Data Technology Policy Associate

Summary

At a time when technology is more critical than ever in meeting the climate, resilience, water, conservation, and justice priorities of the country, its adoption and deployment in government and public agencies and in the environmental sector lags behind progress made in the private sector. EPIC's technology portfolio aims to address cultural, historical and regulatory barriers faced by environmental organizations to expedite the use of digital solutions in an equitable and accessible format across government, nonprofits, and community allies (read more on our blog here). In some cases, there are clear data gaps that must be filled, and in other cases, technical assistance is needed for stakeholders to utilize improved digital tools for climate and environmental solutions.

It's easy to develop new technologies, new maps, new apps, and new tech tools - supply isn't the problem when it comes to environmental technology tools. The problem is demand, especially government demand. Technology budgets and expertise are siloed into the operations (i.e. largely HR and accounting) sides of agencies, rather than mission-focused projects (i.e. natural resource management or environmental monitoring). And where that isn't true, agencies often want to develop technologies they fully design and own - rather than invest in shared tools across teams working on similar initiatives at different agencies, or procure standard solutions from an innovative technology organization. Further, where technology could enable much smarter, efficient regulation or monitoring, it's typically walled off from doing so, or stuck behind a slow adoption cycle by government agencies.

EPIC's team is taking on the challenge of environmental data technology policy. We need people who are inspired and excited to work on this with us, wherever it leads us!

About EPIC

The Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) builds policies that deliver spectacular improvement in the speed and scale of environmental progress. As a nonprofit start-up, EPIC is committed to finding and highlighting the best approaches to scaling up results quickly. We focus on clean water, endangered species, environmental markets and the use of data and technology in producing environmental and public health outcomes. Equity and justice are at the center of EPIC's approach, as we work on policies related to the accessibility of safe, affordable water, the right to clean water, as well as eliminating disparities in funding and environmental services faced by underserved and under-resourced communities. Data and technology are woven throughout EPIC's strategy to inform and drive government action and community activism.

Position Description

EPIC seeks a Data Technology Policy Associate. The Associate, working on contract or as a full-time employee, will help us create, advocate, collaborate, and advance projects related to digital infrastructure and technology in environmental agencies. We are looking for someone with experience with state and federal policy, engagement with government environmental agencies, environmental data applications, and environmental thought leadership.

The Data Technology Policy Associate responsibilities could vary depending on the interests and qualifications of

the successful candidate but likely include: policy research, advocacy, writing, interviews, cold calls, outreach to water utilities and other stakeholders, coordination with partner groups and government agencies, and facilitating dialogue among technology policy and environmental technology companies, community groups, and tribes.

Responsibilities
Help implement our strategy for environmental technology in partnership with our Director of Technology and the Data Technology & Policy Manager:
- Support engagement, advocacy and policy at state and federal level to advance digital infrastructure and technology use across environmental agencies.
- Conduct research and analyses in a number of environmental policy areas that can overcome barriers or find new pathways for environmental technology adoption.
- Pursue opportunities to create and advance new ideas in government or private support for a Digital Service for the Planet
- Develop and manage an extensive network of contacts with government agencies, private sector, and nonprofit partners that are keen to improve environmental digital services.
- Track and analyze existing and emerging regulations and programs.
- Provide support in organizing convenings and public events to highlight prominent issues and solutions.

Qualifications
Candidates should have:
- Bachelor's degree required. Graduate degree (MBA, MS, MEM, MF, or MPA) preferred.
- 2+ years' experience in one or more of the following areas: state or federal level environmental policy, philanthropic support for water infrastructure, or environmental technology applications.
- Experience tracking, reading, and analyzing legislation, either in an advocacy or government role.
- Empathy for people and ability to craft policy and program solutions that reflect the realities of everyday life.

We will prioritize candidates who can bring:
- Strong analytical and research skills.
- Creative thinking.
- Experience developing a technology for non-technologists who are doing environmental work, in particular from a user-centered design approach
- Project management experience and experience operating in fast-moving and outcomes-oriented teams.
- An understanding of federal and state-level environmental or technology laws, regulations, requirements, and programs, OR of workflow, processes and challenges of environmental data and technology applications.
- Comfortability with data and technology for environmental applications.
- Experience building and sustaining coalitions, and/or environmental advocacy.
- A network of contacts within governmental agencies and environmental organizations.

Salary Range
$55,000 - $80,000

Location

Depending on pandemic-related conditions, this position normally requires occasional travel to meetings, conferences, and other events. Work other than travel is done either in an office environment at EPIC's Washington, DC office or at the candidate's home office.

Compensation and time commitment

EPIC offers competitive compensation commensurate with experience as well as a generous benefits package.

Applying

Qualified candidates should send an email to Jessie Norriss (Director of Technology) at jessie@policyinnovation.org with "Data Technology Policy Associate" in the subject line. Please include a resume and a cover letter. You may also provide any supporting documents we should consider in evaluating your candidacy (e.g., writing samples, references).

We believe that including more people from a broad diversity of backgrounds in leadership positions, including people of color, people from working class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ people, is essential for achieving our vision. We strongly encourage applications from people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities.

Additionally, we know **there is not one ideal candidate who has all these traits** so if you have a mix of interests, skills, and experience related to the above – and a passion for this work – **please don't let a gap in your strengths for this role stop you from applying or reaching out**. Thanks for your interest in the position.