



The Sustainability  
Institute

## Sustainability Fellowship **Food Solutions New England (FSNE): Creating the Business Model for a New Food Economy – Durham, NH**

Food Solutions New England (FSNE) is a multi-stakeholder, collaborative effort working to promote a sustainable regional food system, building toward a vision of producing 50% of the region's food locally by 2060 (see [www.foodsolutionsne.org](http://www.foodsolutionsne.org)). This presents a number of challenges and questions, not the least of which is economic: how do we scale up food production in New England to a level that allows affordable access for all, without the externalities that plague the current industrial food system. As one key member of the FSNE team put it, “how do we write a new narrative if there is really no escaping ‘get big or get out’?”

FSNE is convening a working group to explore this question, and seeks a Sustainability Fellow to assist in their research and analysis. Through interviews, surveys, meetings and desk research, this Fellow will connect with those who are working to further build a new food economy that offers a viable alternative to the conventional industrial system—particularly, one that promotes more social equity and environmental justice, increases community cohesion and social capital, and enhances resilience.

Specific duties of the fellow, with the oversight and mentorship of the FSNE working group, will include:

- Research “best practice” examples (of production, supply, purchasing or other aspects of the food system) that illustrate possibilities for a viable new economic model
- Research recent work on “impact investing” focused on food systems, and identify further opportunities for scaling up that sort of investment
- Help organize sessions for a summer summit in Buffalo NY, focusing on these issues
- Analyze the major barriers—be they policy, data, social, behavioral—to creating a parallel food economy. Draft a white paper which presents recommendations for moving forward to build the new food economy in the short, medium and long-terms. This should include recommendations for dealing with the different existing policy and market conditions in each state, as well as unanswered questions and suggestions for further research.

This is a multi-disciplinary project that involves agriculture, policy, environmental justice, economic development, and communications. The chosen Fellow will gain a thorough and nuanced understanding of the current state of the conventional and emerging food economies in New England; will have tangible research and outreach materials to add to his or her academic and/or professional portfolio; and will have opportunities to widen her or his professional networks through working closely with food system experts and leaders from around New England.

**Location:** UNH Sustainability Institute, Durham, NH

**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June 6-August 19, 2016

**Compensation:** \$6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program: business, sustainability, policy, agriculture, environmental economics, public administration, law, journalism, English, communications, or related field
- Demonstrated understanding of business and economic models and systems
- Demonstrated proficiency in critical thinking, and qualitative analysis
- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills
- Interviewing experience desirable
- Familiarity with food policy and sustainable food systems helpful
- Creativity, attention to detail, and a high level of initiative

**UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:**

Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

**Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation**

This fellow will receive supervision from a committee of regional and national experts in sustainable food systems, as well as mentoring and professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in three MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, June 1-3rd. Lodging and food are provided; Fellows are responsible for any associated travel costs.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners (can be done remotely).
- A summative evaluation and feedback session at the end of their placement.

**Apply by February 23<sup>rd</sup>** at <https://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows>