

**UBC SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS
Summer 2018**

Research project title

Utility Support for Conservation and Energy Management with Indigenous Communities

Goal or Operations Plan objective

This project supports the following goals and objectives:

- *From the Clean Energy Act (2010)*: The act requires that two-thirds of our future incremental energy demand be met through conservation by 2020.
- *From the BC Climate Leadership Plan (August 2016)*: To advance efficient electrification, the Province of BC is working with BC Hydro to expand the mandate of its DSM programs to include investments that increase efficiency and reduce GHG emissions.
- *From BC Hydro's Corporate Strategic Plan (September 2015)*: "Explore the full potential of energy conservation" and "Make it easier for customers to do business with us" are identified as two of our five corporate priorities. As demands on our system increase, we need to look for new ways to save energy and encourage British Columbians to be smarter with power. This may include activities such as introducing tools to improve our customers' ability to understand and manage their energy use, and offering solutions that bundle customer offers such as energy conservation, self-generation and demand response.

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to your organization. Describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable.

BC Hydro is currently exploring approaches to strengthen and improve our support for Indigenous Communities (First Nations) to pursue initiatives that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and improve management of energy and emissions at the community scale. To date this pilot initiative has supported a range of activities, some of which include: providing salary support to Bands/Nations to hire staff to champion energy management in the community; developing curriculum and offering education and skills training on energy management; exploring incentives and rebate models to support residential and commercial building energy upgrades; supporting the development of energy efficient buildings policy on reserve.

As our pilot initiative continues, we are interested in recruiting a Scholar to conduct the research outlined below. This research will support the delivery of pilot activities over the next year and will inform the design of future conservation and energy management programs for First Nations in BC.

- Conduct a literature review and jurisdictional scan to compile information on how other utilities (particularly in North America) are supporting conservation and energy management in Indigenous communities;
- Conduct a scan of First Nations Community Energy Plans (CEPs) in BC to determine how many and which communities have CEPs in place;
- Compile available CEPs and conduct a more in-depth review of select CEPs to determine strengths and weaknesses of the plans and planning processes (interviews with communities and consultants may support this task). Develop recommendations as to how First Nations can be better supported to develop and implement CEPs.

Deliverables

- Regular project meetings with BC Hydro staff to provide an update on progress and deliverables
- A summary of the literature review (and provision of relevant articles) and jurisdictional scan
- A summary of CEP scan, review and recommendations
- A final report documenting work completed for the project with detail provided in appendices (e.g., literature review, CEP scan and review)
- A final presentation to key stakeholders
- An executive summary for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>

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Time Commitment

- This project is expected to take 250 hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between April 30 and August 10, 2018
- The scholar should aim to complete approximately 20 hours of work per week with the majority of those hours taking place between Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
- The work location is flexible and will be discussed with the scholar. Some elements of the project will require that the scholar be in our downtown Vancouver office (e.g., project meetings), while other aspects of the work could be completed remotely.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- X Excellent research and writing skills
- X Experience in stakeholder engagement, including facilitation skills
- X Strong business writing skills
- X Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- X Presentation and public speaking skills
- X Ability to work independently
- X Project management and organizational skills
- X Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation

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