

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Net Zero Funding & Investment Manager
<b>MANAGED BY:</b>	SW Net Zero Hub Programme Manager
<b>GRADE:</b>	11

## BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a Net Zero 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 Service: The South West Net Zero Hub

Net Zero Hubs are a nationwide BEIS-funded initiative to support the identification, development and implementation of energy and net zero projects across five regional hubs. Set up in 2018, the Hubs have had six core objectives aimed at stimulating local investment in energy projects. These are listed on the South West Net Zero Hub (SWNZH) page here: <https://www.swnetzerohub.org.uk/about-us/>

The Government's Net Zero Strategy included a commitment to continuing the Local Net Zero Hubs (previously known as the local energy hubs) to support all areas of England to 2 reach net zero, including those lacking capacity and capability, or those facing unique challenges. SWNZH are currently working with BEIS to define this continuation.

SWNZH assists on projects across a range of scales and sectors, with Hub assistance available to accelerate routes to market for programmes stuck in early feasibility stages. The South West Net Zero Hub (SWNZH) currently consists of four key programmes - Local Capacity Support for strategic regional energy projects, the Rural Community Energy Fund (closing March '23), Housing Retrofit and the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, and Non-Domestic Public Sector Decarbonisation.

SWNZH collaborates with eligible public sector organisations at any point through the development stages, from options appraisal, feasibility, business case, design and planning to financing. Where possible, the Hub looks to maximise benefits across the region by aggregating solutions to drive economies of scale.

Additionally, SWNZH also serves as a conduit between local energy actors and central Government, providing a combined voice for pan-regional energy issues, connecting local institutions together and sharing best practice across the five Hub regions.

#### The South West Partnership:

The South West Partnership, made up of the seven Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their accountable body authorities in the south west region, is an important supporting partner of the Hub. The Partnership members are:

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP and Cornwall Council  
Heart of the South West and Somerset County Council  
Dorset LEP  
Solent LEP and Portsmouth Council  
Swindon and Wiltshire LEP and Wiltshire Council  
GFirst LEP and Gloucestershire County Council  
West of England LEP and West of England Combined Authority

Each LEP area is represented on the programme steering group. The West of England Combined Authority is leading the Hub on behalf of the South West Partnership.

## THE ROLE

Reporting to the SW Net Zero Hub Programme Manager, the post-holder will be the first point of contact and lead engagement with financial decision makers and funders to stimulate investment in energy and decarbonisation projects supported by the SW Energy Hub.

The Funding & Investment Manager will work with public, private and not for profit sector organisations to develop investment proposals 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 models, research the sustainable 3 energy investment market, identify and engage investors and prepare presentations and proposals to secure investment in Hub supported projects. The Funding & Investment Manager will also work with local stakeholders to secure investment in the SW Low Carbon Fund.

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 South West 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.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead financial contribution to the development of a pipeline of investable distributed energy and decarbonisation projects across the South West Net Zero Hub area
- Work with a high degree of autonomy to bring energy and decarbonisation 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
- Promote the service provided by the SW Net Zero Hub, liaising with public sector institutions, raising awareness with business and communities
- 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 Hub supported projects
- Work with local stakeholders to develop the SW focussed funds
- Keep abreast of industry and policy developments related to energy and decarbonisation project viability ensuring that projects supported by the SW Hub are developed and implemented in accordance with current good practice
- Participate in reporting progress and outputs in line with the established governance arrangements and agreed timescales and protocols.

## 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

- Good understanding of UK sustainable energy market

#### Experience

- Energy and Net Zero infrastructure investment and project finance
- Strong financial and analytic background
- Commercial appraisal of investment propositions
- Production of investment propositions and bid writing
- Creation of bespoke financial models for energy projects, risk modelling, loan financing, 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
- Excellent financial modelling skills
- Ability to contribute financial and commercial information for compelling business cases
- Strong understanding of project financial management, including planning, forecasting and monitoring
- Familiarity with Energy Performance Contracting, SPVs for project delivery such as Power Purchase Agreements, leasing contracts and emerging business models for energy schemes
- Ability to analyse complex data, identify solutions, draw conclusions and communicate recommendations. • 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, 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:

- 25 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 are about to move into a new bright, airy, modern office space, with all 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 £9.90 - higher than the government minimum for over 23s, **currently £9.50 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.