

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.

Project title: Best Practices Research to Inform Municipal Water Utility Decarbonisation

Project Background & Overview:

This research project endeavors to conduct a comprehensive examination of strategies and implementation approaches employed by municipalities worldwide that have successfully transitioned towards decarbonizing their water utilities.

Cities like Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Oslo, San Francisco, and Reykjavik serve as exemplars in the global effort to decarbonize drinking water utilities and Metro Vancouver wants to be a leader in Canada.

By scrutinizing case studies, policy frameworks, and technology adoption trends, this study aims to discern the key drivers, challenges, and best practices that enabled these municipalities to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions within their water supply and treatment systems. This research is important for Metro Vancouver's commitment to climate action and sustainability and will help the regional body apply lessons learnt and key drivers of success for a more efficient implementation.

Project description

Thorough a jurisdictional scan of at least five regional and municipal water utilities at the forefront of decarbonisation efforts. The research for this project will examine the unique approaches, technological integrations, policy frameworks, and collaborative efforts of these pioneering utilities, to unearth valuable insights and best practices that can inform and inspire similar initiatives globally.

This scan will provide a detailed account of not only what these municipalities have accomplished, but also how they have navigated the complex landscape of decarbonizing their drinking water utilities.

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Project scope

Jurisdictional Scan:

- Compile a list of (5 to 10) regional and municipal water utilities worldwide that have demonstrated significant progress in decarbonizing their drinking water utilities.
 - The list should include cities like Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Oslo, San Francisco, Reykjavik, and any others that are relevant.
 - The list should encompass a range of geographical, infrastructural, and regulatory contexts to ensure a comprehensive representation.
 - Summarizing the initiatives and outcomes

Case study research:

- Based on the jurisdictional scan identify a subset of jurisdictions with characteristics and challenges similar to Metro Vancouver and conduct a detailed case study analysis.
 - The analysis will delve into the specific strategies, technologies, policies, and collaborative approaches employed by these utilities to achieve notable success in their decarbonisation endeavors.
 - This research may be a combination of desk research and expert interviews.

Comparative Analysis:

- Based on the information collected and the case studies, conduct a comparative analysis to draw insights and lessons learned

Prepare recommendations on what could be applicable to Metro Vancouver.

Deliverables

- Excel-based inventory of findings from the jurisdictional scan
- A final report containing a summary of the jurisdictional scan, comparative analysis, and recommendations
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A presentation to the project team
- A final 5-minute (high-level) presentation to the Corporate Planning Committee fall of 2024 (A great opportunity to present to senior government officials)

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.
- Ideally, the scholar will be available to attend some meeting in person and some remotely including the kick off meeting May 1, bi-weekly progress meetings, and deliver a final presentation in August. The exact dates and times to be determined in discussion between the Scholar and the Mentor based on each party's availability.

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Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Familiarity with or interest in utilities planning and operation, decarbonisation concepts, and regional water services an asset

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

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, 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>