

Sustainability Fellowship  
**Climate Vulnerability and Waste Management**  
**- Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

The Portsmouth Sustainability Fellow will work on two distinct projects to support the City of Portsmouth, NH's climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

In the climate mitigation project, the Fellow will design and carry out, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, a study to establish an accurate baseline which 1) measures how effective residents are at recycling, 2) determines where improvements can be made and 3) identifies opportunities for improvements in outreach and communications. The study should also determine rates of contamination in the recycling stream, helping City staff to better understand the sources so that communications can be tailored in outreach materials to better improve our landfill diversion rates.



The climate adaptation project will involve assisting City staff with hiring a contractor, coordinating a local advisory committee, refining a climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies. A recent study predicted that the City is likely to see between 1 to 1.7 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and between 2.5 and 6.3 feet of sea level rise by 2100. Portsmouth's historic district is one of the areas most threatened, and the City has received a grant from the state Division of Historical Resources to develop a proactive plan for addressing climate impacts. This will be a long-term project that will commence during the Fellow's time at the City but it will not be completed during the summer. The Fellow will be engaged at the outset, and help create a strong foundation for moving forward effectively.

**Anticipated Deliverables:**

- Recycling study design, implementation
- Recycling report and other outreach materials
- Assist as needed with project coordination, research and outreach on the climate adaptation work

**Location:** City Hall; Portsmouth, NH

**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June 1-August 14, 2015

**Compensation:** \$6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program.
- Experience and comfort in quantitative research design
- Familiarity with municipal government
- Ability to work effectively with a diverse set of City employees, from solid waste laborers to municipal department heads
- Willingness to work directly with solid waste and “get your hands dirty” auditing contents of MSW and recycling streams, with assistance from the Department of Public Works, as part of the recycling analysis
- No specific degree is required but a good understanding of how to design a study and produce a report at the completion of that study will be essential
- Experience coordinating and running meetings helpful
- Skill in designing accessible, compelling outreach materials and putting together presentations
- Critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills are essential

This fellowship is an opportunity for a highly skilled and motivated student to experience first-hand the implementation of community sustainability goals, in two highly relevant and growing professional arenas: climate change adaptation, and community recycling. Working at the local level, a fellow will see how change is most effectively implemented on the ground. The recycling study design and findings will be a discrete product that will not only be presented to Portsmouth officials and stakeholders, but could be presented to other communities for possible replication in other cities beyond Portsmouth, and the adaptation effort is a very important project and on the forefront of resiliency planning.

**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 Peter Britz, Portsmouth Sustainability Coordinator and Environmental Planner, with regular input and mentoring from UNHSI Fellowship program staff as well.

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>