



# UNH Sustainability Institute

## Sustainability Fellowship Campus and Community Climate Adaptation Durham, NH

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is a recognized leader on climate change. UNH's climate action plan (see <http://sustainableunh.unh.edu/wildcap>), known as "WildCAP" commits the University to achieving a 50% reduction in GHG emissions, from a 2001 baseline, by 2020, and it ultimately aims for institutional carbon neutrality. The most recent update to WildCAP pinpoints climate adaptation planning as a vital next step for the campus. In addition, UNH is a signatory to the national "Climate Commitment" for colleges and universities (see <http://secondnature.org/climate-guidance/the-commitments/>), and as a signatory is obligated to develop and submit an assessment of climate change vulnerability and a plan for campus climate resilience. This planning not only must include the campus "proper," but the surrounding community—the town of Durham, NH, and the greater Seacoast area, for which UNH is an economic and cultural engine.

For all of these reasons, climate adaptation and resilience planning is a focus for the University's Energy Task Force (ETF) in 2017. The Campus and Community Climate Adaptation Fellow will assist the ETF in this work. Specifically, the Fellow will work with ETF members and others from across and beyond campus to do the following:

- Refine the results of initial vulnerability and resilience assessments and visioning exercises being undertaken by the ETF during spring 2017
- Develop a preliminary analysis of specific potential adaptation strategies, in terms of potential feasibility, urgency and scale of impact. This is likely to involve research on the experiences of other institutions, communities or businesses that have already embarked on similar strategies; solicitation of expertise from UNH faculty and staff, outside technology providers, local officials, and community members; as well as creative work around solutions that may be very innovative and have not already been implemented elsewhere.
- Develop communications materials to encapsulate the results of the assessments, adaptation strategy planning and analysis, and visioning session/s.

Since very few campus/community climate resilience plans exist currently, and since this is UNH's first effort around climate adaptation planning, this is an opportunity for a highly skilled and motivated student to create, collaboratively with institutional leaders, a roadmap both for enhancing climate resilience in the NH Seacoast *and* for how other institutions and communities can undertake this type of analysis and planning.

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident and grow in severity, demand for professional expertise around institutional and community climate resilience is growing—making this a very relevant experience for work in both the public and private sectors. The Fellow will also have opportunities to build relationships with campus and community leaders, and connect with members of the Sustainability Fellows alumni network, many of whom are emerging leaders in the sustainability field.

**Location:** Durham, NH

**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June 5-August 18, 2017

**Compensation:** \$6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Graduate student or undergraduate (junior or senior) studying a related field (Sustainability, Community Planning, etc.)
- Basic familiarity with climate change impacts
- Previous experience and/or basic familiarity with campus or community infrastructure systems (e.g. energy, transportation, water, waste) beneficial
- Familiarity with systems thinking and, preferably experience applying it to “real-world” problem solving
- Exceptional communication (verbal and written) and relational skills
- Demonstrated ability to work well independently and with a team
- Experience with Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, Powerpoint.
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**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 members of the UNH Energy Task Force (see <http://sustainableunh.unh.edu/etf>), 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, May 31<sup>st</sup>- June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>** at [www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows)