

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: Researching opportunities and policy windows for youth engagement in municipal climate action

Project Background & Overview:

Cities account for over 70% of global emissions. As local governments declare climate emergencies and create climate action plans many are encountering road blocks in passing and implementing plans and policies because of a lack of resident support and in particular because of resident resistance. Most often, residents who show up to City Council meetings and other decision-making spaces tend to represent specific demographics that are not representative of cities. Specifically, youth are often missing from decision making and civic processes.

Local governments often say that they find it challenging to engage youth or don't have the capacity to, and young people who want to engage on climate issues say that it is confusing or they don't have the knowledge, skills, confidence or connections to engagement civically.

CityHive aims to fill that gap by designing programs and working with local governments to transform the way that young people are engaged in shaping their cities. Over the last 4 years, CityHive has led climate action lab programs, the Envirolab and the Youth Climate Innovation Lab, which offer a process and space for youth and municipalities to collaborate on climate solutions and projects. CityHive has also begun piloting the Youth Climate and Civics Leadership Program, intended to specifically reach youth who have been most systemically excluded on the basis of their identity, to include them in civic processes on climate action.

Project description

CityHive runs climate action urban innovation labs and knowledge-to-action leadership programs for youth (ages 30 & under) to provide opportunities for youth to be directly engaged in municipal civic processes on climate action. All of these programs are hands-on and often have community partners (often including municipal governments) who offer a specific climate action or climate justice challenge to work on, or youth work on different civic projects (i.e., recommendations to City Council, letters to Council, etc.). This helps support and accelerate ambitious climate action on a municipal level, contributes meaningful youth input, and also builds relationships between youth and decision makers. Primarily, it fills the gap of young people not being included in decision making on climate action issues.

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CityHive is looking for a Sustainability Scholar to undertake research to inform strategic development of these climate action programs. Primarily, with a shifting political and municipal landscape, CityHive is looking for support in identifying upcoming policy windows and climate justice projects for cohorts to focus on in the next 1-2 years. This would include completing a landscape assessment of each municipality's climate action plans, meeting with existing contacts and/or reaching out to new municipal contacts to learn of upcoming priorities and creating an inventory of municipal civic projects that youth participants projects can be connected to. In addition, we are also seeking to build an inventory of non-municipal projects with arts organizations, faith-based organizations, strata's, associations, etc. that need support on a climate justice/action project.

Project scope

The scope of this research includes:

- Landscape assessment of the state of municipal climate action plans within Metro Vancouver
- Research (both secondary and first-hand through 5-7 interviews) upcoming municipal priorities and policy windows and identifying opportunities that align with youth climate action program priorities and capacity
- Research (both secondary and first-hand through 5-7 interviews) community partners who are interested in receiving support and capacity from youth on a climate justice challenge (including faith-based organizations, neighbourhood groups, arts organizations, etc) to identify and capture upcoming opportunities
- Create a living inventory (i.e., a repository that can be continually updated beyond the Scholar's time) of municipal civic projects & policy windows as well as non-municipal projects for youth climate programs
- Timer permitting: Landscape assessment and research on upcoming policy windows with several key municipalities across BC

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A mid-way presentation report with key staff members
- A final presentation to key staff members and stakeholders
- A living inventory of municipal and community climate action projects that could benefit from youth input in Metro Vancouver
- 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 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- The Scholar will attend CityHive team meetings every other week
- The Scholar will meet with the project mentor every 1-2 weeks

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Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity preparing feasibility studies, an asset

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>