

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: EV Charging Infrastructure: Mapping & Strategy Optimization, Water Utility Fleet

Project Background

Metro Vancouver Water Services or Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) operates a large and diverse fleet that supports the delivery of clean, safe drinking water across the region. As part of the Metro Vancouver's commitment to climate action, GVWD has already transitioned approximately 15% of its fleet to electric vehicles (EVs). Nonetheless, fleet operations remain one of the largest contributors to Water Service's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions profile, making continued electrification and smarter charging strategies critical to ongoing efforts toward achieving Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 goals and Corporate Climate Action target for carbon neutrality by 2050.

To build on the foundational work led by Metro Vancouver's Fleet and Facilities teams that plan and implement EV infrastructure, this project aims to optimize EV charging for efficiency and operational reliability. Beyond Metro Vancouver's own growing charging network, a rapidly expanding system of public EV chargers across the region presents new opportunities to supplement internal infrastructure and reduce capital costs. This project focuses on the opportunities with Water Services to complement the corporate efforts on electrification.

By exploring how Water Services can better leverage public charging infrastructure to support fleet operations within the water utility, by mapping fleet parking locations and analyzing their proximity to public chargers, the project will identify opportunities to enhance charging accessibility and flexibility, assess high-level site readiness, improve utilization of existing infrastructure to optimize fleet electrification in alignment with Metro Vancouver's climate and sustainability goals.

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Project description

The objective of this project is to identify opportunities to optimize fleet electrification through smarter charging utilization by better integrating public EV charging infrastructure into Water Services operations. The Scholar will develop a mapping and analysis tool to support data-driven decisions by analyzing EV charging infrastructure across GVWD operations. By integrating spatial data on facilities and visualizing the relationship between fleet parking locations and the growing network of Metro Vancouver owned as well as public EV chargers, the tool will identify opportunities and gaps, pinpoint charger access conflicts, and prioritize high value locations for future EV charger installations. Interactive map layers including basic site readiness indicators will help Metro Vancouver staff flag potential candidate sites for further technical evaluation.

The interactive tool will provide data-driven insights to support the Water Services Fleet Management Coordination team in planning future EV charging investments, optimizing charging strategies, and identifying priority sites for electrification based on site readiness and impact.

Project scope

The Sustainability Scholar will develop an integrated mapping and analysis tool using PowerBI that combines data on public and Metro Vancouver EV chargers, fleet routes, and facility locations. By assessing charger accessibility, suitability, and coverage gaps, the project will identify where public infrastructure can effectively support GVWD operations and where new installations are most justified in terms of benefit, and impact.

Primary activities:

1. Analyze current available data from Metro Vancouver teams (i.e., WS, fleet services, facilities), publicly available data (e.g., BCH EV network, PlugShare open data), and other potential data sources (Water Services mentor and staff from Fleet and Facilities will help scholar access internal data)
2. Create an interactive map to visualize the location of internal and public chargers across GVWD facilities, overlay vehicle locations, routes, parking hot spots. Include scenario analysis features to model future fleet growth or charger expansion
3. Report on methodology, findings, and recommendations
 - a. Gap analysis of where additional chargers would maximize operational coverage or reduce downtime supported by proximity and accessibility metrics
 - b. Recommendations on charging siting, supported by GHG reduction potential, comparing public vs. Metro Vancouver owned charger use
4. Develop a brief user manual to inform staff how to update and maintain the tool and integrate new data as infrastructure expands

Out of scope

- Detailed technical analysis or route optimization
- Comprehensive site readiness assessments

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Deliverables

1. Data inventory – consolidated excel database of data used for the project
2. Mapping and analysis tool (GIS and/or PowerBI)
3. Written report on findings, gap analysis and recommendations
4. User manual
5. A final presentation to MV team + stakeholders (WS fleet management coordination team)
6. A final report containing a summary of the work completed
7. 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, 2026
- 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
- ☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- ☒ Statistical analysis
- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Programming skills would be an asset
- ☒ Demonstrated experience with Power BI
- ☒ GIS training or experience, an asset.
- ☒ Experience with spatial analysis, mapping, geospatial data integration , an asset
- ☒ Demonstrated experience with data visualization tools, an asset

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Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

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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>