UNH Sustainability Institute

Sustainability Fellowship
Centering Climate Change Resilience in the NH Food System
NH Food Alliance & Vital Communities
Durham, 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 NH Food Alliance aims to influence and shape the future of our emerging local food economy to build a food system that works for all in New Hampshire: people, businesses, communities, and the environment. The Alliance collaborates as a network to: Amplify and connect the work of organizations and coalitions across the state; exchange information and resources across NH regions and create space for innovations to emerge; work in an aligned way on broadly shared goals and measurable action priorities; keep a focus on the whole state and inter-connections across issues (e.g., find synergy, pursue win-win solutions); and organize a diverse and powerful community voice.

About the Fellowship:
The NH Food Alliance formed as a food system network in 2013. Since then, we have been working to address farm, fish, and food enterprise viability across sectors, across the state. Primarily, we do this through the work of Action Teams focused on Fisheries, Land Resources, Food Access, Education, and Market Development. In 2018, the network decided to include a focus on policy, to shape the discussion at the legislative level. As part of the policy work, we are collaborating with experts to develop a climate change adaptation and resilience policy brief. However, network partners want to see a bigger commitment from the Food Alliance addressing climate change.
In 2019, the network committed to center climate change adaptation and resilience in our food system work, beginning a comprehensive campaign in 2020. Our goals for the Sustainability Fellow are to increase the visibility of the climate crisis and adaptive strategies being implemented within New Hampshire’s food system work, raise awareness around how the climate crisis will likely impact our food system, and inform how the network responds.

**Outcomes:**
We are aiming for two main outcomes from this work: (1) The Food Alliance is equipped to include stories of climate change adaptation and resilience within the New Hampshire food system, and (2) the network develops a strategy for addressing the climate crisis in our collaborative food system work.

Specific deliverables will include developing *storytelling materials* and forming a *climate change resilience working group*. The Fellow will review recent data collected by UVM researchers (New England Adaptation Survey) on how New Hampshire farmers are adapting to climate change and create storytelling materials for the NH Food Alliance website, social media, presentations, and printed copy. Interviews with farmers and technical assistance providers will be conducted as necessary to support storytelling. Based on the Fellow’s specific skills and interest, storytelling materials might include blog posts, Instagram posts, editorials, press releases, website content, infographics, PowerPoint slides. The working group will be developed with the help of network partners and Policy Team members, and include tasks such as interviewing potential group members, inviting individuals to join the group, and participating in group meetings.

**Impact:**
The Fellow will gain experience with synthesizing data into relatable (and understandable) stories. All of the storytelling materials developed by the Fellow can be used in a professional portfolio.

All six New England states are engaged with food system work (ME Food Strategy, RI Food Policy Council, CT Food Alliance, VT Farm to Plate, MA Food System Collaborative). Additionally, other states across the US are involved in similar work. Work done by the Fellow will be shared with the NE Food System Community of Practice as an example of how to include the climate crisis in food system work, and could be a model for other states as well. Ultimately, the goal is for all of this work collectively to contribute to the process of creating a climate resilient food system in New England.

**Desired Qualifications:**
- Academic background in sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, environmental science/studies, or a related field
- Familiarity with the New Hampshire food system a plus
- Familiarity with quantitative data analyses
- Excellent writing and interviewing skills
- Experience creating outreach materials for a broad audience
• Highly organized and independent
• Interests in sustainable food systems, climate change resilience, community development, environmental policy

Work Location: UNH Durham Campus, 107 Nesmith Hall, Durham, NH

Mentors: Erin Hale & Jennifer Wilhelm, Research & Network Coordinators NH Food Alliance

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.