



The Sustainability  
Institute

## Sustainability Fellowship Private Sector Engagement to Drive Climate Action – Providence, RI

The City of Providence is seeking a UNHSI Sustainability Fellow to further engagement with the private sector in order to help the city achieve its sustainability and climate goals. The City would like to explore creating a program for businesses to set goals and report on key sustainability metrics. Such a program could be modeled off of other cities who have launched similar initiatives such as [New York City's Carbon Challenge](#), [Boston's Carbon Cup](#), [Envision Charlotte](#), and the [Smarter D.C. Challenge](#).

Public-private partnerships (or PPPs) are critical to achieving climate and sustainability goals. The Providence Sustainability Roundtable (PSR) is an informal group of large businesses and institutions in Providence, including Brown, RISD, Hasbro, Lifespan, and others that meets quarterly to share sustainability best practices. With exposure to both private and public sector sustainability efforts, the Fellow will gain a wide perspective on urban sustainability systems and planning. The Fellow will also benefit from exposure to an extensive professional network through the Providence Sustainability Roundtable and an understanding of the mechanics and importance of public-private partnerships.

The City must also continue to lead by example. While Providence has made great progress implementing energy efficiency measures, there is still more work to do in terms of employee engagement. We currently track energy and water consumption, but we are lacking data on waste and transportation. The Fellow will help establish these baselines, and then work with the PSR to assess their interests in sharing similar data and setting collective goals.

The project goals and anticipated outcomes will be the following:

- Identify the most relevant and accessible high-level metrics for use in sustainability performance both for tracking the City and PSR members
- Create a slide deck for employee engagement training on sustainability
- Pilot that training with City employees and on PSR member organizations
- Research other cities' business engagement programs and create case studies
- Build upon existing work to create "SustainPVD" guides for various business sectors, such as hotels, restaurants, or others.

**Location:** Providence, RI, Office of Sustainability

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

**Compensation:** \$6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program (any discipline)
- Experience communicating about climate change to foster sustainable behavior change
- Basic graphic design skills (i.e. the ability to put together professional PowerPoint or other presentations, and other basic outreach materials). The fellow will also be able to work with the City's graphic designer to create materials.
- Research skills to develop and execute survey(s)
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a willingness to reach out to and work directly with stakeholders
- Experience conducting outreach and/or facilitating stakeholder engagement processes

**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 Leah Bamberger, Providence Sustainability Manager. He or she will also receive 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>