

## 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: Building Collaborative Knowledge of Extreme Heat Events and Preparedness Strategies in Vancouver

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

Women Transforming Cities (WTC) is a grassroots non-profit organization based in Vancouver. We work in partnership with community members and front-line organizations to take action at a municipal level on the most critical issues for equity-deserving communities. WTC's work is grounded in intersectional feminism, and we apply an anti-racism, anti-colonial, anti-oppressive and disability justice lens to all the work we do. Our work is informed and led by those impacted most by the issues we advocate on.

Climate change is already causing profound harm to vulnerable communities, as seen by the 2021 Heat Dome, which killed 600+ residents in BC. We have been working alongside neighbourhood groups and coalitions seeking to prevent future heat-related deaths and traumatic outcomes from climate events. This issue has only emerged as an urgent priority in the last few years, and as a result, responses are currently ad-hoc and piecemeal. There is a lack of coordinated knowledge-sharing across neighbourhoods, municipalities, sectors, and different levels of government.

### **Project description**

This project will support WTC in collating information regarding current responses to extreme heat events in Vancouver. The Sustainability Scholar will conduct desktop research to come up with a comprehensive list existing approaches, organizations, policy interventions, advocacy efforts, and community responses related to extreme heat events and the prevention of heat-related deaths.

The project output will inform WTC's advocacy work on heat preparedness in Metro Vancouver concerning local government policy interventions and community practices for saving lives during extreme heat events, and exist as a resource that we can share with organizations and

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groups working in Vancouver to understand different policy and response options, as well as potential gaps.

## **Project scope**

- Identify current responses to heat preparedness in Vancouver – including community level, organizations, and government.
- Analyze information to identify potential gaps in approaches (geographic, demographic etc.).
- Research and summarize local government obligations and opportunities for action related to heat safety and preparedness.
- Source and review heat preparedness resources and advocacy efforts in other jurisdictions outside of Vancouver, including Portland and Seattle.
- Prepare as an annotated bibliography to be shared with partner organizations, community members and those leading heat responses (in government and non-profits) to increase access to resources and enable these responses to be replicated in other communities nationwide.

## **Deliverables**

- A report, memo, or annotated bibliography of the work completed for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#)
- Research findings on local government obligations and opportunities for action related to heat safety and preparedness
- Time permitting: A presentation or workshop for potential users on research findings

## **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
- Community engagement experience
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Demonstrated experience studying/working/living at the intersections of sustainability, climate, equity, justice, and decolonization
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, an asset
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills, an asset

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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>