

## Summer 2026 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 February 1, 2026.**

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## Project title: Opportunity Analysis for Environmental Education and Stewardship in Burnaby

### Project Background

Environmental stewardship in Burnaby involves a range of programs and strategies aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment through community involvement, sustainable practices, and long-term planning. There are many Council adopted policies that support environmental stewardship and initiatives led by the City to engage with and educate the public on protecting the environment.

The City also engages and supports efforts of local environmental advocates, organizations and institutions that regularly participate in stewardship activities such as monitoring stream health, salmon counts and releases, research, public education and engagement, community cleanups, and habitat restoration.

As the City grows and changes there is increased stress on the environment and growing public interest in opportunities to participate in environmental education and stewardship activities that connect people with nature. Furthermore, reconciliation with Host Nations is now being recognized as an important factor to consider in environmental stewardship. Within the City, the responsibility for supporting stewardship programs falls within multiple departments and faces challenges with resourcing.

Conducting an opportunity analysis for enhancing support of environmental stewardship was identified as an action item in Burnaby's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS, 2016). The ESS also supported strategies and actions that would educate citizens about ecology and sustainability and explore innovative ways to engage the public on environmental issues. The Climate Action Framework (2020) recognizes the need to expand climate awareness, engagement and dialogue. Additionally, the City is currently identifying ways to implement environmental stewardship related policies identified in the Urban Forest Strategy (2025) and Draft OCP (2025), which are two new Council-adopted policy documents. This project aligns with the long-term environmental management goals of the City and will contribute towards the implementation of Council approved policy directions.

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## Project description

The City is interested in exploring the role of local government in supporting environmental stewardship, (including funding, resourcing and administration), understanding the challenges faced by staff and the community in supporting environmental stewardship, and identifying innovative ways for how we can deliver and support environmental education and stewardship in Burnaby.

This project will involve interviews with City staff, CUPE Local 23 representatives, community stewardship partners and educational institutions, and staff from municipalities with environmental stewardship programs different than Burnaby. The findings from the project will be used to inform the implementation of City policies.

## Project scope

The student will primarily be engaged in the following tasks:

- Online review of environmental stewardship programs in the City of Burnaby and of 3 to 5 other local governments to understand how their stewardship programs are structured and funded.
- Prepare interview questions and conduct interviews with 20 to 25 experts including City of Burnaby staff, staff from other municipalities, CUPE Local 23 representatives, environmental non-profit representatives, and staff from SFU and BCIT to understand the current scope of stewardship work they are engaged in and if there are any barriers (policy/ infrastructure/ funding/human/cultural) and opportunities to continuing their programs.
- Make recommendations on how the City can support environmental stewardship. These recommendations should be informed by the interviews and include staffing and funding needs
- Prepare and deliver a presentation on the findings of the review to the project participants (interviewees)
- Preparing a report and presentation to the City's Environment Committee with findings of the project

## Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed
- Tracking sheet with all the interview questions and answers
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A presentation to the interviewees to share the findings from the project
- A report and presentation to the City's Environment Committee.

## Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 14.
- The Scholars is to complete their hours between 8 am and 4.45 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- The scholar is expected to work at least 1 business day per week at Burnaby City Hall.

## Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills

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- ☒ Community engagement experience
- ☒ Familiarity conducting focus group research
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- ☒ experience designing and delivering visually engaging presentations, an asset
- ☒ Familiarity with or interest in environmental education, an asset
- ☒ Familiarity with or interest in environmental stewardship, an asset

Applications close at **11:59 pm Sunday February 1, 2026**

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 19, 2026.  
[Click here for details and to register.](#)

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume, cover letter and preparing for an interview (there are many more online).

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>