Sustainability Fellowship
New England Municipal Sustainability Network -
Communications and Outreach
UNH Sustainability Institute
Durham, NH

Summary:
As climate change leadership on a national level from the United States has faltered, efforts on the part of local and state governments have become more important than ever in preserving a stable climate for future generations. The New England Municipal Sustainability (NEMS) Network, formed in December 2010, comprises sustainability staff from communities across New England, each undertaking innovative climate change initiatives and providing sustainability-oriented leadership within their communities; they gather regularly to share resources and best practices. After seven years of building relationships and supporting each other in their work, the Network is now at a critical juncture where it sees real opportunity to exponentially increase its impact—but in order to do so it needs assistance in articulating the possibilities, current status and vision for the future.

The University of New Hampshire’s Sustainability Institute (UNHSI) serves as a “backbone organization” to the NEMS network, and is seeking to support it in building its capacity to move to a new level of impact and effectiveness through enhanced collaboration.

This Fellow will work with UNHSI staff to support NEMS progress as a collective entity via activities targeted at expanding opportunities for collaboration, building additional cohesion, and increasing the network’s visibility in order to help direct more resources to its critical work in New England. In short, this Fellow will serve a critical role in the creation of a compelling package of materials and activities focused on iterating the status, goals and impact of the NEMS Network as a collective entity.

Deliverables:
The Fellow is expected to produce a variety of reports and presentations regarding this work, and will work closely with UNHSI staff, the NEMSN Steering Committee, and other Fellows as appropriate. Specific activities will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Develop materials that illustrate the status, goals and collective impact of the NEMS Network.
• Create materials for NEMS use in marketing, fundraising and other visibility-related efforts.
• Develop and maintain the existing database of NEMS activities and individual municipality statuses on sustainability-related items.
• Assist NEMS Network members with efforts related to complying with the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCM; formally known as the Compact of Mayors), including completing and maintaining an inventory of NEMSN community actions relevant to compliance with GCM (e.g., mitigation, adaptation and achieving political commitments).
• Help to assess the action steps needed to “close the gap” for NEMSN members to meet GCM commitment and forming subsequent recommendations.
• Assist with integrating existing case studies of NEMSN activities into future NEMSN efforts.
• Work with NEMSN members to develop profiles, analyses and presentations that identify community characteristics and demographics, successful sustainability practices, and both opportunities and barriers commonly encountered.

Impact:
This Fellow will serve a crucial role in helping to elevate the collective impact of the NEMS Network. This has the potential to dramatically accelerate and heighten the impact of local climate change leadership initiatives across New England, as well as to strengthen the role of the NEMS Network as a model for other subnational networked efforts in climate and other sustainability-related actions.

Location: UNH Sustainability Institute, Durham, NH
Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 4-August 17, 2018
Compensation: $6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:
• Candidates with sustainability-related backgrounds, coursework and/or other experiences will be given preference, but these are not mandatory for consideration.
• The Fellow should ideally have a working knowledge of, and deep interest in, sustainability and climate-related policy issues, as well as in the development and evolution of networks as a central aspect of furthering a sustainable society
• Interview/independent research skills
• Ability to create concise materials relating findings
• Technical facility with Excel or the equivalent.

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 Dr. Dove Levine (UNHSI Research Fellow and UNH Graduate School Assistant Dean), as well as mentoring and extensive professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in the following MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 29-31. Lodging and meals will be provided. A limited number of travel scholarships will be available to assist with transportation to Durham.
- Weekly webinars during the course of the 10-week fellowship.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, July 12. Travel support provided.
- Final project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, August 10. Travel support provided.

Apply by February 14 at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows.