Sustainability Fellowship
Sustainable Development as an Alternative to Military Intervention
Peace Rising
Somerville, MA

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:
Peace Rising’s vision is the creation of a sustainable world, one in which human security, wellbeing, and climate change mitigation goals are all tackled together. To achieve this vision, we need to prevent cycles of climate change, environmental destruction, and conflict. Communities who are most vulnerable to climate induced conflict must receive the most support. Peace Rising works as part of a global network of institutions, organizations, and individuals who share this mission. Our contribution to this global community is identifying locations where climate impacts will most likely lead to escalating conflict—in time to prevent it. By identifying these precise subnational locations three to five years in advance, we create a window of opportunity for international aid efforts that are capable of tackling the root causes of environmental destruction and conflict.

While our research to date has been focused on identifying these hotspots globally (see http://peace-rising.org/research), we also plan to conduct broader policy analysis that can help shift global thinking around international security from a framework that centers on military intervention to one that prioritizes preventive sustainable development. Our summer Fellowship will lay the foundation for this policy analysis by determining how the costs and benefits of pre-emptive sustainable development interventions compare with those of post-conflict military interventions.
One of our big picture goals for the summer Fellowship is to expand global dialogue around sustainability to include the need for conflict prevention. We believe this project has the potential to influence debates in Washington, DC and at various international venues. We also hope to inspire a talented sustainability-oriented student by creating a unique opportunity to simultaneously address international social and environmental sustainability challenges. We believe that targeted environmental peacebuilding, supported by investment in sustainable development, can dramatically increase the quality of life for vulnerable populations around the world while also substantially decreasing the expenditures of the U.S. military. Thus, we are seeking a fellow who is excited and committed to producing impactful research that supports sustainable development as an alternative to military spending.

**Outcomes:**
Our goal for the summer fellowship is to produce a polished 15-20 page report that quantifies the benefits of targeted environmental peace building. We particularly want to highlight the positive benefits of interventions designed to stabilize and prevent conflict. These benefits may include saving lives, increasing economic development, reducing carbon emissions, and decreasing military costs incurred by responding to violent conflict. The report will likely focus on Syria and the Middle East, which have been our primary focus thus far. However, it may take a larger global lens if our global database and associated analysis have been adequately developed by June.

A successful report will include the following elements:

- A survey of sustainable development activities that demonstrate potential as targeted environmental peacebuilding interventions.
- A survey of military interventions that have taken place in response to conflicts that were triggered or amplified by climate impacts.
- A comparison of the costs of preventive sustainable development versus military intervention in locations experiencing environmentally linked conflicts.
- An estimation of benefits available in scenarios where sustainable development is chosen over military intervention.
- Specific recommendations for U.S. policy makers.
- Specific recommendations for international institutions such UNEP, IOM, UNFAO, and UNHCR.

**Impact:**
A UNH Sustainability Fellow would gain significant research and writing experience from this fellowship. We anticipate that the fellow will conduct several types of research, including literature reviews, statistical analyses, stakeholder interviews, and policy design. At the end of the summer, the fellow will be able to display and share a complete professional report that showcases their research abilities.

In addition to research skills, we anticipate that this fellowship will provide helpful training in communications and advocacy. We also expect that a fellow will gain significant knowledge in the areas of environmental peace building, international relations, and sustainable development. Depending on the fellow’s interests and prior
skills, the fellowship could also provide experience in coding, database analysis, and GIS mapping.

This project will be part of the larger Peace Rising mission to redirect military spending into preemptive environmental peacebuilding strategies that enable sustainable development. While we do not expect a single report to change the world, we do believe that the research conducted during the summer fellowship will substantially add to Peace Rising’s credibility in proposing an alternative approach to military responses as climate-induced conflict increases within the coming years. We also believe that this fellowship report can help spur increased conversation about the linkages between climate change, social unrest, violent conflict, sustainable development, and military expenditures, and potentially impact future policymaking.

Desired Qualifications:
While not specifically required, we anticipate that a masters’ student with significant prior research experience will be the best fit for this fellowship. We are looking for a fellow with strong writing, analysis, and project management skills who will be able to execute a substantial research project with limited daily oversight. We are also seeking candidates who strongly believe in the mission of Peace Rising, as a fellow with similar values and perspectives will be more likely to thrive in our workplace. Ideally a fellow will have prior knowledge of foreign policy and international processes; however, this is not a requirement for applying.

Work Location:
Peace Rising Inc.
18 Montrose Street,
Somerville, MA 02143

Mentors:
Amber Houghstow
Director and Founder,
Peace Rising
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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](mailto:megan.carney@unh.edu).