Sustainability Fellowship

Promoting better health through climate change mitigation

Vermont Department of Health
Burlington, Vermont

Summary:
The Vermont Climate & Health Program, funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), focuses on identifying climate-related health risks in Vermont, developing adaptation strategies to reduce climate-related health risks, and promoting climate change mitigation strategies that provide health co-benefits. We have proposed to offer support to state, local, and non-governmental partners to evaluate and communicate about potential health benefits of climate change mitigation strategies. Our objective is to attract additional support and funding for climate change mitigation actions while also improving health for Vermonters.

To accomplish this objective, we first need to develop a comprehensive database of evidence linking climate change mitigation actions to health benefits, and models or other procedures for estimating the health benefits of mitigation actions. The findings will be summarized in brief, 2-page handouts, and supported by more detailed documentation of evidence and estimation methods linking the mitigation strategies to health benefits. Anticipated mitigation topics include active transportation, building weatherization and energy efficiency improvements, power generation and vehicle fuels, and urban forestry or other nature-based solutions.

Deliverables:
- 2-page summary of health benefits for each mitigation action, including potential health care cost savings, local examples where relevant actions have been taken, and potential funding mechanisms
- Technical documentation of health benefits for each mitigation action, including published evidence, case studies, assessment methods, and other relevant materials
- Complete one case study, applying the evidence and assessment methods to a proposed or potential climate change mitigation action in Vermont
- Presentation summarizing the health benefits and assessment methods, and findings from applied case study

Impact:
This project has the potential to expand the funding and implementation of climate change mitigation strategies in Vermont while also helping to promote better health for Vermonters through improved indoor and outdoor air quality, increased active living, and
better environmental health. This project can also serve as a model for other cities and states, including the other 17 Climate & Health Programs funded by the CDC.

**Location:** Vermont Department of Health, Burlington, VT  
**Time commitment:** 40 hours per week, June 4-August 17, 2018  
**Compensation:** $6000 stipend

**Desired Qualifications:**
- An academic background in public health, environmental science, community planning, public policy, energy systems, or related field
- Interests in health promotion and climate change mitigation
- Experience with conducting research, including knowledge of research databases, understanding of research design and methods, and the ability to interpret statistical findings and limitations
- Strong quantitative and analytical ability
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with graphic design experience a plus
- Ability to work well independently and collaborate with a small team of health professionals and external partners

**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 Jared Ulmer, Climate & Health Program Coordinator with Vermont Department of Health, 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](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows).