Sustainability Fellowship
Municipal Climate Resilience Assessment & Planning
Town of Durham
Durham, NH

About the Sustainability Fellows Program:
UNH Sustainability Fellowships pair exceptional students from across the U.S. with municipal, educational, corporate, and non-profit partners in New England to work on transformative sustainability initiatives each summer. Sustainability Fellows undertake challenging projects that are designed to create an immediate impact, offer a quality learning experience, and foster meaningful collaboration. Fellows work on-site with their mentors at partner organizations for 10 weeks, supported by a network of Fellows, partners, alumni, and the UNH Team. Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates from any accredited college or university are eligible to apply.

A detailed description of one Fellowship follows. To learn more about the other Fellowships offered this year, and for application instructions, see: www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows.

About the Fellowship:
The Town of Durham is collaborating closely with UNH to build community resilience to deal with climate change, as detailed in the President’s Climate Leadership Commitments organized by Second Nature: https://secondnature.org/signatory-handbook/the-commitments/

This commitment includes four steps: 1. Initial Resilience Assessment; 2. Identification of Future Scenarios; 3. Vulnerability Assessment to Anticipated Climate Impacts; 4. Create Resilience Plan. Together, UNH and the Town have completed much of what is required for Steps 1-2, and UNH has done some initial campus-specific work on step 3. We are now looking to complete that third step, the Climate Impact and Vulnerability Assessment, from a more holistic perspective that looks at issues from a broader Town and community perspective and begin to create a Resilience Plan.

The Assessment will require collecting information and data to support a set of indicators and metrics across 5 sectors (termed “Capitals” in the framework used by Second Nature): physical, natural, social, human, and financial. The Fellow will assess whether the indicators already created from a UNH-perspective can create a comprehensive picture of resilience for the Town (and community) of Durham, and suggest new/refined indicators (and associated metrics) as needed. Information to support the selected
indicators will be collected by working with various Town departments to identify sources, interviewing stakeholders, and analyzing and synthesizing the resulting set of data.

This ultimate goal for the summer is to pull together all of the baseline information for and an outline of the first joint UNH/Town of Durham Resilience Plan. The Fellow’s work will influence the approaches of Durham and UNH as both adapt to a changing climate, and The Fellow will have the opportunity to share their recommendations via presentations to various Town committees and leadership.

**Outcomes:**
- An inventory (in spreadsheet form) of resilience and indicators and metrics for the Town of Durham, to be aligned and complementary to the indicators/metrics already gathered for UNH when possible and appropriate, but also to be broadened to provide an accurate representation of overall community resilience
- Identification of priority indicators and metrics around which the town would like to see us set joint goals (at least one for each of the five “capital” categories)
- If/as time permits, consensus around resilience goals for the Town and the University
- If/as time permits, recommendations for strategies and next steps toward meeting those goals

**Impact:**
This project is part of a long-term effort to enhance collaboration among the Town of Durham and UNH so that the entire community becomes more resilient to climate change and other stressors. The plans will be made public via the Second Nature website and can therefore serve as models for other communities pursuing similar efforts.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to collaborate in a small team to develop decision relevant information and analysis for a small municipality. In the process, the Fellow will gain experience in integrating multiple sources of information and data into a coherent assessment and action plan, will further develop their interview and communication skills, will acquire a detailed understanding of one framework for community resilience—and will get a birds-eye view of how a small progressive municipal government functions.

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Bachelor’s degree in planning or a related field
- Experience in municipal planning; familiarity with climate resilience planning especially helpful
- Strong interview and verbal/written communication skills, and an ability to represent the Town in engaging with various stakeholders
- Ability to manage, analyze, and synthesize large amounts of data/information
- Ability to work well both collaboratively and independently

**Work Location:** one-two days weekly at Town of Durham, 8 Newmarket Rd, Durham, NH; three-four days weekly in Nesmith Hall or other campus location TBD (with other
locally-based Fellows and interns); and some time most weeks meeting with community stakeholders in Durham as needed

**Mentors:**
Todd Selig, Town Administrator, Town of Durham
Jennifer Andrews, Project Director, UNH
Cameron Wake, Josephine A. Lamprey Professor in Climate and Sustainability, UNH

**Compensation:** $6500
(taxable and paid on a two-week payroll cycle over the course of the fellowship term)

**Expectations:**
Fellows are expected to be primarily dedicated to their assigned projects throughout the summer, and also participate in a variety of networking activities, professional development opportunities, and presentations coordinated by UNHSI. Specifically, Fellows are expected to:

- Attend a mandatory orientation at UNH prior to the start of the fellowship term, **May 28-30, 2019.** (Travel scholarships may be available for students traveling from outside New England.)
- Work full-time on-site at the partner organization for 10 weeks, for a total of 400 hours, **May 28 - August 16, 2019** (an eleven-week period, allowing for one week off, as mutually agreed upon with supervisor).
- Complete a fellowship project according to the work plan (with adjustments as necessary), which will include regular meetings with the Town of Durham “leadership team” and with the UNH resilience mentors
- Participate in weekly webinars or advisory group meetings.
- Present work at mid-term and final poster sessions at UNH on **July 12** and **August 9.** (Travel support available.)
- Engage in additional professional development, networking, and advisory activities as offered.
- Provide and receive feedback at the end of the fellowship.

**Apply by February 7** at [www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows).

**Questions** may be addressed to [megan.carney@unh.edu](mailto:megan.carney@unh.edu).