



## Sustainability Fellowship

### **Building the New Economy: Research to Examine and Reduce Barriers to “Impact Investment” Opportunities – Durham, NH**

Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation needs, though unquestionably the only sane economic option in the long run, will have a huge “up-front” price tag. In September 2015, the International Energy Agency estimated that, for the energy sector alone, the global investment required to address climate mitigation and adaptation needs will be \$ 13.5 trillion between now and 2030. The combined resources of the world’s governments are insufficient; private capital is required. At the same time, climate risk poses a significant threat to individual and institutional investments and to the global economy as a whole.

One answer to these complementary challenges is impact investing. The industry has been growing very rapidly over the past decade, yet large there remain significant roadblocks to making these sorts of investment (and, conversely, funding) opportunities as widely and easily accessible as are more “conventional” ones.

UNHSI seeks a Sustainability Fellow to research the current impact investment efforts that focus on climate change in New England, the scales at which they are working, and potential models for, and barriers to, expanding them. Using one or two local institutions and organizations as test cases, the Fellow will investigate potential models for channeling more local impact investments into these organizations’ climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Specific tasks will likely include desk research, interviews and/or surveys, analysis, writing and gathering feedback.

The final deliverable will be a report that has been well-vetted by relevant experts and can be shared widely with stakeholder organizations across the region, to help inform action moving forward.

This is a multi-disciplinary project that involves economics and finance, law, public administration, ethics and social justice, and communications. The chosen Fellow will gain a thorough and nuanced understanding of the current state of the “impact investing” industry; will have tangible research and outreach materials to add to his or her academic and/or professional portfolio; will have opportunities to widen her or his professional networks; and will be helping contribute to the field of sustainable investing.

**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: finance, economics, public administration, law, or a related field
- Demonstrated analytical proficiency
- Experience with quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Exceptional communication skills
- 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 local and national experts in finance, philanthropy and climate change, 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>