

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 on climate related financial and policy tools to support capital investment decisions in local governments

Project Background & Overview:

The City of New Westminster is committed to taking bold action to address the climate emergency, which includes achieving greenhouse gas reductions required to keep global temperature increases below 1.5°C. To do so, we must engage and involve the entire community, ensuring special consideration is given to those most vulnerable. At the same time, we must continue to protect our ecosystem and urban forest while preparing for the unavoidable impacts that climate change brings.

Through the development of the City's 7 Bold Steps in response to the March 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, the City has set ten and thirty year targets to support the pathway to a zero carbon future by 2050.

The City updated the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP 2050) this year, and together with the Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy (CEERS), the actions contained therein lay out the path to reach our carbon reduction targets. With these plans and strategies in hand, the City is shifting quickly to implementation and must deploy Climate Action projects in a thoughtful and fiscally responsible way.

Project description

Highlighting the need to take ambitious action while weighing the cost of those actions, it is necessary to make smart financial decisions in order to match the necessary pace of change within the limited resources of a City budget while ensuring the City continues to deliver essential services to the community. As we work towards striking this balance, it is imperative to ensure climate considerations, and the cost of inaction, are incorporated into financial decision making and project prioritization.

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This project will focus on reviewing best practices related to the use of climate related financial and policy tools which support local government capital investment decision making. The jurisdictional scan should include regional, national, and international samples and the outcome of the project will include locally relevant policy and financial tool recommendations accompanied by a case study on an existing capital project in the City of New Westminster.

Project scope

Phase 1: Research and Summary of Findings.

In this phase the Scholar will:

- Attend a startup meeting with City staff to discuss the project objectives and scope of work.
- Research literature, a scan of best practices in policy and financial tools (i.e. carbon pricing, carbon taxes, adaptation reserves, etc.) in other municipalities, countries and continents, and conduct interviews (if required).
- Review of City of New Westminster policies, budget development process and climate action plans.
- Identify data requirements, availability and challenges as it relates to implementing the identified financial tools and policies.

Phase 2: Recommendations and Document Development.

In this phase the Scholar will:

- Based on the findings of Phase 1, develop recommendations on climate related financial tools and policies that may be relevant to the City of New Westminster's climate action plan actions. These recommendations should highlight data requirements, policy implications and any relevant risks/benefits associated with the recommended approach.
- Apply the recommended tool to a sample climate action project (sample project to be provided by the City).

Deliverables

- Project Plan– including a project understanding, proposed approach and schedule
- Interim Report – summarizing research findings
- Final Report – summarizing research findings and outlining climate action financial tools and policies recommendations for the City.
- Presentation to City staff
- 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

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- The Scholar is to complete hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- ☒ Excellent research and writing skills
- ☒ Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- ☒ Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Experience with financial modelling and analysis
- ☒ Background in business, engineering, environmental science, data analytics or political science with a focus on life cycle analysis (or any combination thereof) would present a potential strong fit for this project.

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>