

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Information Session

January 16 & 18, 2024



# Karen Taylor

Manager, Sustainability Scholars Program

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# Agenda

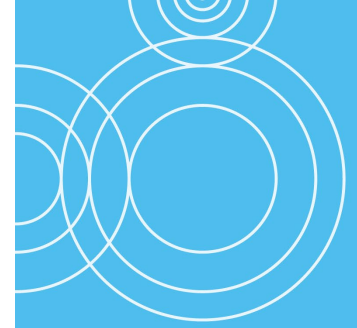
- Welcome
- About the Sustainability Scholars Program
  - Overview
  - Timeline
- Participating in the program: Major funding partners & former Scholars' perspectives
- Questions



# Territory Acknowledgement

The UBC Vancouver-Point Grey campus is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓ əm (Musqueam) people. The x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓ əm people have been stewards and caretakers of these territories since time immemorial. To acknowledge and support this important role, UBC strives toward building meaningful, reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships with the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓ əm people. And, commits to taking meaningful collective action for a just and equitable future for all.

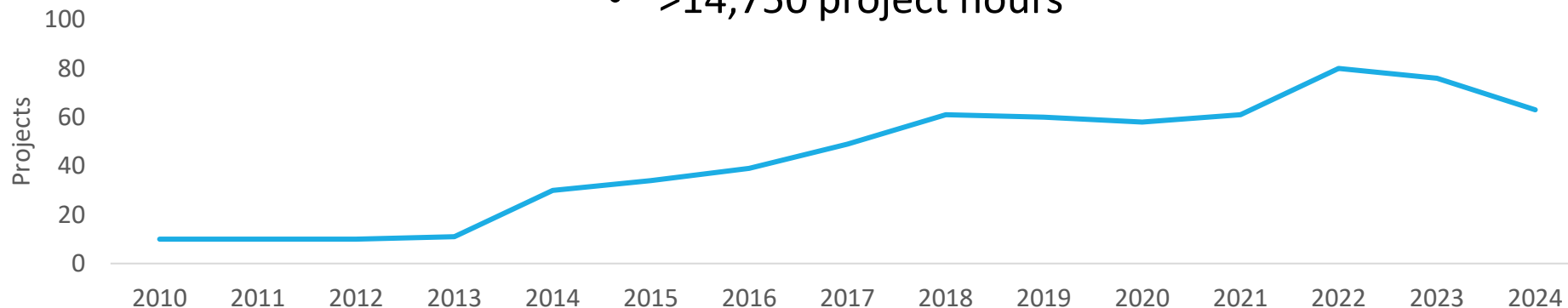
# History



- Greenest City Scholars Program starts
- 10 projects
- 2,500 project hours

- Sustainability Scholars program pilot, 12 projects
- Greenest City Scholars Program, 59 projects to date
- >14,750 project hours

- 15th summer cohort
- 65 projects for summer 2024
- 745 projects since 2010
- >186,000 project hours



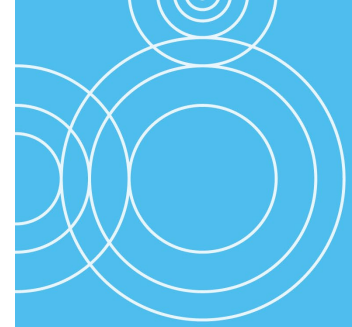


# Program Goals

- Provide practical sustainability-related work experience to graduate students
- Support our partner organizations achieve their sustainability and climate action goals
- Actively integrate academic and operational sustainability work

# Summer 2024 Program: 63 Projects

Aboriginal Housing Management Association	District of Squamish	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association
Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)	Emergency Planning Secretariat	Provincial Health Services Authority
British Columbia Law Institute (BCLI)	Fraser Basin Council Society	Raincoast Conservation Foundation
C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group	Fraser Health Authority	Resilient Waters
City of Kamloops	Green Communities Foundation	Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)
City of Nelson	Herschel Supply	TransLink
City of Richmond	Home Performance Stakeholder Council	UBC
City of Vancouver	Metro Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal Health
City of Vernon	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Watershed Watch Salmon Society
City of Victoria	Minivillage Group Inc.	West Coast Environmental Law
Community Energy Association (CEA)	Musqueam Indian Band	World Wildlife Fund Canada
Aboriginal Housing Management Assn.	District of Squamish	Other Sights for Artists' Projects
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# Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative

- AKA “FERC”
- Focused on advancing efforts to protect the Fraser River estuary in collaboration with key NGO and Indigenous partners
- Apply for these if you are interested in producing new knowledge and supporting Fraser estuary protection through scientific, technical, governance, and policy innovations.
- **Must be available to attend events in the lower mainland**





# Pathways to Net Zero Embodied Carbon Projects

- A large scale research and knowledge building project to explore challenges and pilot solutions to accelerate Canada's carbon emissions reductions from building materials.
- Projects are a collaboration with BC municipalities to identify and advance local solutions and strategies for embodied carbon reductions, within the constraints and opportunities of that community.
- Successful candidates will be asked to participate in knowledge sharing events and workshops



# How it works

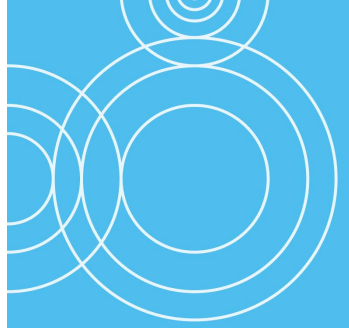


# What you will be doing

- Managing and completing a sustainability-related applied research project
- You are not doing academic/theoretical/primary research
- Projects have been developed to be actionable by the mentor after completion
- See project description for details

# Employment

- May 1 to August 15 (15 weeks)
- 250 hours, average 17 hours/week
- \$6875 (\$27.50/hour)
- Employed by UBC
- Work under guidance of mentor
- Occasional check-ins with the Scholars Program Manager



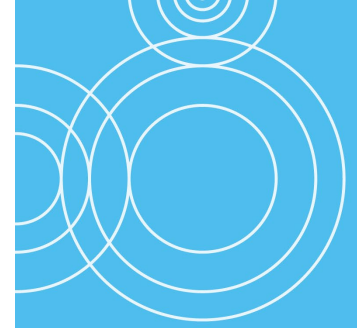


# Your Obligations to UBC

- Attend mandatory meetings:
  - Orientation/kick off meeting (April 15 or May 1 tbc)
  - Mid-project check-in meeting (week of June 24)
- Complete a project plan
- Produce top quality work, meet deadlines, engage with the cohort, enjoy yourself
- Submit a final report/deliverable for the online project library  
<http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarslibrary>
- You are also asked to present your research at the wrap-up conference in September

# Your Obligations to the Project

- Participate in regular check-in meetings
- Bring your energy and passion to the project
- Engage with your mentor and their organization
- Complete the project on time and produce top quality results
- Deliverables/expectations vary by project.
  - Main deliverable is typically a report <http://sustain.ubc.ca/scholarslibrary>
  - Other deliverables may include: presentations, tool kits, maps, policy drafts, interim reports, databases, etc.). See the project description for details.



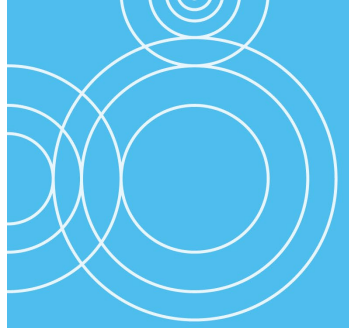


# Professional Development

- Various workshops and guest speakers
  - Project Management/Time Management
  - Planning your Project
  - Career trajectories of former Scholars
- Public speaking opportunities
- Research to Action: Advancing Urban Sustainability conference

# Eligibility Requirements

- Masters, JD, doctoral
- Current full-time UBC graduate student in good academic standing
- UBC-V and UBC-O grad students are welcome
- Valid work/study permit (expires after August 15, 2024)
- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Canadian bank account
- Work can be remote/hybrid, but you must be physically located in BC (except where stated and FERC)
- No other UBC employment that would put you over 40 hours/week







# Applying to the Program

- Confirm you meet the eligibility requirements
- Carefully read the posting
- Modify your cover letter/resume for each position
- Provide contact info for two references (letters of reference not required)
- Follow the instructions in the online application
- You may apply for up to 3 positions



# Resume Workshop January 23

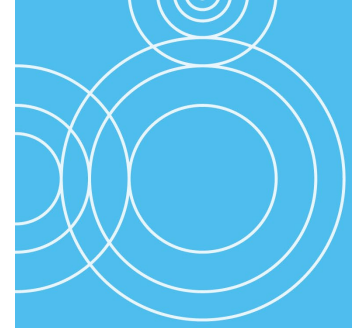
Designed for prospective Sustainability Scholars to help you craft a strong application to the program.

**January 23**  
**5:00 – 6:30 pm (online)**

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/scholars-events>

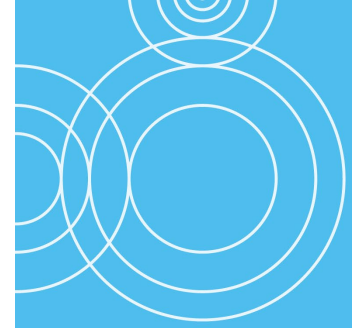
# Your Application: Cover Letter

- A good cover letter . . .
  - Clearly communicates your skills and experience as they pertain to what's listed in the posting
  - Expresses your passion for sustainability/climate action
  - Describes how your past experiences have prepared you to meet the job requirements
  - Is customized for each position you're applying for
  - Has been checked for spelling and grammar
- Address to Karen Taylor, Sustainability Scholars Program Manager



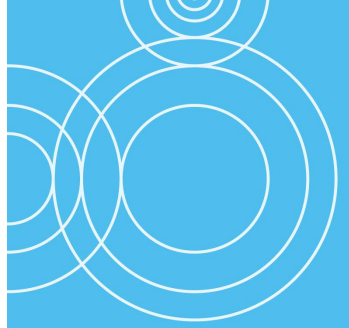
# Your Application: Resume

- Keep your resume to two-pages, or your CV to under 5 pages
- Does not need to be customized for each position, but should contain relevant information
- A good resume . . .
  - Has been checked for spelling and grammar
  - Does not include your photo
  - Does not include your social insurance number (SIN)
  - Uses a plain typeface (e.g., Arial/Times) and a legible font size (minimum 10 point font)



# Your Application: References

- Provide two references: A professional reference, and an academic reference.
- You may provide the same references for each position you're applying for
- Only provide contact information. Reference letters are not required
- If you do not have a professional reference, do your best to provide a reference who can speak to the quality of your work. TIP: Don't forget that volunteer work and campus work all count.
- Your references will only be contacted if the project mentor is interested in hiring you.





# Your Application File

- One PDF for each position you're applying for.
- Includes: cover letter, resume, and contact information for two references
- Do not include writing samples in your application. If a writing sample is required, take it with you to the interview.
- **Important:** Save each application as **one PDF file** in the format: **Project number\_First name\_Last name.pdf** (e.g., 2024-005\_Jenny\_Smith.pdf).



# Online Application Form

<https://sustain.ubc.ca/teaching-applied-learning/sustainability-scholars-program/apply>

# Rank order your preferred projects (max 6)

## Your Application

Please indicate the projects you are applying for in order of preference with "1" being your first choice. The first three projects you indicate will be the ones for which you need to submit a cover letter and resume. You will upload the application documents for your three preferred projects in the next step.

If you are not shortlisted for your first three choices, we may consider you for other projects. You can rank an additional 3 projects (up to a maximum of 6 projects) that you feel qualified for. You do not need to provide a resume or application materials for the additional ranked projects at this time. Click to write the question text

6 2024-001 Exploring legal mechanisms for the transfer of land to Indigenous governing bodies in BC

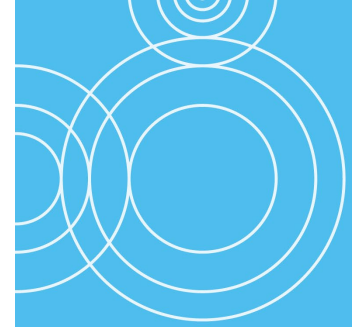
4 2024-002 Research to understand transportation barriers and opportunities for newcomers

2 2024-003 Best practices for mapping water scarcity hazard, risk, and adaptation

1 2024-004 Assessing the environmental and social impact of Herschel Supply's supply chain

3 2024-005 Universal Basic Mobility: Case study research and options analysis

5 2024-006 Quantifying the Benefits of Transit Oriented Communities in Metro Vancouver







# Confirmation page

- Once you complete the last step in the application form you will see a confirmation page
- You will also receive an email confirmation.
- If you don't receive an email confirmation within a few minutes (check your junk folder, too) you may have typed your email address incorrectly. If so, submit you application again.

## **Your application has been submitted.**

Thank you for your interest in the UBC Sustainability Scholars Program! We wish you every success in your application to the program.

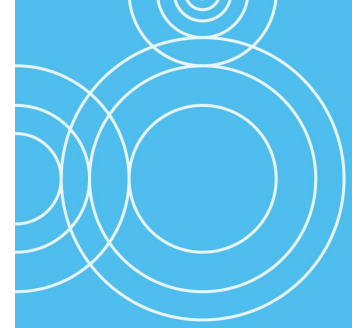
Your application will now be evaluated based on the project criteria. From there a shortlist will be established that will be forwarded to the Project Mentor to review. The Project Mentor will contact you directly if they wish to interview you. Successful candidates will then receive an email from the UBC Sustainability Scholars Program Manager informing them of the final decision.

Due to the large number of applications, we will only contact you if your application has been shortlisted. All applicants will be notified once all the positions have been filled.

Please direct inquiries to [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca)

# What happens to my application after I submit it?

- All applications are reviewed
- Candidates that have been shortlisted are notified
- Shortlist sent to mentor
- Mentor sets up interviews
- Mentor confirms preferred candidate
  - If you are offered more than one position or have an offer, but are still doing interviews, let me know ASAP so I can keep all parties informed
- UBC sends offer letter
- All applicants notified once all opportunities filled





# Key Dates

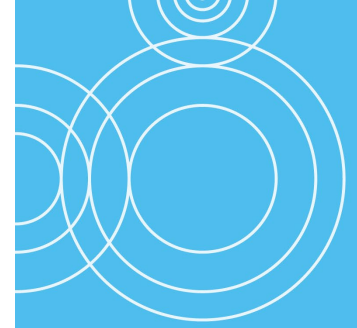
- **January 28:** postings close at midnight
- **Feb 9 - 29:** most of the interviews and job offers take place, some continue into March
- **May 1:** program starts & orientation (possible orientation April 15)
- **May 1 to August 15:** project work takes place (~250 hours)
- **June 24 - 27:** mid-project check-ins
- **August 15:** final approved report due, program ends



# Guest Speakers

# Guest Speakers: Funding Partners

- Tina Erhart, City of Vancouver
- Amy Thai, Metro Vancouver
- Rebecca Cuttler, BC Hydro
- Megan Badri, UBC Sustainability Hub: Pathways to Net Zero Embodied Carbon
- Linda Nowlan, UBC Sustainability Hub: Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative





# Tina Erhart

City of Vancouver



# Amy Thai

Metro Vancouver



# 2024 Sustainability Scholar Projects

Amy Thai

Senior Policy Analyst, Air Quality and Climate Action

January 18, 2024

65317103

**metro**vancouver





metrovancouver

23 Member Jurisdictions

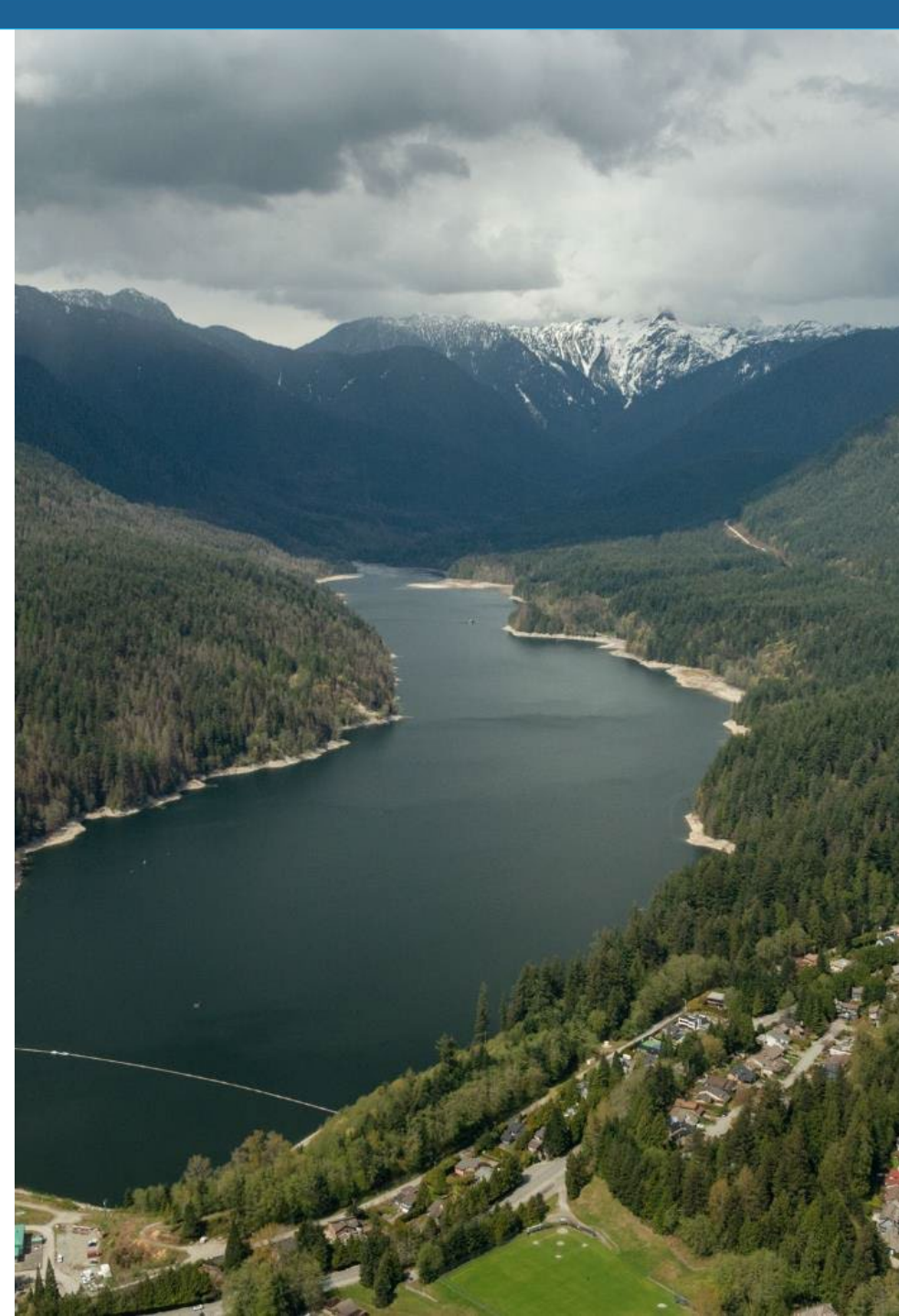
2.8 Million Residents

53% of BC population



## 2024 Scholar Projects

- Strategies and technologies to reduce GHG emissions in drinking water services (2 projects)
- Evaluating agricultural water demands
- Reusable food service ware
- Visualizing air quality data
- Emissions from off-road equipment





# Rebecca Cuttler

BC Hydro

# UBC Sustainability Scholars

January 18, 2024



 **BC Hydro**  
Power smart

**BC Hydro partners with local governments, Indigenous governments and organizations to support UBC Sustainability Scholars.** Projects this year include:

Creating an analytical tool to inform decarbonization of public buildings	Musqueam First Nation
Creating information and resource toolkit on climate resilient buildings for Indigenous housing and service providers	Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Researching neighbourhood scale nature-based urban design solutions to address urban heat islands, enhance outdoor resiliency and reduce cooling energy demand in buildings	UBC
Analyzing Energuide evaluations and creating emission reduction scenarios for residential retrofits	Community Energy Association
Developing a covered buildings list to inform an energy reporting bylaw in Whistler	Resort Municipality of Whistler
Conducting research to Inform a Workforce Attraction Strategy for Residential Retrofit Excellence	Home Performance Stakeholders' Council
Identification and analysis of potential solar photovoltaic sites	Capital regional District

What all these projects have in common is a focus on low-carbon electrification for homes, buildings and transportation.

Thank you!





# Megan Badri

UBC Sustainability Hub

# Pathways to Net Zero Embodied Carbon in Buildings

## Barriers and Solutions to Effective Policies and Actions

Megan Badri, Research Manager, UBC Sustainability Hub



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**Sustainability Hub**

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



# Climate Action and Awareness Fund (CAAF)

To support the mandate of Canada's Net-Zero Advisory body related to research, this project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal government Department of Environment and Climate Change.



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

The Net-Zero Advisory Body was established pursuant to the Canadian *Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* and is mandated to provide independent advice on the most likely pathways for Canada to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.



**Fund Objective:** The Climate Action and Awareness Fund is designed to support projects that can create middle class jobs for Canadians who work in science and technology, academia, and at the grassroots community level. These projects are critical to continue to build a sustainable net-zero emissions economy by 2050.



# Project Objective

Pathway to Net-zero embodied carbon is a **2-year project** with the objectives to:



- Identify key challenges and barriers to implementing embodied carbon into building policy



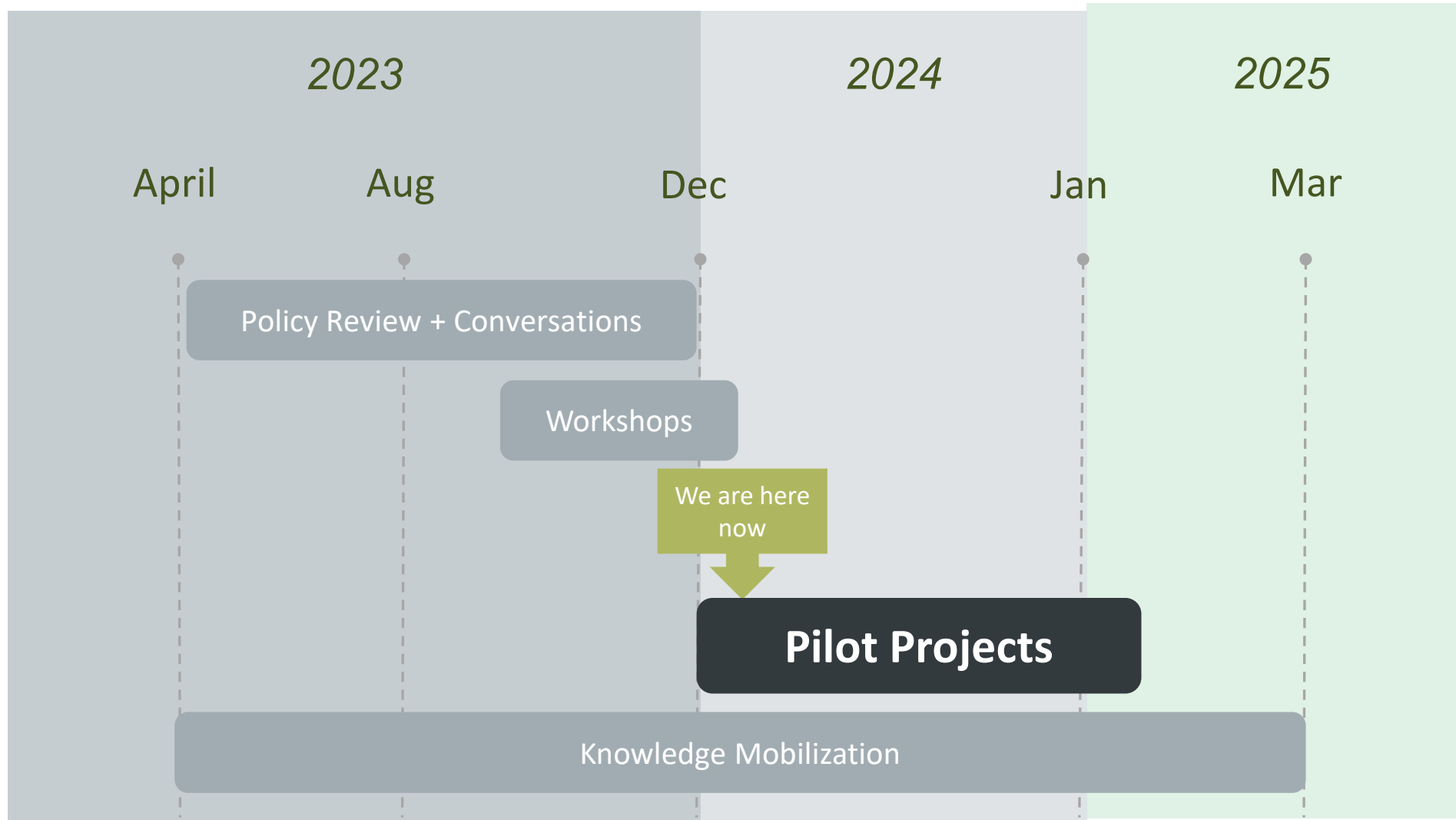
- Structure immediate solutions to key challenges



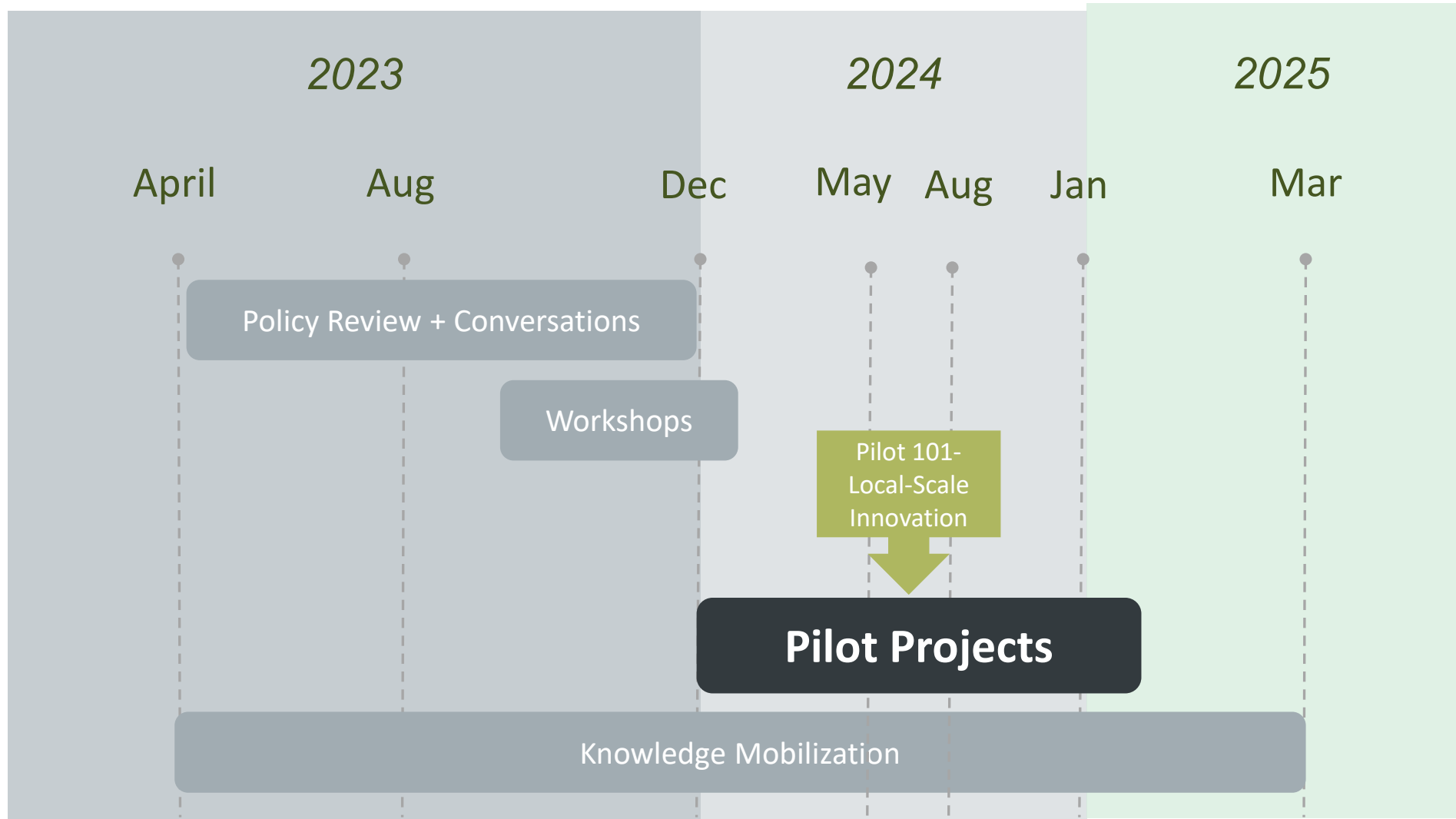
- Develop local and regional opportunities and collaborations to pilot solutions



# Project Timeline and Activities



# Project Timeline and Activities



## Pilot 101: Local-Scale Innovations for Embodied Carbon Reduction



- Develop collaboration opportunities with BC municipalities



- Explore innovative solutions within diverse municipal contexts



- Incorporate local constraints and opportunities for addressing gaps in embodied carbon policy



- Synthesize and map local results into recommendations



# Existing Opportunities and Scholars' Contribution:

5 Sustainability Scholar positions are confirmed for:

- Victoria, Squamish, Nelson, Kamloops, and Richmond
- **Diverse research focus:** Community-scale to building and supply chain policy

**Hands-on collaboration:** work directly with senior planners and policymakers

**Networking:** build professional connections

**Impactful contribution:** directly participate in shaping regulations and policy with real-world application

**Skill Diversification** (case by case): diversify your skill set from policy analysis to data-driven decision-making





# Linda Nowlan

Senior Director, UBC Sustainability Hub



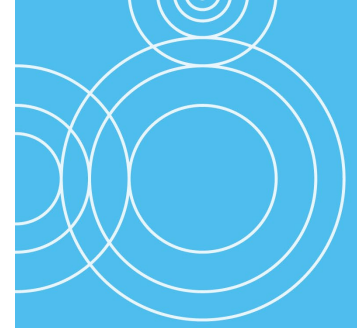
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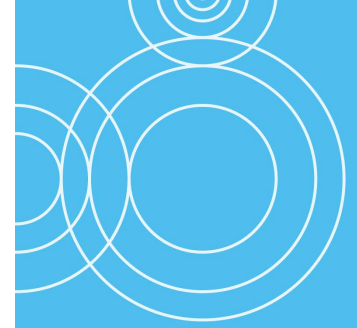
# Guest Speakers: Former Scholars

- Mauricio Carvalho Aceves (Resilient Waters, summer 2023)
- Pooya Pourreza (Vancouver Coastal Health, summer 2023 & 2022)
- Alida Oegema Thomas (City of Vancouver, summer 2023)
- Zain Hussein (Community Energy Association, summer 2023)
- Michael Monclou (UBC Indigenous Research Support Initiative, summer 2023)
- Madison Lore (City of Vancouver, summer 2023; TransLink, summer 2022)



# Why apply?

- Paid internship
- Part-time, supports studies
- Unique work-integrated learning experience
- Apply research skills to a real world sustainability challenge
- Contribute to sustainability across the region
- Work with a mentor
- Develop skills and knowledge
- Gain work experience
- Build a professional network





Questions?

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Thank you!

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