Sustainability Fellowship
Sustainable Middletown
Wesleyan University & City of Middletown
Middletown, CT

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 Fellow will be responsible for managing and guiding the City of Middletown’s participation in the Sustainable CT program. Sustainable CT is a statewide initiative launched in November 2017 to promote holistic sustainability in municipalities across the state. Topic areas include thriving local economies, well-stewarded natural resources, vibrant culture, resilient planning, clean and diverse transportation, efficient physical infrastructure, inclusive public services, equitable community impacts, and healthy housing.

Middletown participated in Sustainable CT in 2018 and received a Bronze certification in October 2018. Middletown seeks to achieve Silver or higher Sustainable CT certification by the August 2019 submission deadline.

The Fellow will contribute toward several action areas within the Sustainable CT certification program, including in the areas of planning and zoning; energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy; grounds education and practices; sustainable food; waste reduction and diversion; and climate adaptation.
To achieve Silver certification, the Fellow will manage the Middletown Sustainable CT Action Plan, identify opportunities for short-, mid- and long-term projects, collaborate with volunteers and City officials to advance or complete projects, and document sustainability initiatives. The Fellow will be responsible for drafting and submitting the application for Sustainable CT certification, with the help of City officials and volunteers.

**Outcomes:**
- Contribute to and move forward several individual initiatives in collaboration with City officials and volunteers, including but not limited to:
  - Coordinating the effort to accomplish a sustainability-oriented Plan of Conservation and Development
  - Adapting permitting to promote sustainable development
  - Promoting clean energy and renewables for local businesses
  - Facilitating invasive species education and management
  - Encouraging healthy and sustainable food networks
  - Developing strategies to recycle additional materials, compost organics, and reduce food waste
- Completed application for Sustainable CT Silver certification
- Completed roadmap for Sustainable CT certification in 2020

**Impact:**
The Sustainability Fellow’s work will set the stage for the City of Middletown to reduce its environmental impact and improve social and economic opportunities within the City. Middletown seeks to be a leader and a model for similar municipalities seeking solutions that fit their community. The Fellow’s work will manage and implement projects that lead Middletown to Silver Sustainable CT certification for 2019.

The fellow will expand skills in project management, project implementation, meeting organization, research, public speaking, writing of municipal assessments and documents and will gain a solid understanding of the inner workings of a small municipality and its many committees, and opportunities for interacting between municipalities. The Fellow will be able to report their leading role in gaining the City of Middletown Silver Sustainable CT certification for 2019.

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree in a relevant field (e.g., Environmental Science, Political Science, Urban Studies)
- Strong writing and public speaking skills
- Organizational skills
- Ability to manage multiple ongoing projects
- Comfort with cold-calling municipal officials and committee members and scheduling and leading regular meetings
- General technology skills (much work will be on project management platform Trello)

**Work Location:** Wesleyan University, 284 High St., Middletown, CT


**Mentors:**
Jen Kleindienst  jkleindienst@wesleyan.edu
- City of Middletown Clean Energy Task Force Chair
- Wesleyan University Sustainability Director
Michael Harris  Michael.Harris@middletownct.gov
- City of Middletown Energy Coordinator
Lynn Stoddard  stoddardl@easternct.edu
- Sustainable CT Executive Director
Jessica LeClair  leclairj@easternct.edu
- Sustainable CT Program Manager
- Sustainable CT Community Engagement & Outreach

**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](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows).

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