

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.

Project title: Best-Practices Research to Inform O&M Guidelines for Climate-Resilient Municipal Buildings

Project Background

In the wake of increasingly intense storms, heat waves, shifting precipitation patterns and other climate stressors, municipal buildings face elevated risks of disruption and damage. Integrating climate resilience into Operations and Maintenance (O&M) is a key gap: while many asset-management and infrastructure renewal programs exist, the day-to-day maintenance and operational practices often rely on historical norms rather than forward-looking climate projections. According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' "Operations & Maintenance for Climate Resilience" handbook, adapting existing O&M practices offers a high-leverage opportunity to embed resilience across asset classes. By undertaking applied research on O&M best practices tailored to a municipal setting, this project will support the District of North Vancouver's climate adaptation and improve long-term asset reliability.

Project description

The purpose of this project is to research, assess and recommend a set of O&M practices for municipal buildings that improve climate resilience. The Scholar will map current O&M practices, conduct a scan of best practices (both public and private sector) for integrating resilience into O&M, and develop a set of actionable recommendations tailored to the District. The output will be directly actionable by the operations team, enabling improved resilience, reduced risk of unplanned downtime, and alignment with climate-action commitments.

Note: This project is focused on climate resilience—helping municipal buildings adapt to extreme weather, heat, and other climate impacts. While some recommended actions may also provide co-benefits for energy efficiency or emissions reductions, the primary goal of this work is climate resilience, not climate mitigation.

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Project scope

Primary activities for the Scholar will include:

1. Literature and jurisdictional scan – review national/international examples of climate-resilient O&M to identify high-impact approaches and lessons applicable to municipal buildings.
2. Organizational interviews – Engage with other municipalities and organizations to understand how they integrate climate adaptation into their O&M practices.
3. Internal stakeholder engagement – Conduct interviews with District staff to capture current practices, pain points, and operational gaps.
4. Best practices assessment and selection – Synthesize findings from literature, external interviews, and internal input to develop a tailored set of 8–12 recommended O&M practice enhancements, prioritizing actions with the greatest potential impact by doing a high-level cost-benefit analysis.
5. Stakeholder review and validation of proposed actions – Present the draft set of recommended O&M enhancements to key internal stakeholders to gather feedback, assess feasibility, refine prioritization, and ensure alignment with operational realities.
6. Implementation roadmap and business case – Produce a final report with actionable recommendations, cost-benefit prioritization, and, if time permitting, practical tools (e.g., checklists, guidance documents) to support integration into the District’s corporate O&M .
7. Presentation to stakeholders with findings - Share the final results, including validated recommendations and the implementation roadmap.

Deliverables

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed and any resources that can be developed within the scope.
- A final report for the online public-facing [Scholars Project Library](#).
- A presentation (for lunchtime/department meeting) to share key findings with internal stakeholders.

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 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
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Familiarity conducting focus group research
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently

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- Deadline oriented
- Demonstrated experience in climate adaptation
- Building systems

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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 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>