



## Sustainability Fellowship Climate Adaptation and Public Health - NH

Climate and public health has been part of the climate change conversation in New Hampshire since 2009, when the issue became part of the NH Climate Change Action Plan submitted to Governor Lynch. A 2010 strategic plan on climate and public health was updated at the end of 2015. Now, with support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, New Hampshire's Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) is supporting the development of regional climate adaptation plans.

Two Regional Public Health Networks in NH have finished drafting their plans, and are now gearing up to implement them. In a 2015 survey conducted for DPHS, respondents agreed that "partnering with community groups and organizations" and "raising awareness through publicity and a behavior change campaign" should be top programming strategies. Also, that "mobilizing partnerships", "informing and educating people" and "developing plans and policies for the individual and community level" should be a major focus.

Accordingly, a UNHSI Public Health and Climate Fellow will assist one or both of these networks with focused, strategic outreach to help raise awareness, drive behavior change, and catalyze collaboration in the implementation of these plans. This will involve developing 1-way (e.g., brochures or fact sheets, social media campaigns, etc.) communication pieces, and organizing 2-way (small meetings, tabling speaking to civic group or public health advisory council) communications efforts.

By the end of the summer, the Fellow will have developed a robust understanding of the resource needs and priorities of public health professionals and the challenges they face; gained insight into how local organizations succeed (or do not) in information campaigns; and built relationships with the NH public health community. He or she will also have developed a portfolio of communications strategies (and specific materials) to support implementation of the regional climate and health adaptation plan and intervention strategies, which other networks in the state and region may be able to adapt and utilize in the future.

**Location:** TBD, NH – likely the Upper Valley or Lakes region

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

**Compensation:** \$6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program: ideally in outreach and communications, public relations, public health, public policy or administration, regional planning, or a related field.
- Extremely strong written and oral communications skills
- Demonstrated experience in public relations preferred (and, ideally, membership in the Public Relations Student Association)
- Experience working with regional planning agencies helpful
- Experience in community organizing helpful

**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 Roger Stephenson, Senior Outreach Consultant for the Union of Concerned Scientists, and principal of Stephenson Strategic Communications, 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 21<sup>st</sup> at <http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climatefellows>