

## 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: Information and resource toolkit on climate resilient buildings for Indigenous housing and service providers**

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

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) wants to better support its members (Indigenous housing and service providers) in building capacity to develop resiliency to the impacts of climate change. BC's urban Indigenous housing providers lack guidance to develop climate change-resilient housing. AHMA's proposed Indigenous Asset Care Resiliency project will help Indigenous non-profit housing and service providers adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts by integrating best practices into their asset management plans.

AHMA's Asset Care Program (ACP) provides valuable resources that empower our members to steward their housing assets (i.e., buildings). The ACP currently includes best practice resources for asset management, building assessments, inventory and maintenance, and training to develop our member's capacity to manage their buildings. This project integrates climate resiliency and energy management into our existing ACP.

In 2021, AHMA collaborated with UBC student, Riley McLeod, to develop a Seismic Resilience Community Strategy. The strategy was developed to support AHMA Members (Urban Indigenous Housing Providers) in becoming more resilient in the event of seismic activity but applies to other hazards. Building on this strategy, we want to understand how to integrate resiliency to climate change impacts into the ACP. Our recommendations must align with climate change mitigation efforts to avoid exacerbating the problem.

#### **Project description**

This project aims to incorporate climate resiliency planning, low carbon resiliency and demand-side energy management into the broader Asset Care Program (ACP). The Scholar will compile new resources (best practices, planning guidance, policy templates, hazard identification sources and other tools) to ensure our members have more equitable access to leading risk mitigation and emergency response management practices.

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Integrating climate and energy resilience into existing asset management practices will prolong the service life of buildings and their systems, improve access to climate adaptation and energy retrofit funding, and reduce the impact of extreme weather events and recovery time. The project results will be used to update the existing ACP guide with best practices and new resources for our members.

## **Project scope**

### **Stage 1: Literature Review (~75 hours)**

Review of best practices and tools for climate emergency planning and response, risk management, and energy management that will support housing providers in creating policies, procedures and tools. Best practices should prioritize low-carbon solutions (i.e., solar/battery solutions, heat pumps to provide cooling, and load management technology as resilience measures) that make buildings resilient to climate change impacts. Research and recommendations must focus on residential buildings in BC. The review will likely focus on grey literature and existing reports, i.e., websites, guides, case studies and podcasts.

### **Stage 2: Interviews with industry experts (~75 hours)**

Interview 4-5 leading experts in asset management with experience in energy, climate and resilience to understand best practices and resources. Interview 4-5 AHMA staff and/or members engaged in this work to identify what works well and what resources they recommend. AHMA will help make suggestions on interview candidates.

### **Stage 3: Data analysis and compile resources (~50 hours)**

Analyse data from the literature review and interviews. Based on the information collected in stages 1 and 2, compile a collection of guidance documents, policy templates and tools to share with our members.

### **Stage 4: Reporting (~35 hours)**

Compile a report of key learnings, best practices and resources.

### **Stage 5: Presentation (~5 hours)**

Create a short PowerPoint presentation to present the final report in a webinar to our staff and membership, including key findings from the final report. AHMA staff will organize and plan the webinar.

## **Deliverables**

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, key learnings and resources for AHMA and AHMA members.
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A webinar or virtual presentation of the final report.

# SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2024
- The Scholars 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
- ☑ Strong analytical skills
- ☑ Ability to work independently
- ☑ Demonstrated experience in building science, asset management, maintenance, and/or operations
- ☑ Familiarity with climate change risk mitigation in the built environment, an asset
- ☑ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- ☑ Familiar with green, low-carbon, resilient building design such as passive house, an asset

## Information about AHMA

Founded in 1996, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) is an umbrella organization of 55 Indigenous housing and service providers. AHMA's members oversee 95% of Indigenous housing units across the province for those not living on reserve. Our portfolio includes over 5,500 units that provide homes to an estimated 10,000 Indigenous individuals and families living in urban, rural, and northern regions of BC, with over 2,000 additional units currently under development.

In addition to providing Indigenous peoples, their families, and communities with affordable housing, AHMA's members offer many support services. These include homelessness prevention, parenting skills, mental health programs, addiction recovery support, and more. AHMA members provide a culturally safe space for Indigenous peoples to make their home—wherever they settle, by facilitating connections to community and cultural resources.

AHMA works closely with the federal and provincial governments, CMHC, BC Housing, Indigenous organizations, Fortis BC, BC Hydro, and various councils and committees to improve equitable access to safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing for Indigenous people living in urban environments. AHMA is committed to enhancing sustainability, resiliency and strengthening the capacity for energy conservation for existing building stock and new developments.

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>