Sustainability Fellowship
Keene Sustainable Energy Plan: Outreach and Education
City of Keene, NH

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 City of Keene (pop. 22,949) has been working over the past two decades to address climate change through a variety of measures to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency to the expected impacts of a changing climate. The City joined ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection campaign in 2000, adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2004, and was one of the first communities in the nation to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2007. In addition, the City incorporated its climate goals into the 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan and conducted greenhouse gas inventories for 1995, 2006-2008, and 2015. For more information about past sustainability initiatives, please see the City’s Sustainability webpage: https://ci.keene.nh.us/sustainability.

In January 2019, the Keene City Council adopted Resolution R-2018-36 (Sustainable Energy Resolution) setting the following goals:

1. That 100% of electricity consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by the year 2030, and
2. That 100% of thermal energy and energy used for transportation will come from renewable energy sources by the year 2050.

These goals apply to the entire community, not just municipal operations. Furthermore, the City Council made a commitment to develop a plan to achieve these goals by December of 2020.
### About the Fellowship:
Currently, City staff are working with the City’s Energy and Climate Committee and other community partners, including a local citizens’ group (Clean Energy Team), to conduct outreach and engagement as part of the process of developing an energy plan to reach the City’s renewable energy goals. This feedback will be used to inform the vision, goals, and strategies for the plan. In addition, the City has hired a consulting firm to prepare an electricity baseline and assist the City with developing strategies to meet the 2030 electricity goal. The City expects to have a rough draft of the plan ready by late spring or early summer of 2020.

The Fellowship will focus on education and outreach, including assistance with organizing various outreach events throughout the summer (community workshop, focus groups, neighborhood meetings, etc.) to gather feedback on proposed strategies as well as development of outreach and education materials for use both during and after plan development.

### Outcomes:
Intended outcomes of the Fellowship include the following:

- Increase and enhance understanding within the larger community around the different strategies the City could pursue to reach its energy goals;
- Build support among various community sectors / stakeholder groups (businesses, institutions, neighborhood groups, etc.) for the energy goals; and
- Improve the overall effectiveness of the planning process and the plan itself by obtaining buy-in from a broad array of community stakeholders.

Desired deliverables include a visual implementation roadmap to accompany the energy plan, presentation slides & other supporting materials for outreach events, an enhanced project webpage (resources, FAQ page, success stories, videos, etc.), and other outreach and education materials that could be used both during and after the fellowship.

### Impact:
This project is critical to the success of the City’s energy plan project. The sustainability fellow would provide significant and immediate value to the City by helping to build support for the energy goals, improving the strategies within the plan by incorporating feedback from the community, increasing public trust in the planning process, and helping to foster partnerships with key stakeholders who can help with implementation of the plan’s strategies. Ultimately, this outreach work supports progress toward the goals outlined by the Energy Resolution, and will contribute to significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the Keene community.

As a result of this project, the fellow will gain a better understanding of local government, the planning process, and public engagement strategies. In addition, the fellow can expect to gain or improve the following skills: meeting facilitation, public speaking, graphic design, writing, and website development. The Fellow will also create a variety of outreach materials to add to their portfolio.


**Desired Qualifications:**

- High level of comfort with public speaking and interacting with members of the public who come from a variety of different backgrounds
- Experience with meeting facilitation and public presentations
- Ability to create graphics and outreach materials to communicate technical information to a public audience
- Strong writing, communication, graphics, design, and project management skills
- Knowledge / understanding of energy efficiency and renewable energy as it relates to the residential and commercial sectors
- Bachelor’s degree and experience working in a related field (e.g. local government, sustainability, renewable energy or energy efficiency, marketing & communications, etc.)

**Work Location:** City of Keene Community Development Department, 4th Floor City Hall, 3 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

**Mentors:** Mari Brunner, Planner and Rhett Lamb, Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director.

**Compensation:** $6500
(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.**

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