

AMBITIOUS
CREATIVE
COLLABORATIVE
SUPPORTIVE

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Net Zero Funding & Investment Manager
MANAGED BY:	SWEH Programme Manager
GRADE:	11

BACKGROUND

The Employer: The West of England Combined Authority (WECA)

The West of England is an economic leader with an economy worth over £33 billion a year. With a population of over 1.1 million people, one of the highest rates of employment in the country, and over 45,000 businesses, the region competes on a global scale. The West of England is a place where highly-skilled people work, where ideas flourish, and where businesses grow. It's also a place that a diverse population of people call home.

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) was formed in 2017, to champion the region and drive clean and inclusive economic growth. As a result, significant powers and funding have been transferred to the region through the new Combined Authority and West of England Mayor.

Our aim is to deliver economic growth for the region and address some of our challenges, such as productivity and skills, housing and transport.

WECA is made up of three of the local authorities in the region - Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Building on a strong track record of partnership working in the region, the West of England Combined Authority continues to work closely with North Somerset Council. The Combined Authority is also the accountable body for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

WECA is an equal opportunities employer, in line with the Equalities Act 2010, and invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.

The Service: The South West Energy Hub

The BEIS funded Energy Hubs is a nationwide initiative to support the identification, development and implementation of energy projects across five regional hubs. The initiative has five core objectives aimed at stimulating local investment in energy projects.

1. Increase the number, quality and scale of local energy projects being delivered
2. Raise local awareness of the opportunity for and benefits of local energy investment
3. Enable local areas to attract private and/or public finance for energy projects
4. Support rural community energy project development
5. Deliver initiatives to improve energy efficiency in housing
6. Public Sector Decarbonisation Skills

Projects can be supported across a range of scale, with Hub assistance available to accelerate routes to market for programmes stuck in early feasibility stages. The South West Energy Hub (SWEH) is currently supporting four key programmes - Local Capacity Support for strategic regional energy projects, the Rural Community Energy Fund, for smaller, community led energy projects, the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme and Public Sector Decarbonisation Sills.

The Energy Hub offers support to eligible project owners at any point through the development stages, from feasibility, business case, design and planning to financing. Where possible, the Hub will look to maximise benefits across the region by aggregating solutions to drive economies of scale.

Additionally, the Energy Hub also serves as a conduit between local energy actors and central Government, providing a combined voice for pan-regional energy issues, connecting local institutions 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.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

Reporting to the SW Energy 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 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 Energy 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 Energy 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 Low Carbon Fund
- 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
- Membership of a recognised professional body

Experience

- Good understanding of UK sustainable energy market
- Energy and decarbonisation 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 EPC, EScO, PPA's, 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

- Professional investment management qualification
- Knowledge of the energy system, technologies and markets

REWARDS AND BENEFITS

WECA staff receive:

- 25 days annual leave, rising to 30 after five years' continuous service, plus bank holidays, pro rata
- Auto-enrolment into the Avon Pension Fund
- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Commuter Travel Club - WECA employees can sign up to receive discounted monthly bus tickets, unlimited bus travel for work or leisure within your chosen zone, automatic ticket renewal and price freeze for 12 months.