



UNH Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Fellowship Getting to Zero Waste on Campus Durham, NH

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is a recognized leader in sustainability—yet, like many campuses, it struggles with the challenge of minimizing the amount of waste it sends to the landfill every year. In the spring of 2016, UNH President Mark Huddleston convened and charged a campus-wide Zero Waste Task Force with assessing the possibilities for moving toward “zero waste” on UNH’s campus. Through a combination of cross-campus dialogue, internal assessment, and the implementation of several specific pilot projects, the Zero Waste Task Force has begun identifying key needs, gaps and possibilities for moving forward in minimizing waste at UNH.

During the summer of 2017, the UNH Zero Waste Fellow will work with ZWTF members and other key stakeholders from across campus to develop and help support initial implementation of a comprehensive Zero Waste plan for the campus. Specific tasks will involve the following:

- Document the current status of Zero Waste efforts as they pertain to three key subject areas: sourcing and procurement practices and policies; campus/community infrastructure; and outreach and education.
- Gather best practices from other campuses, and/or develop new and innovative ideas for making progress, in each of those three areas. Determine, through dialogue with relevant stakeholders, which of those practices would be most relevant, useful, and feasible at UNH.
- Create a set of recommendations for improvement in each of the three areas, including a proposed timetable for implementation and relevant goals/benchmarks for measuring progress.
- Present the recommendations to the Zero Waste Task Force for discussion and refinement.
- Based on feedback from ZWTF, create a complete version of the Zero Waste plan to be presented for adoption by the UNH Sustainability Advisory Committee.

This project is an opportunity for someone who is a good listener, facilitator, and problem-solver to gain deep content expertise in a central aspect of institutional sustainability, as well as experience in developing highly actionable, stakeholder-driven sustainability plans and goals. The Fellow will work with a wide array of campus stakeholders, and will have an opportunity to network with subject matter experts both on and off campus. Implementing the Zero Waste Plan will be a high priority for the UNH Sustainability Institute, Zero Waste Task Force and university Sustainability Advisory Committee beginning in the “17-’18 academic year—which means the Fellow can be confident that her/his work will have an immediate and significant impact.

Location: UNH Sustainability Institute, Durham, NH

Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 5-August 18, 2017

Compensation: \$6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:

- Graduate student or undergraduate (junior or senior) studying a related field
- An interest in, and basic familiarity with, institutional waste minimization and the growing “zero waste” industry
- Previous experience and/or basic familiarity with campus or community infrastructure systems (e.g. energy, transportation, water, waste), and with institutional planning also preferred
- Practical analytical and problem-solving skills, and an eagerness to apply them to a complex institution where stakeholders have many, varied, and occasionally competing needs
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication (verbal and written) skills
- Demonstrated ability to work well independently and with a team—and with varied types of stakeholders (from facilities and housekeeping professionals, to students, to faculty, to University decision-makers)
- Experience with Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, Powerpoint.

UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:

Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation

This fellow will receive supervision from members of the UNH Zero Waste Task Force, as well as mentoring and professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in three MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 31st- June 2nd. Lodging and food are provided; Fellows are responsible for any associated travel costs.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners (can be done remotely).
- A summative evaluation and feedback session at the end of their placement.

Apply by February 19th at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows