



UNH Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Fellowship New England Community Climate Action Framework Durham, NH

The New England Municipal Sustainability Network (“NEMSN”), founded in 2010 is a network of sustainability professionals from communities across New England who gather regularly to share resources and best practices. With approximately two-dozen participating communities, NEMSN has been a useful avenue for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange across the region. Thanks to new partnership between UNH Sustainability Institute (UNHSI) and the NEMSN, UNHSI now serves as the administrative organization for NEMSN, providing basic administrative and logistical support.

NEMSN members are interested in exploring opportunities for increasing the impact of the network and the value of participation for members. One potential avenue for doing so is the adoption of a network-wide commitment or framework for tackling climate change and energy issues. This presents an initial challenge in navigating the plethora of existing such commitments and frameworks (e.g. the Climate Neutral Cities, the Mayors Compact, “Net Zero,” 100% Renewable, etc) to which members of the network already belong, or are considering.

The NE Community Climate Action Framework Fellow will work with the NEMSN Steering Committee and members to help understand the potential impacts of either adopting one of these existing frameworks to try to advance collectively, or to create a hybrid NEMSN-specific framework/commitment, that may be relevant, transformative, appealing to local constituencies, and achievable for the varied NEMSN members.

Specifically, the Fellow will:

- Gather information about existing “carbon neutrality” or “net zero” frameworks being used by different municipalities (both within and beyond the network).
- Compile a resource (database, white paper, and/or other, TBD) that network members can use—for their own reference, and to be able to educate their stakeholders—about the various requirements, pros and cons, and resources available for participation in the existing municipal energy/climate action frameworks currently being utilized.
- Work with NEMSN members to determine if there is one existing framework that could be relevant for all, or a hybrid of existing frameworks that could be developed and applied consistently across the network. Developing such a hybrid would require consideration of which aspects of each existing framework are

- most relevant, transformative, appealing to local constituencies, and achievable for the varied NEMSN membership.
- Outline a path to implementation of any new adopted framework—OR, if no single framework is identified- outline a basic implementation guide for best practices that are most common across the analyzed frameworks.

This is an excellent opportunity for a Fellow who is interested in working on sustainability in the public sector to gain a thorough understanding of current approaches to municipal climate and energy leadership; to create resources that can have lasting impact for communities across New England, and to build his/her professional network by connecting with the current leaders in the field of community sustainability in New England.

Location: Sustainability Institute, University of NH, Durham

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

Compensation: \$6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:

- Enrolled in a graduate degree program. Academic background in environmental science/policy, planning, public policy or communications preferred.
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills
- Basic understanding of climate science, energy systems, & energy/climate policy
- Demonstrated skill in writing about complex subjects for varied audiences
- Familiarity and/or experience working with municipal government extremely beneficial
- Demonstrated ability to work well independently and on a team

UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:

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

Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation

This fellow will receive supervision from a small Advisory Committee of NEMSNmembers, as well as mentoring and extensive 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 17th** at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows