

## Summer 2025 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. The pay rate for the summer 2025 program is \$31.25/hour or \$7,812.50 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 11:59 pm on Sunday January 26, 2025.**

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### **Project title: Reporting on Progress and Evaluating Metro Vancouver's Ecological Health Framework**

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

Metro Vancouver's ecosystems are vital to the people and wildlife who live here. The concept of 'ecological health' captures the connection among healthy functioning ecosystems, the valuable services they provide, and human well-being. As a public entity, Metro Vancouver has a variety of responsibilities related to the ecological health of our region, from protecting lands through its regional parks function to minimizing impacts on the environment through its utility operations.

Adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board in 2018, the [Ecological Health Framework](#) (EHF) describes Metro Vancouver's ecological health commitments. In 2019, [a progress report](#) was compiled, describing numerous projects underway. The next progress report and a high-level regional 'state of the environment' snapshot are due in 2025. This reporting process also provides an opportunity to evaluate the EHF and recommend updates or amendments based on current Metro Vancouver Board priorities and recent scientific advances.

#### **Project description**

In collaboration with Metro Vancouver staff, the Scholar will:

- Compile an *Ecological Health Framework* progress report summarizing projects Metro Vancouver has undertaken over the past 5 years by department (e.g., Regional Planning & Housing Services, Regional Parks, Water Services, Liquid Waste Services, Solid Waste Services, Air Quality and Climate Action Services, Indigenous Relations);
- Create new infographics to populate a brief regional 'state of the environment' snapshot to accompany the progress report, using existing datasets; and
- Complete a high-level evaluation of Metro Vancouver's *Ecological Health Framework* to inform future updates or amendments.

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The Scholar will also have the opportunity to present an overview of the progress report, state of the environment infographics, and their evaluation findings to Metro Vancouver senior management. The progress report will ultimately be shared with the Metro Vancouver Board, and various Committees as part of regular public reporting.

## Project scope

1. Compile a progress report profiling Metro Vancouver's corporate projects and initiatives underway or planned that enhance ecological health.
  - a. Review the [Ecological Health Framework](#) (EHF, 2018) and the last EHF [Progress Report](#) (2019) to become familiar with the content and layout for these documents;
  - b. Seek input (via email, an internal survey, or other methods) from staff within all Metro Vancouver Departments about current ecological health-related projects;
  - c. From the staff submissions, edit for style and length consistency;
  - d. Propose 'feature' projects that demonstrate innovation and leadership; and
  - e. Work with internal graphic design staff to plan the progress report layout.
2. Collect information from existing reports and datasets to inform the design of new infographics for a brief regional 'state of the environment' snapshot.
  - a. Using existing regional datasets (e.g., [sensitive ecosystems](#), [carbon storage](#), [ecosystem connectivity](#), [tree canopy cover and impervious surfaces](#)), summarize key ecological health indicators; and
  - b. Work with Metro Vancouver's internal graphic design team to generate public-friendly infographics that share indicator baselines and trends (where possible).
3. Time permitting: Based on the Scholar's expertise and ideas gleaned during Tasks 1 and 2, identify any gaps and opportunities (e.g., new indicators, strategies, or actions) that could improve the effectiveness of the EHF.
4. Present an overview of the draft progress report and snapshot (as well as any recommendations to improve the EHF) to staff and make edits requested.

## Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A draft EHF progress report with 'state of the environment' infographics.
- Optional: A 5-minute presentation to Metro Vancouver's Corporate Planning Committee (consists of senior managers from across the departments at Metro Vancouver), or other senior management.

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2025

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- 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**

- Demonstrated interest in ecological health
- Excellent writing skills
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Ability to work independently, but also work well with others
- Experience collating input from many individuals and summarizing technical information in plain language
- Comfortable interacting with staff and management (verbally and via email) within different disciplines (e.g., planners, engineers, scientists, communicators)
- Strong analytical and knowledge translation skills
- Statistical analysis and GIS training or experience an asset
- Document layout and infographic design skills an asset

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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 21, 2025. [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>