
Background

Our UNESCO Biosphere designation was awarded in 2012, recognising not only the unique landscapes and environments of Galloway and Southern Ayrshire but also the array of local opportunities for sustainable development. Over the last decade, the Biosphere has delivered a wide range of projects and initiatives with partners across southwest Scotland, covering wildlife conservation, business and enterprise, sustainable tourism, heritage projects, and environmental education. We have also grown a thriving network of Proud Supporters, Biosphere Communities and Biosphere-certified businesses, which together are striving to make life better for people and nature.

Biosphere officers work cooperatively covering three local authority areas – Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire. Our lead officers specialise in three main workstreams:

Land Use & Biodiversity – supporting the wildlife and habitats of the Biosphere through engagement with land managers and members of the farming community, and by working with partner organisations to develop innovative, nature-friendly approaches to land use.

Business Development & Marketing – supporting sustainable enterprise by providing marketing support, hosting workshops and networking events, and by promoting the Biosphere across digital and print media as a world class destination for sustainable tourism.

Community & Education – working within communities to increase understanding of climate change and global Net Zero goals, to promote local identity, and to support the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Biosphere.

The Role

We are seeking two Climate Officers to support the development and delivery of a new Community Climate Action Hub for Dumfries & Galloway (The D&G Climate Hub) which will be hosted by the GSA Biosphere. Whilst we anticipate one officer to focus on the east of the region (Annandale, Eskdale and Nithsdale), and the other the west (Wigtown and Stewartry) we also expect them to work as a team sharing their expertise and knowledge widely.

Community Climate Action Hubs are a Scottish Government initiative designed to provide a strategic regional approach to climate action across Scotland, their core functions include:

- To build awareness of the climate emergency and actions local groups can take



- To help groups identify and secure funding opportunities
- To facilitate networking and shared learning
- To ensure a more joined-up approach to tackling climate change at a regional level

We are looking for confident, outgoing individuals to deliver this new programme of support for regional climate action that will be one of up to 20 Climate Hubs in Scotland.

Person specification

You should have a good knowledge and awareness of the climate crisis and what climate action really means to communities. You'll need to have good experience of community engagement and ideally engaging the education sector as well. You should have an interest and understanding of community development, circular economy and third sector community organisations.

We hope you'll also be aware of the international UNESCO Biosphere status that we have in the region. You'll need to be used to working both on your own and also as part of a team. Most importantly you'll be flexible, as this is a new programme in its infancy, and we are starting this project alongside several others regionally in Scotland, and we intend to work closely and share learning with other emerging Climate Hubs.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title: Climate Officer

Base: Kirroughtree / Home / Partner Organisation (depending on location covered)

Reporting to: Community and Education Lead Officer

Gross Salary: £27,050

Pension Contribution: Employer contribution of 8% of salary

Contract Period: Fixed-term for 5 months with likely extension to a further 12 months thereafter (subject to approval of funding).

Contract Hours: Full-time (37.5 hours per week). We will consider job sharing for these roles and therefore welcome applications from candidates who can work between 18.75 hours (2.5 days) and 37.5 hours (5 days per week).

Weekend and out of hours working are likely to be part of this role, for which time off in lieu will be given.





Job Purpose

The post holder will be responsible to the Community & Education Lead Officer and will support the development and delivery of the new Community Climate Action Hub for Dumfries & Galloway (The D&G Climate Hub).

Principal Duties:

- Identify barriers to local climate action in D&G
- Support the design and delivery of community climate mitigation projects
- Identify funding opportunities for community climate action & activity
- Identify opportunities to support a circular economy through climate action
- Facilitate opportunities to network and share skills & learning across D&G
- Engage communities not currently engaged with climate action
- Embed climate resilience into Local Place Plans
- Support the engagement of young people in climate action
- Organise and deliver learning and engagement opportunities including events, training sessions, and Carbon Literacy
- Communications to support the Climate Hub including social media content, website content and reporting.

This position will involve agile working, including a mix of working from home, utilising community meeting places or hot desks, and working in situ in communities across the entire region of Dumfries & Galloway. There will be solo work involved in this role. We would ideally like to have the two Officers positioned regionally, to reduce the geographic area per Officer. The two regions of focus will be Annandale, Eskdale and Nithsdale and Wigtown and Stewartry and therefore we welcome applications from candidates who live in or close to these areas.

You will need a driving license and access to a vehicle.

GSAB's office is located in Kirroughtree and you will be expected to visit this office occasionally. We operate agile working so other work locations will vary and are likely to include attending events and meetings, hot desking and working with colleagues at various locations throughout D&G. You should expect to be working away from your contractual home base for a proportion of the week, although this may vary week by week depending on circumstances.

We strive to offer a flexible working environment and are open to discussion on specific situations including job share.

No Job Description can be entirely comprehensive and the post holder will be expected to carry out other duties from time to time that are commensurate with the above responsibilities and determined by the Partnership Board.





Applications

Closing Date for Applications is 15th October 2023

Proposed interview date: 23rd October 2023

Application forms must be completed although you are welcome to also submit a covering letter and CV.

All applications to be submitted electronically, as PDF documents, to
info@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Please save each file as the following:

- YourNameCommunityApplicationForm.pdf
- YourNameCommunityCV.pdf
- YourNameCommunityCoveringLetter.pdf

For further information or to discuss the role:

Jenna Cains, Lead Officer Community and Education

jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Tel. 07436 030223



D&G climate Hub - Climate Officer - Person Specification

Requirements <i>Essential (E) or Desirable (D)</i>	E	D	Requirements <i>Essential (E) or Desirable (D)</i>	E	D
1. Education and Training			4. Knowledge		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher level qualification in a relevant subject. Ongoing commitment to continuous professional development 	D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The global climate challenge Community led climate action UNESCO Biospheres Education for Sustainable Development 	E	
	E			E	
					D
					D
2. Experience			5. Personality factors		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing & delivering community engagement initiatives. 3+ years experience of supporting community led sustainability or climate projects or actions. Delivery of learning initiatives or training. Working to deadlines 	E		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confident and outgoing Team player Reliable Self-motivated Able to work under pressure Attention to detail A commitment to sustainability 	E	
	E			E	
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3. Skills & abilities			6. Other requirements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft office Online meeting software such as MS Teams Social media Good written communication skills Record keeping & organisational skills Excellent verbal communication, including facilitation and networking. 	E		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible approach to work duties Works well independently and as part of a team Observe requirements for confidentiality & sensitivity to community groups Driving License, access to a car & willing to drive 	E	
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