

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Climate and Natural Environment Funding & Investment Manager
<b>MANAGED BY:</b>	Senior Environment Manager - Energy
<b>GRADE:</b>	11

### BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a Climate and Natural Environment Funding & Investment Manager to join the Environment team.

This is an exciting time to join the West of England Combined Authority. In the last year nearly three quarters of a billion pounds of new investment has been secured for the region. New plans are in place to deliver on Mayoral priorities to improve transport, skills and housing for our residents, take decisive action to tackle the climate emergency, and to support communities facing the cost-of-living crisis. There is a relentless focus on delivery to put the West of England on the map for regional, national and global success.

Led by the regional Metro Mayor, the West of England Combined Authority brings together three local councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and works with communities, other public services, and industry to deliver for the region.

You will be a key player in leading our response to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. We are delivering on the West of England's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan and making the West of England the bee and pollinator capital of the U.K. as we push to reach our very ambitious net zero targets by 2030.

Come and help shape the future of the West of England, a place so many people are proud to call home.

### THE ROLE

Reporting to the Senior Environment Manager (Energy), the post-holder will be the first point of contact and lead engagement with financial decision makers and funders to stimulate investment in projects addressing the climate and ecological emergencies.

The Funding & Investment Manager will work with organisations across all sectors to develop investment proposals, identify and secure external development and capital funding, and work with other members of the team to define an offer of support to enable selected projects to bring forward sound business cases for investment.

The post holder will apply well developed commercial appraisal methods to the

assessment of projects and schemes, developing bespoke approaches where necessary.

The post holder will be required to build financial business cases, research the sustainable energy, climate change and natural environment investment markets, identify and engage investors and prepare presentations and proposals to secure investment in projects. The Funding & Investment Manager will work with local and national stakeholders across a variety of projects relevant to the ambitions of the Combined Authority's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan.

In addition to sound financial analysis and project investment experience, the post-holder will have the communication and negotiation skills to develop effective relationships with key funding stakeholders and the wider investment community. The post-holder would benefit with familiarity or experience in new, emerging post-subsidy business models in sustainable energy, climate change and / or natural environment.

To tackle the climate and ecological emergencies across the West of England we will need to drastically reduce emissions on average by 10% year-on-year; and halt the decline in the number and range of animals and plants, protect existing and create more high-quality green spaces. The postholder will work on projects aligned with this, as set out in the West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (CESAP): <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/>

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead financial contribution to the development of a pipeline of investable decarbonisation, adaptation and natural environment projects across the West of England.
- Work with a high degree of autonomy to bring investment proposals to fruition
- Input commercial understanding into the development of high quality business cases so funding is attracted to viable schemes
- Develop models, tools and templates to support the development of commercial cases for investment, including aggregating similar projects into a portfolio to take to market
- Support due diligence work streams with relevant parties
- Support the wider team to ensure that financial and commercial risks associated with projects are effectively managed
- Develop productive relationships with Finance Directors, Senior Decision Makers, funders and investors, presenting commercial proposals to secure investment in Combined Authority supported environment projects
- Keep abreast of industry and policy developments related to the environment to ensure projects are developed and implemented in accordance with best practice

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

#### Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level or equivalent ideally with relevance to the role
- Excellent understanding of the legal and economic issues affecting project viability and delivery

#### Experience

- Good understanding of UK policy relating to climate change and supporting nature recovery.
- Strong financial and analytical background including experience of commercial appraisal of investment propositions
- Production of investment propositions and bid writing
- Creation of bespoke financial models for projects, risk modelling, loan financing, and contract management.
- Provision of financial advice across a range of complex projects, representing issues clearly and persuasively both internally and externally
- Development of strong stakeholder networks in the public, private and not for profit sectors

#### Skills and Competencies

- Ability to identify funding priorities and attract investment
- Excellent understanding of the requirements of strategic investment decisions and Environmental Social Governance (ESG)
- Ability to contribute financial and commercial information for compelling business cases
- Strong understanding of project financial management, including planning, forecasting and monitoring
- Familiarity with existing and emerging business models for energy, climate and nature schemes
- Adept at communicating the merits of potential projects to decision makers, creating reports and presentations to a high standard
- Highly developed skills in partnership working and ability to deal professionally across all levels of the organisation
- Ability to analyse problems, complex data, situations and information and present innovative and feasible solutions.

### DESIRABLE

#### *Qualifications and Knowledge*

- Membership of a recognised professional body
- Professional investment management qualification

- Knowledge of the energy system, technologies and markets

## REWARDS AND BENEFITS

Alongside a competitive salary, we offer an excellent benefits package including:

- 26/31 days annual leave plus bank holidays
- Generous Employer-Contribution Pension Scheme through the Avon Pension Fund
- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Discounted monthly bus tickets
- Hybrid working to split your week between the office and home to help you achieve the best work/life balance and career goals.

We have recently moved into a new bright, airy, modern office space, with all the latest technology, under a 10-minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. We offer flexible and hybrid working options too if you would rather work from home, or another suitable location.

*As an equal opportunities employer, we invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.*

## WE PAY THE LIVING WAGE

We're proud to have been accredited as a Living Wage Employer

Living Wage accreditation means that everyone working at The West of England and Combined Authority receives a minimum hourly wage of £15.17 - higher than the government minimum for over 23s, currently £10.42 per hour



It also means that anyone who provides services to, or has contracts with us, must pay the Living Wage, setting the bar for good employer practices in the region. This includes those who provide services to The West of England and Combined Authority, such as cleaning and facilities management contracts, as well as those who have contracts with us - such as IT providers.

## WE ARE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

We're proud to have been accredited as a founding Member of the West of England Good Employment Charter.

The [Good Employment Charter](#) is a voluntary membership and accreditation scheme aimed to create an active network of employers within the West of England that are committed to supporting the basis of 'good work'. The Good Employment Charter is defined by seven key characteristics of good employment: recruitment, secure work, Real Living Wage, developing people, health & wellbeing, flexible work and engagement & voice.



