

Summer 2023 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 on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday January 29, 2023.

Project title: Research to identify clean energy capacity building opportunities for remote communities in BC

Project Background & Overview:

Remote communities are off-grid settlements that rely on diesel fuel for electricity generation. There are approximately 44 remote communities in British Columbia. Most remote communities are governed by Indigenous nations.

The CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) is a provincial initiative that aims to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with diesel use for heating and electricity generation in remote communities by 80% by 2030. In addition to reducing GHG emissions, RCES is intended to promote economic development and further the province's reconciliation commitments with Indigenous peoples.

The province has been engaging with Indigenous and non-Indigenous remote communities on various aspects of RCES and has established an Indigenous working group to help guide the implementation of the strategy. The Working Group is comprised of 8 members, representing 7 nations with remote communities.

In June 2022, the RCES Working Group submitted a recommendations report to the province. The report includes a robust set of actions to support the decarbonization and energy sovereignty objectives of remote communities. Pillar 3 of the report focuses on capacity building initiatives.

The full report can be found here: [Remote Community Energy Strategy Working Group - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

Project description

The purpose of this project is to identify and strengthen capacity building opportunities for members of Indigenous remote communities. Capacity building is broadly defined as any learning experience that enables personal and/or organizational growth towards the development of clean energy and/or climate resilience. Clean energy projects are defined as any projects that contribute to remote community decarbonization, including both generation and demand-side management projects.

The Sustainability Scholar's research will build upon previous research into capacity building initiatives. The goals of the research are as follows:

- 1) To better understand the roles of Indigenous organizations with mandates related to clean energy and climate change adaptation
- 2) To document formal and informal learning opportunities for representatives of Indigenous remote communities related to clean energy and climate change adaptation
- 3) To identify training gaps so that the province might consider bolstering support or creating new initiatives

The project will help the BC Community Clean Energy Branch fulfill its workplan to implement the recommendations of the RCES Working Group. The deliverables will be shared among Working Group members, stakeholder groups, and among provincial staff across at least three ministries.

Project scope

The primary activities are as follows:

1. Map out the network of Indigenous organizations that are active in clean energy and climate change adaptation
2. Create an inventory of training programs that support skill building in clean energy development and/or climate change adaptation
3. Review the inventory of training programs and conduct a gap-analysis according to indicators such as training agency, topic, audience, and delivery method
4. Based on gap-analysis, recommend ways the province might support or create of new educational opportunities

The scholar will have access to considerable guidance in these areas, including previous reports with related information. In some cases, the scholar will be asked simply to update this information and in other cases, it will be necessary to seek out new information. Some information will be available through public websites, while other information will come from informal interviews with provincial staff and external groups.

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Deliverables

- A map or visual of Indigenous organizations in the clean energy and climate adaptation sphere
- An inventory of clean energy and climate adaptation training opportunities that are available to Indigenous remote community representatives
- A 5–10-minute presentation to the RCES Working Group regarding the research findings
- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, with an analysis of the above information and recommendations for the province
- 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 May 1 to August 15, 2023
- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday to Thursday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

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
- Interest in adult education
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Design and layout skills, is an asset
- GIS training or experience, an asset
- Experience with and/or understanding of Indigenous peoples in B.C. is an asset
- Familiarity with clean energy and/or climate adaptation, is an asset

We are looking for someone who is curious and proactive about finding information. Someone who is not afraid to pick up the phone or email new people to get information. The student may need to contact Indigenous organizations. Ideally, this person would be sensitive to the realities of colonization and be able to communicate in a respectful way that demonstrates the province's obligations towards Indigenous peoples.

Additional project requirements.

A basic laptop is all that is required. If the student has access to design software, that would be beneficial but not necessary. We imagine a long-distance working arrangement but can put aside funding for travel to Victoria, at least once during the student's term. Travel is not required but we are happy to support an in-person meeting or two.

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Applications close **midnight Sunday January 29, 2023**

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 23, 2023.
[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>