

## Summer 2024 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from the partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region. These opportunities are paid. The pay rate for the summer 2024 program is \$27.50/hour or \$6,875 for a 250-hour project.

- 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 28, 2024.**

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### **Project title: Developing a building energy retrofit toolkit for homeowners in the City of Vernon**

#### **Project Background & Overview:**

Buildings generates 30% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the City of Vernon. The City of Vernon adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2021, which prioritizes building energy retrofits to achieve the climate action targets set out in the plan. The City of Vernon has included the BC Energy Step Code and solar-ready requirements in bylaws for new buildings, but there are no bylaws for retrofitting existing building stock in the City. There are several homeowners and non-profit organizations in Vernon who have experience with building energy retrofits and their experience is valuable to capture and share with other residents.

#### **Project description**

The purpose of the project is to research and recommend how best to increase the uptake of energy retrofits in homes in the City of Vernon. The overarching, long-term goal is to create a strong, local culture where citizens understand and believe in the value of building energy retrofits.

This project will include researching provincial and local policy and the current financial incentives that support energy retrofits (e.g., rebates and grants). It will also include investigating how other municipalities are influencing residents to retrofit their homes, beyond the policy and financial incentives (e.g., communication materials, website resources, toolkits, or guidelines). To bring in some local context to this research, the City of Vernon staff will facilitate interviews with local residences who have retrofitted their homes and have valuable experience and knowledge to share with others.

The project will identify successful tactics and resources for increasing the uptake of energy retrofits by homeowners. This work could be actionable immediately, as the City of Vernon intends to use it to develop and deliver a building energy retrofit toolkit in 2024.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Project scope

- Understand the main retrofit projects that are commonly done in homes (e.g., space heating and cooling, water heating, windows, lighting, and insulation).
- Research public policies and regulations that require or influence home energy retrofits.
- Research financial incentives to understand what is available to support local residential building retrofits.
- Identify successful tactics used by other municipalities (e.g., 4-5) to communicate, guide, and support residents to take on energy retrofits, beyond policy and financial incentives (e.g., communication tactics and tools). This may include speaking with municipal staff to clearly understand what worked well for them and how it was done.
- Participate in interviews with local residents to gather their experience and knowledge.
- Compile the research findings in a project report.
- Time permitting, and based on the skills and interests of the Scholar: design a toolkit framework or some specific examples of communication tools.

## Deliverables

- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A presentation to City staff, the City's Climate Action Advisory Committee, and the people who participated in the research (e.g., interviewees)
- A digital folder with the sources of information that were collected and reviewed for this project.
- Time permitting, and based on the skills and interests of the Scholar: design a toolkit framework or some specific examples of communication tools.

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2024
- The Scholar is to complete their 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
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Excellent presentation skills, including using PowerPoint
- Experience conducting interviews
- Strong analytical skills
- Deadline oriented, ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Understanding of green buildings, energy efficiency, retrofits
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Creative and imaginative

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 28, 2024**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca) if you have questions

## Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 23, 2024.  
[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>