

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Climate Resilience Manager
MANAGED BY:	Senior Environment Manager
GRADE:	11

BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a Climate Resilience 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, the post-holder will be the first point of contact and lead on engagement with internal and external stakeholders to build climate resilience into the region's infrastructure and activities.

The Climate Resilience Manager will work with organisations across all sectors to develop understanding of regional climate vulnerability and risk. Building on that and the existing adaptive initiatives already underway in the region, this post will help fill gaps in the region's response and promote best practice. They will work with topic leads within the immediate team and specialists from across the organisation to build sector specific approaches, covering transport, energy, business, skills and the natural environment.

The post holder will also apply best practice from across the world to ensure that the region is in the best possible position to build its resilience to the inevitable impacts from climate change.

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/>

This document is currently under review, and it is envisaged that the next published version will contain significantly more on adaptation, including a dedicated set of actions for 2023/24

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The successful candidates will lead the Combined Authority's work on the delivery of climate resilience for the region.
- Work with a high degree of autonomy to shape and deliver this work area
- Lead the delivery of the Climate Adaptation elements of the West of England's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (update due April 2023).
- Lead on the identification of funding opportunities to ensure that the region has enough resource to fully realise the short, medium, and long-term actions set out in the Plans.
- Provide strategic advice to SMT, leaders within unitary authorities, regional partners, Government and other stakeholders to shape and deliver regional strategies and priorities.
- Collaborate with colleagues in Strategy and Innovation to appraise existing and new policy and funding opportunities, research and intelligence, relevant to climate adaptation to inform planning.
- Lead the drafting of briefings for senior managers and the mayor on Climate Adaptation, coordinating the input of colleagues. 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
- Lead on partner engagement, including maintaining oversight of government engagement within areas of responsibility, ensuring consistency and visibility.
- Keep abreast of industry and policy developments related to the environment to ensure projects are developed and implemented in accordance with best practice
- Support the development of policy across a wide range of areas relevant to Climate Adaptation.
- To support the wider work of the Combined Authority and the Environment Directorate as required.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level or higher, ideally with relevance to the role
- Knowledge of the national climate adaptation policy and how it will impact this role.
- Knowledge of the work of national, regional and local bodies in the context of climate adaptation.

Experience

- Good understanding of UK policy relating to climate change and supporting nature recovery.
- At least 5 years' experience of working on climate change adaptation or closely related topics
- Experience of wider business engagement.
- Experience of project resource management and technical leadership.
- Experience of working in local and / or national government

Skills and Competencies

- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage and persuade a range of audiences.
- Proactive, with the ability to work independently, prioritise a busy workload and manage a large group of stakeholders.
- 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

- A working understanding of climate scenarios, including data use and application
- Experience of engaging the public on climate change related topics

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
- Access to an online shopping platform offering employee discounts across a huge range of retailers

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.