

## 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: Quantifying food and culture garden attributes as spaces for equitable access, climate action and community resilience**

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

The vision of the 2021 Park Board approved Local Food Systems Action Plan (LFSAP) is “to move towards a sustainable, just, and decolonized local food systems by making space for Indigenous food sovereignty, increasing equitable access to food assets and services, and working towards food system resiliency as a part of climate action.” Goal 4 in the City of Vancouver’s Climate Justice Framework highlights the importance of “engaging community in transitioning our relationship to nature from one based on its transactional value to a more relational approach.”

Building on the 2023 UBC Sustainability Scholar report *Decolonizing Local Food Systems Policy*, this project would examine the ways community food and culture gardens on park and city managed lands are potential hubs for demonstrating shifts towards more decolonized, sustainable and climate-friendly relationships with the land. They can also increase equitable access to fresh foods, medicines, and cultural knowledge depending on the governance model and values of the community organization. Government policies, processes, and prioritization also influences the impact food and culture gardens have on the broader community as sites of connection, transformation and inspiration.

As staff anticipate reporting back on the influences that the LFSAP and Climate Action Plan had on land-based changes and community involvement we are looking to develop a data collection framework and gather current baseline data to quantify these changes in 5 years.

### **Project description**

**Purpose:** As staff begin to advance projects, policies and processes that support increasing equitable access to food systems and climate action in growing assets, we are seeking a Sustainability Scholar to develop definitions and a methodology for measuring land-use typologies within community gardens and then apply this framework to gardens on public land

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in Vancouver. The data sources for the framework may include GIS mapping and analysis, site visits, and existing metrics from annual surveys to establish baseline information.

**Value:** This data collection framework would be applied again in 5 years to measure change over the life-time of the LFSAP to report on the impacts of the strategy. The data would focus on three key topics:

- Equitable access – e.g., decolonization, mobility access, BIPOC representation and leadership
- Climate action – e.g., tree canopy, native species, habitat connections/features
- Community resilience – e.g., shared gathering and growing areas/resources, public workshops/programming, and community hubs for wellness and cultural/knowledge sharing

## **Project scope**

- Review 6 to 8 internal strategies and data sets related to the LFSAP and Climate Action Plan and 4-5 external case studies or precedence to prepare a brief annotated bibliography of the relevant documents, data sets and GIS layers (15%)
- Meet with City and Park staff to develop and refine a data collection framework (including definitions for indicators and criteria) to evaluate three priority topics; 1) equitable access, 2) climate action, and 3) community resilience. The data collection framework should be focused on just 2-3 indicators for each topic and be replicable (15%)
- Apply the framework to gather baseline data and summarize the methodology and findings in a final report. The data may be gathered using a combination of GIS mapping and analysis, site visits, and existing metrics from annual surveys. (70%)

This project is a collaboration between park and street activity departments to create a consistent methodology for community gardens on park, engineering, and other city land in Vancouver. The scholar will be co-supervised by staff in Park Planning and Engineering.

## **Deliverables**

- An annotated bibliography of relevant documents, data sets, and GIS layers
- A final report containing a summary of the data collection framework, methods, and baseline data
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).

## **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 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
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable undertaking fieldwork to ground truth and collect data
- GIS training or experience.
- Background in Land & Food Systems, Geography, or Urban Planning, an asset

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>