

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.

In 2023 the GSA Biosphere became hosts of the Dumfries & Galloway Community Climate Action Hub (D&G Climate Hub), part of the newly establishing national network of Community Climate Action Hubs. 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 facilitate networking and shared learning
- To ensure a more joined-up approach to tackling climate change at a regional level

After initiating activity in November 2023, the D&G Climate Hub has been driven forward by two Climate Officers delivering a range of community workshops, training and engagement on climate; and facilitated a seed fund that supported 26 community projects. The Hub has focussed on building and strengthening the regional community climate network, and resourcing community groups to move their ideas forward. We have recently secured funding from Scottish Government to continue development of the D&G Climate Hub's delivery for a further year through the expansion of the team to three people.

The Role

We are seeking a Climate Officer to join our existing team to support delivery of the Community Climate Action Hub for Dumfries & Galloway (The D&G Climate Hub) which is hosted by the GSA Biosphere.

Our two current Officers cover the east and west of the region, and we hope the new Officer will focus primarily on upper and lower Nithsdale including Dumfries. However, as always,

we would like our Officers to work collaboratively and supportively of each other so there will be flexibility in the geographic region.

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 youth or 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, noting that the national programme of Community Climate Hubs is still forming.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title: Climate Officer

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

Reporting to: Community and Education Lead Officer

Gross Salary: £28,132

Pension Contribution: Employer contribution of 8% of salary

Contract Period: Fixed-term until 31st March 2025.

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. We welcome in particular applications from candidates with good understanding of issues local to Nithsdale, or with specialisms in energy saving advice or youth engagement.

You will need a driving license, access to a vehicle and be willing to drive.

GSAB's office is located in Newton Stewart and you will be expected to visit this office occasionally. A more accessible base, such as Crichton Central, Dumfries can also be provided. 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 midday on Friday 19th April 2024

Proposed interview date: Thursday 25th April 2024

We would be hoping for an immediate start or as soon as possible.

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:

- YourNameClimateApplicationForm.pdf
- YourNameClimateCV.pdf
- YourNameClimateCoveringLetter.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 	E	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The global climate challenge Community led climate action UNESCO Biospheres Education for Sustainable Development 	E	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	D	<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	
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	