

## 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: Research and develop sustainability & resilience key performance indicators for DASH-Enabled Housing Developments

### Project Background

The Digitally Accelerated Standardized Housing (DASH) platform provides a transformative solution to Canada's housing crisis through digital innovation and prefabrication (<https://www.acceleratedhousing.ca/>). The project tackles multiple barriers at once, to expedite the housing delivery process by reducing design, construction, and manufacturing timelines using a Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) approach.

DASH offers a powerful toolkit for designing midrise multifamily housing, better and more efficiently without restricting design customization. The open-source platform will host Building Information Modelling (BIM) enabled DfMA-based suite of “blueprint” designs for prefab mid-rise multifamily housing. It will assist designers to easily configure sites for standard suite layouts and mixes, and to verify site suitability for the project. Allowing designers to focus resources on high-value design activities as the details are already taken care of. DASH also encompasses various urbanism requirements to streamline the permitting process. The goal is to mitigate risks and hasten the development process while still allowing design flexibility for architects and preventing rework by manufacturers, bringing projects to market quickly.

DASH is an all-in-one platform that helps developers, and designers find standardized designs and components that best fit their project and that are optimized for prefabrication. Unlike one-off custom projects, DASH introduces a repeatable system that improves pipeline predictability, reduces barriers to scale for manufacturers, and accelerates the adoption of low-carbon, prefabricated construction. DASH has been launched with a focus on the mid-rise segment (up to 6 storeys), where standardized solutions can have the greatest impact in accelerating housing delivery while meeting performance and decarbonization goals. DASH will be expanded to other

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forms of housing over time including mass timber, concrete, and steel construction, Indigenous designs, and delivery to rural and remote contexts.

A comprehensive program evaluation structure is being developed based on the Theory of Change and Logic Model frameworks. In alignment with the environmental and sustainability goals of BC Housing, the Province of BC, the Government of Canada, and various funders and partners, DASH is incorporating metrics that measure the contributions to various outcomes and impact of the initiative's activities. One of the defined outcomes is "DASH designs are environmentally sustainable and climate resilient", and therefore we need to provide key performance indicators (KPIs) to demonstrate our achievement of this outcome. It is expected that the off-site factory setting of certain construction activities will see improved energy efficiency, reduced wastage, and design resiliency. We also expect that certain kinds of metrics previously difficult to capture can be assessed in this more structured context.

## **Project description**

This project will work with the DASH team, as well as BC Housing's Sustainability and Resilience team and the Energy and Sustainability team to look at methodologies and approaches to defining appropriate metrics, establishing benchmarks, and establishing SMART targets for sustainability (including energy efficiency) and climate resilience goals for the DASH initiative. This includes examining the current BC Housing targets and ensuring that data is efficiently captured in the DASH context.

At this point, there are certain measures that have proven difficult to measure in traditional construction contexts, and others where we expect improvements relative to traditional construction methods. Examples may include the amount of construction waste from a site, or efficiencies from reducing rework of building elements. One could expect a factory setting would be more efficient in terms of materials usage and process, thus providing improved performance from a sustainability and energy efficiency standpoint. On the other hand, a factory may be less efficient as a result of heating and lighting a factory building. Expanding the scope further, we can look at embedded carbon, climate resilience, volatile organic compounds, or energy usage – we are looking at all angles to make sure we are capturing the impacts of the DASH platform and projects. Examples of energy efficiency metrics that could be considered are: modelled energy efficiency and actual energy efficiency achieved (i.e., measurement and verification options / commissioning, self generation opportunities and how that impacts electricity use / consumption, demand response opportunities and metrics (peak load avoidance, load shifting), use of power management systems and impact on panel sizing. We do not wish to duplicate metrics already in use by BC Housing, but we would be interested in how these indicators differ between traditional construction and the DASH system.

Part of this project is to define what metrics are now available to be measured, what is important to measure, and how to conduct and report those measures. Your creativity and innovation in this space will be valuable in exploring the bounds of what can be done in this context. We want the Scholar to help define what is achievable during our time together, and be an active participant in scoping the project to meet your learning goals.

## **Project scope**

Based on the interests and skills of the Scholar, we will work together to refine the scope of the work and target the activities to maximize the project outcomes.

Potential items that may be included in the scope of this performance management support include:

- Literature and /or jurisdictional scan looking at key academic and grey literature sources that inform best and emergent practices in sustainability, energy efficiency & resilience KPIs in modular and panelized housing construction; as well as existing and expected challenges and opportunities
- Read and review provided materials to develop contextualized understanding of current sustainability and environmental evaluation metrics and methodologies in use at BC Housing
- Engage BC Housing team members (<10) through interviews and workshops to gather insights on known gaps, priorities, and existing standards
- Propose a list of sustainability (including but not limited to energy efficiency) and resilience key performance indicators that could be utilized to demonstrate DASH's benefits as compared to traditional on-site construction, with description of pros and cons for each one (criteria may include: data availability, amount of effort required for data collection, relation to reporting standards, etc.) for BC Housing's consideration
- Define methodologies and approaches to the measurement, benchmarking, target-setting, and reporting of the most workable KPIs selected by BC Housing from the list
- Advance the articulation of the KPIs, develop the benchmarks, and assist in setting the targets for each.
- Build the data capture and reporting methodologies for use going forward

The Scholar will have ongoing engagement with our teams as the work progresses to refine the scale and scope, and rationalize the KPIs for short- and long-term utilization. The intention is to go beyond what is currently being measured by BC Housing, and look for metrics that become measurable by virtue of the off-site and factory context of construction.

## **Deliverables**

- Report on the best and emerging practices and jurisdictional scan findings outlining what metrics and methodologies are in use for off-site and factor construction contexts
- Draft list of KPIs for further investigation
- Draft report of benchmarks, targets, and data capture methodologies for the selected KPIs, with the rationales
- Workshops and interviews with BC Housing team
- 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 14.

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- The Scholar 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
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills
- Demonstrated experience in program evaluation, an asset
- Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools, an asset
- Familiar with housing construction and design, an asset
- Experience with financial modelling and analysis, 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 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>