Strong inter-personal skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Familiarity with GHG emissions reporting and metrics, an asset
- Experience doing policy research, an asset

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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

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>