Sustainability Fellowship
Municipal Climate Action Plan
Energy Efficiency Committee, Town of Kennebunk
Kennebunk, Maine

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 Kennebunk was founded in 1820, the same year that Maine became a State. A coastal community of just over 10,000 residents as of the 2010 census, 40% of the Town’s tax-based revenue comes from the small, southeast section of the Town that borders the Atlantic Ocean. Thus, sea level rise, storm surge, and stronger and longer lasting winds and storms all have the potential of taking a heavy toll on the entire Town.

Kennebunk is governed by an elected Select Board responsible for hiring a Town Manager. Together they establish policies and procedures and create a vision for the Town with the approval of the residents. The Energy Efficiency Committee (EEC) was established in 2000 to be responsible for recommendations and education in the areas of energy efficiency and trash, recycling, composting and waste management. The Committee has worked to elevate issues surrounding climate change in recent years and the Town joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCOM, https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/) in 2018. Work on the GCOM commitments began in 2019 through partnership with The New School, an alternative high school located in Kennebunk, to complete the Town’s first Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory. The Town is also in collaboration with adjacent communities to hire a regional sustainability and coastal resiliency coordinator and to develop coastal
resiliency plans. Part of the regional coordinator’s role will be to work with communities on their GCOM objectives to ensure they are meeting their obligations.

About the Fellowship:
The Sustainability Fellow will focus on advancing the GCOM initiatives. Students from The New School will have spent two semesters working on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory. It is anticipated that the majority of the data will have been collected and entered in the ICLEI ClearPath program prior to the Fellow’s arrival. The Fellow will be responsible for reviewing and evaluating the inventory to ensure that it is complete and an appropriate basis for decision-making for the Town, and making any necessary adjustments or additions. Subsequently, the Fellow will analyze the inventory and develop recommendations for actions the Town can take to reduce its carbon footprint. The Fellow will also serve to coordinate efforts among the New School, the EEC, the regional sustainability and coastal resiliency coordinator, and others regarding the GCOM data and status.

Outcomes:
1) A completed greenhouse gas inventory, based on the initial work completed by the New School.
2) A summary report identifying emissions sources, and recommended actions for reducing emissions.

Impact:
The Fellow will gain experience working in a municipality and communicating with a diverse group of stakeholders to achieve successful program outcomes. The Fellow will have the opportunity to play a significant role in how the Town approaches their emissions reduction goals.

There are at least 10 communities along the coast of Maine that have either signed onto or adopted the principles of the GCOM. The process created by the Fellow for analyzing, evaluating and recommending specific actions may serve as a model for other Maine communities. With a blueprint for evaluating and prioritizing actions, residents will be able to credibly advocate for implementation.

Desired Qualifications:
- Educational background in Environmental Sciences, Political Science, Public Policy, Sustainability, Management, or a related field
- Knowledge of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs
- Detail-oriented, self-motivated, effective verbal and written communication skills, strong problem-solving skills, passion for the subject
- Well-developed computer and data analysis skills, advanced Excel skills
- Knowledge of cost-benefit analysis
- Knowledge of the Global Covenant of Mayors and/or ICLEI helpful
- Research experience

Work Location:
Kennebunk Town Hall, 1 Summer St, & The New School, York St, Kennebunk, Maine
**Mentors:**
Lead Mentor – Maggie Bartenhagen, Vice Chair of the Energy Efficiency Committee  
Co-Mentor – Sharon A. Staz, Chair of the Energy Efficiency Committee

**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.