

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: Cost-Benefit, Funding, and Policy Analysis for Water Utility Fleet Electrification

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 Services' 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.

Water Services operates a diverse and geographically dispersed fleet with varying operational requirements and duty cycles, which can create challenges in determining when it is more advantageous to rely on public EV charging infrastructure versus investing in new Metro Vancouver owned chargers at operational sites. While dedicated teams are actively planning and delivering EV infrastructure across the organization, there is growing need for a standardized, transparent, cost benefit framework to support investment decisions specific to Water Services. This requires better understanding of lifecycle costs and asset utilization. In parallel, the availability of external funding programs, incentives, and policy enablers presents an opportunity to reduce capital costs and improve the financial viability of EV charging investments.

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 support continued informed decision making for EV charging investments by evaluating the cost-effectiveness of public versus Metro Vancouver owned charging infrastructure, and identifying funding and policy mechanisms that can support future implementation and reduce capital costs and financial risk. This project will

develop a decision support analysis that evaluates cost, operational, and emissions implications of different charging strategies of using public vs. Metro Vancouver-owned infrastructure, identifying benefits and trade-offs while also identifying funding and policy mechanisms that can support implementation.

Project description

The objective of this project is to support informed decision-making for EV charging investments within Metro Vancouver Water Services by evaluating the cost effectiveness of using public charging infrastructure versus installing Metro-owned chargers. The analysis is valuable to shed light on trade-offs, thresholds, and risks, comparing demand and availability to determine what level of Metro Vancouver-owned infrastructure is justified to close the gap. The project will develop a standardized cost-benefit framework and identify relevant funding, and policy supports to guide future investment decisions. By providing a clear, data-driven understanding of life cycle costs, operational impacts, and emissions outcomes, the project helps ensure charging investments are financially responsible, operationally efficient and aligned with corporate climate and sustainability goals.

Project scope

The Sustainability Scholar will evaluate financial (charging energy costs, capital costs, operating and maintenance costs, funding and incentive impacts), operational (charging demand, vehicle usage patterns, parking and dwelling characteristics, charger utilization etc.), and emissions (baseline fleet emissions, charging emissions, net GHG reduction estimates) data related to EV charging for Metro Vancouver Water Services to assess the cost effectiveness of using public charging infrastructure versus installing Metro owned chargers. The analysis will rely on a combination of internal fleet and cost data and publicly available datasets, funding program information, and policies. The scholar will synthesize this information into a standardized cost-benefit framework to support future charging investment decisions.

Primary activities:

1. Analyze current available data from Metro Vancouver and external sources
 - a. Metro Vancouver data: e.g., fleet inventory and vehicle classifications, vehicle usage, current fleet electrification levels and planned growth assumptions, internal electricity rates for fleet charging, high level capital and operating cost assumptions for charger installation, fleet level GHG emissions
 - b. Publicly available and external data: e.g., public EV charging fee structures and pricing models, provincial or utility electricity grid emission factors, capital and lifecycle cost information for EV chargers from industry or government sources, asset management policies that influence charging investment decisions
2. Conduct cost-benefit analysis - develop a standardized cost benefit framework to compare use of public EV chargers versus installation of MV-owned chargers at operational sites. Evaluate costs and benefits based on capital and lifecycle costs of chargers, electricity and public charging fees, operational impacts (travel, downtime), and GHG reduction potential associated with each option

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3. Complete scenario-based investment analysis – apply cost benefit framework to identify conditions under which public charging is most cost-effective, when new charger investment becomes justified, and when deferred investment is appropriate
4. Conduct high level review of external funding and incentive programs and policies relevant to fleet electrification and EV charging infrastructure. Identify policy enablers or constraints that affect charging strategy (e.g., cost recovery, access to public infrastructure, energy management policies).
5. Write report to summarize findings and recommendations
 - a. Cost-benefit analysis
 - b. Funding opportunities and policy enablers to support future implementation of identified charging strategies
 - c. Recommendations

Out of scope

- Development of EV charging maps or spatial analysis tools
- Comprehensive site readiness assessments
- Procurement or implementation planning
- Creation or revision of corporate policy documents

Deliverables

1. Cost-benefit analysis workbook – excel
2. Final report including cost benefit analysis, scenario summary, funding and incentives summary, and recommendations
3. A final presentation to MV team + stakeholders (WS fleet management coordination team)
4. 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 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
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Deadline oriented
- Project management and organizational skills

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- ☒ Familiarity preparing feasibility studies
- ☒ Experience with financial modelling and analysis
- ☒ Experience in environmental or applied economics is an advantage

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

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>