UNH Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Fellowship
Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Benchmarking
Town of Groton Public Works Department
Groton, Connecticut

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 during the summer, 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 Host Organization:
The Town of Groton is located in southeastern Connecticut, approximately equidistant between Boston and New York City between the Mystic and Thames Rivers, with a population of about 40,000. It consists of two political subdivisions, the City of Groton and Groton Long Point. The town is at significant risk due to sea-level rise as a result of climate change. While development of comprehensive environmental policy has limited, the Town completed a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory in 2009, an Energy Action Plan in 2013, and an update/evaluation of both in 2018. Groton is a member of the New England Municipal Sustainability Network and Sustainable CT.

About the Fellowship:
The Town of Groton updated its first Greenhouse Gas Inventory in the summer of 2018, assisted by a UNH Sustainability Fellow. As part of that effort, the Fellow also completed a review of the Town’s 2013 Energy Efficiency Action. Over the last couple of years, other significant projects have been completed, such as conversion of the high school and Public Works garage to natural gas for heating. The Town requires further assistance in evaluating the effectiveness of these and other Energy Conservation Measure (ECM) projects identified in the 2013 Action Plan.
As part of this project, the Sustainability Fellow will review and update the Town of Groton’s benchmarking of municipal facilities and associated GHG emissions inventory (completed in 2018). Completion of items identified in the Energy Action Plan will be reviewed for effectiveness. The Fellow will also assist the Town in reviewing energy use tracking procedures and recommend practical alternatives.

**Deliverables:**
- Updated benchmarking and GHG inventory for Town Municipal Buildings
- Report of Effectiveness of Town Energy Efficiency and Conservation Actions
- Recommended actions based on analyses of the above, current Town Municipal Energy Policy, and other best energy efficiency and conservation practices.

**Impact:**
This is an excellent opportunity for a Fellow to gain insight into the operation of a community with multiple utility providers and multiple political subdivisions. The Fellow will gain experience working with utilities, managing complex datasets, and completing an actual GHG inventory for a complex community, and will have the opportunity to contribute to the Town’s energy policy and future action plans.

From the Town’s perspective, completion of this project would again bring interest in sustainability to the forefront. It could help catalyze the Town’s efforts toward reduced emissions and sustainability more broadly in the future.

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Academic background in climate science, energy policy, environmental engineering, or a related field
- Familiarity or direct experience completing a municipal GHG inventory and/or analyzing energy usage
- Familiarity with EPA Portfolio Manager a plus
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Well-developed analytical skills, including data management and spreadsheets
- Interests in urban planning, municipal energy policy, climate mitigation
- Self-motivated and ability to work independently
- Willingness to move to a new location independently – this is the only Fellowship in southern New England this summer

**Work Location:** 134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, CT

**Mentor:** Rick Norris, Sustainability Manager

**Compensation:** $6500 stipend (taxable and distributed on a two-week payroll cycle over the course of the fellowship)
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 26-28, 2020**. (Travel scholarships may be available for students traveling from outside New England.)
- Work full-time on-site at the partner organization, **June 1 - August 14, 2020**
- Complete 400 hours of work, including work at host site as well as UNHSI activities, between May 26 – August 14, 2020.
- 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 10 and August 7**. (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 10 at [www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows).

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