



Master's student position in Solar Energy Transitions at Dalhousie University

Principle Investigator:

Dr. Chad Walker, Assistant Professor, Director of The CLEAN Lab
School of Planning, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada

*Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.
We are all Treaty people.*

Dr. Chad Walker and the [Climate and Local Energy Action Network \(CLEAN\) Lab](#) are now seeking applications for a funded thesis-based student position at Dalhousie University to study questions of a just, inclusive, and equitable solar energy future in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The preferred start date is September 1st, 2023, though alternative dates, including January 1st, 2024, will be considered.

The student will enroll in one of two programs at Dalhousie University:

1. [Master of Planning Studies](#) (MPS)
2. [Master of Environmental Studies](#) (MES)

The position will provide the student with at least \$43,000 (CAD) over two years. Students will also be provided with financial support to attend conferences. Additional support may be available, including through School-level Teaching Assistantships, graduate scholarships, and future CLEAN Lab funding.

The Research Project

Students would be joining a project entitled *[Em]powering Communities: A Review of Participation, Inclusivity, Equity, and Support within Solar City*. The project will assess the Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) flagship renewable energy program, Solar City. Solar City is a program which offers "property owners in the municipality access to innovative solar energy options" (HRM, 2023).

Centered around themes of Participation, Inclusivity, Equity, and Support (i.e., PIES), students will review the program and collect new mixed methods data to assess these outcomes. To ensure the project benefits and is representative of the diversity within the Municipality, this study will be conducted in partnership with community groups from the Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities. Our aim is to provide the HRM with an independent analysis and policy recommendations that identify pathways toward a just

solar energy transition in the HRM. This project's specific deliverables would be wide-ranging including policy reports, conference and community presentations/workshops, public-facing media, and academic journal articles. Dr. Walker and his CLEAN Lab team are researchers committed to generating impact in academia, in public policy, and most importantly, in the communities they work with.

Want to apply?

With the subject line 'Just Solar Energy Position', reach out to Dr. Chad Walker via email (chad.walker@dal.ca) with two documents attached:

1. A CV outlining your academic and professional qualifications and experiences
2. A brief cover letter (500 words max) summarizing what makes you a great fit for a position, including your broader interest in this research project

Please indicate in your email whether you are interested in either a Planning (MPS) or Environmental Studies (MES) position. Those chosen for an interview will be notified within four weeks of their application.

Preferred Qualifications

- Undergraduate degree in environmental studies, planning, geography, political science, sociology, environmental engineering, or related discipline
- Strong interest in studying and advancing knowledge relating to climate change, renewable energy transitions and intersecting issues of justice, participation, inclusivity, equity, and support
- Proficiency in English, including writing
- Experience with and/or strong interest in community-based research
- Experience and/or strong interest in the research process (including literature reviews, question formulation, data collection, and data analysis)
- Knowledge of qualitative and/or quantitative data collection and analysis
- A strong commitment to upholding pillars of equity, diversity, and inclusion

Dalhousie University (see more [here](#))

Located in Nova Scotia, Canada (Mi'kma'ki) our broad range of academic programs attract and retain a diverse mix of incredible students, scholars, researchers, and staff who work together with interdisciplinary perspectives and a focus on service. As Atlantic Canada's primary research-intensive university and a member of the U15 Group of Canadian Universities, our research and innovation includes world-leading researchers working in labs, studios, and in the field. Building on our legacy of ground-breaking research and outstanding scholarship, we are focused on providing a unique, interactive, and collaborative environment that supports all our students, instructors, researchers, and staff to achieve excellence.