

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: Development of graphics to visualize climate action and inaction in Vancouver: What does our future look like?

Project Background & Overview:

In Vancouver, a large percentage of residents (89%) are concerned about climate change, but of that large demographic who are concerned, there is a portion who are not aware of government climate policies, or the most effective tools for responding to this crisis. This group is often referred to as the 'moveable middle', who get more involved in climate solutions once they are more informed. Research shows that positive and hopeful messaging is more effective than fear-based messaging to catalyze interest, engagement, and action related to the climate crisis.

The actions required to meet our carbon pollution reduction requirements will have many co-benefits, including cleaner air, safer and more efficient active transportation networks, connected and complete communities, and more comfortable homes. Sharing what a climate-friendly future will look like could boost engagement with the City's climate work, and build support for the City's [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) (CEAP) and [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) (CAS) policies and priorities and the forthcoming Climate Justice Charter (CJC) for Vancouver.

Project description

The purpose of this project is to create a series of visualizations that respond to the question: How do our collective actions now create the future we want? The graphics and visuals are intended to help residents imagine what our climate future could look like, both if we implement solutions and if we don't take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change through the policies outlined within CEAP and CAS. Making the risks and benefits of climate action tangible to Vancouver residents could build support and excitement regarding CEAP and CAS, and a better understanding of the tools for action that are within a municipal government's scope.

Examples of these images:

- What our roads could look like with space for more active transit and mobility options
- What our buildings, homes, and neighbourhoods could look like if they are designed and constructed with greener materials and processes, and/or use renewable energy

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- What a city where ecosystem connectivity and natural climate solutions are prioritized and supported looks like
- Maps showing existing EV stations or greenspace across the city, and where future actions should focus

The graphics developed could take multiple forms, including artistic renderings or GIS maps, depending on the skillset of the Scholar. These visualizations would be used in social media campaigns, print media, and other forms of outreach (e.g., pop up displays around the City). This work will inform and support a public climate literacy campaign, which builds on the work of a previous Scholar project in 2022 titled "[Best Practices for Community Mobilization towards meaningful Climate Action](#)".

Project scope

Primary activities:

- Review current communication strategies, style guides, and tactics to promote CEAP, CAS, and CJC to understand the type of climate communications being deployed by the City
- Conduct best practice research, and select interviews (if possible), on how other organizations or governments have used graphics, iconic photography, visual storytelling and related campaigns to help residents better imagine the future and connect that future with actions, policy and budget commitments now
 - This will build on a literature review being undertaken by City staff ahead of the Scholar's project
- Work with mentor, staff, and subject matter experts at the City of Vancouver to identify the key CEAP, CAS and/or CJC projects that might benefit from visual designs to support climate literacy objectives, what climate actions and locations might be showcased in these images, and consider what tactics might be used to deploy these visualizations
- Develop a set of visualizations that may include artist renderings, GIS map layers, or other visual outputs within the scope of the Scholar's expertise
 - Focus areas for these visualizations will depend on what CEAP and CAS areas being prioritized at the time of the Scholar's projects and the selections of subject matter experts, but may include 5-6 visualizations
- Time permitting, collaborate with City staff to develop a strategic approach, tactics and/or campaign to share the images, showing residents the impacts of our carbon usage on places, spaces and the natural systems and ecology, which we value

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- Visual renderings within the scope of the Scholar's expertise

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.

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Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Demonstrated experience in graphic design or GIS training or experience.
- Design and layout skills

Additional information:

A demonstrable interest in graphic design and visual communication is required, but the form of the final deliverables will be guided by the skillset of interested students who apply.

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>