



Sustainability Fellowship Reducing Climate Vulnerability for Manufactured Housing Residents - Seacoast, NH

Images from news reports after severe storms often highlight destruction that has occurred in manufactured home parks. Manufactured home parks are widely observable in communities within the coastal counties of New Hampshire, and climate projections for coastal New Hampshire indicate more extreme precipitation events in coming decades. What will this mean for residents of these communities—who are disproportionately lower-income and older than the average residents of other housing types, and as such may be less equipped to deal with climate impacts?

NH's Sea Grant Extension office seeks a UNH SI Sustainability Fellow to help answer those questions. The Fellow will conduct research to look at the vulnerability to severe storms of manufactured home parks and their residents within particular communities of New Hampshire's coastal counties. Where vulnerabilities are discovered, the information will be shared with community leaders so that they can prepare to work closely with emergency management, social service providers and others on disaster preparedness for these populations. Where strengths are discovered, community leaders may be able to utilize neighbor-to-neighbor networks and existing social structures to build disaster preparedness and community resilience. This project includes both research and outreach activities and outcomes aimed at improving local climate preparedness and resiliency.

Specific tasks may include:

- Accessing, analyzing and synthesizing data contained in US Census, floodplain maps, municipal tax maps and other data sources.
- Exploring what social structures and resources manufactured home park residents and leaders already identify and utilize for disaster preparedness.
- Sharing findings with relevant stakeholders and municipal leaders, through a report and/or presentation/s.

This will be an opportunity for the chosen Fellow to gain hands-on experience in trans-disciplinary work for addressing complex questions of climate resilience; improve research skills across; and improve her/his communication and critical thinking skills; build professional networks by working with municipal officials, community leaders, scientists, agency staff, non-profits, outreach professionals (and their national networks), housing stakeholders and project participants.

Location: 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.
- Ability to interpret research results from many different disciplines – hydrology, demography, management and policy, etc.
- High level of comfort interpreting map data, including some capability of using geographic information systems and conducting GIS analysis.
- Ability to conduct research - synthesizing, analyzing and integrating data.
- Ability to communicate findings succinctly and meaningfully for a variety of audiences, as well as ability to communicate very well during the execution of the project using a variety of modes with various audiences.
- Ability to work well both independently and collaboratively.
- Enthusiasm and respect for working across disciplines with a broad spectrum of people.

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 day-to-day supervision from Julia Peterson and Chris Keeley of NH's Sea Grant Extension, and 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 23rd at <https://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows>