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 Concord has a long history of sustainability. We have ambitious climate and sustainability goals, including a long-term goal of reducing community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 80% by 2050 in alignment with the Paris Climate Accord and the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act.

One important aspect of achieving Concord’s sustainability goals will be addressing emissions from the commercial sector. A recently completed GHG inventory revealed that about 30% of emissions in town come from commercial buildings. Many of Concord’s past sustainability initiatives have focused on residents. Examples include a solar challenge, sustainability fair, residential heat pump promotion, and electric vehicle ride and drive.

The Director of Sustainability has begun to engage with the commercial sector through group presentations, engaging business groups in community resilience building workshops, and through one-on-one meetings. Additionally, a group of high school students have recently completed a project offering and completing energy audits for small businesses through the Green Impact Campaign. There is significant opportunity to enhance engagement with commercial and institutional partners in Concord to reduce
GHG emissions. The sustainability fellow will provide significant and immediate value in developing and/or implementing a plan to reduce emissions from the commercial sector.

Goals of the project include:
- Identifying and engaging with key commercial entities in Concord through efforts such as focus groups, online surveys, phone calls, on-site meetings, presentations to business groups
- Identifying existing sustainability programs available to commercial entities and evaluating success factors and barriers to success
- Identifying gaps in program or policies through research of best practices and strategies deployed in other communities
- Analyzing potential GHG emissions reductions from programs, policies, or initiatives

Outcomes:
The desired outcomes of the project include:
- Recommendation of programs, policies, and/or initiatives to reduce GHG emissions from the commercial sector in Concord
- Documentation of barriers to success of existing program and policies
- Improved relationships with commercial entities in Concord for continued engagement on sustainability issues more broadly

The final deliverable will be a well-referenced slide deck that describes the opportunities and recommended strategies, along with supporting data and references, and a database that documents outreach to specific stakeholders.

Impact:
The Town of Concord will be beginning the process of developing its first climate action plan starting in 2019. The strategy recommendations that the sustainability fellow makes are likely to be included in this climate action plan. Since the commercial sector contributes to 30% of our GHG footprint, identifying barriers and challenges to reducing emissions in the commercial sector will also be incredibly valuable insight into strategy development for the climate action plan, and ultimately, should contribute to reducing total Town emissions.

The fellow will also have the opportunity to hone their relationship management skills. Developing strong relationships with commercial partners will be crucial to achieving Concord’s sustainability goals.

Concord is a small town with big goals. The Sustainability Division was founded with the hiring of the Town’s first Director of Sustainability in late 2017 and is a team of one. The fellow will have the opportunity to have both autonomy and close mentorship. Working closely the Director, the fellow will be allowed to take ownership of the project, demonstrate creativity, and contribute to the Town’s first climate action plan, which will be a model for other small New England communities tackling climate change.
Desired Qualifications:
- Experience with diverse stakeholder engagement.
- Knowledge of sustainability strategies for businesses, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of buildings, weatherization, water efficiency, behavior change, electric vehicles, etc.
- Experience in corporate outreach or small business engagement a plus.
- Strong written / oral communication and interview skills
- Interest in climate action planning.
- Self-motivated. Able to manage time responsibly and work independently to meet deadlines.
- Ability to convey complex information to a range of audiences (Town staff, elected officials, residents, business groups, etc.) in clear and visually engaging ways.

Work Location: Town of Concord Sustainability Division, 22 Monument Square, Concord, MA

Mentors: Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability, Town of Concord

Compensation: $6500 summer stipend (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, June 3 - 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).
- 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.

Questions may be addressed to megan.carney@unh.edu.