ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INNOVATION CENTER

Partnerships Lead, Data Technology Policy

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 Partnerships Lead for Data Technology Policy. The Partnerships Lead, working on contract or as a full-time employee, will help us create, advocate, collaborate, and advance projects related to digital infrastructure and technology implementation in environmental agencies. We are looking for someone with experience with state and federal agencies, environmental data applications, and coalition building.

The Partnerships Lead will be responsible for building, strengthening, motivating and facilitating partnerships

between technology companies, nonprofits, water or electric utilities, associations, academia, state and federal regulators that can use technology in creative ways to advance environmental and environmental justice outcomes.

Responsibilities
Help implement our strategy for environmental technology in partnership with our Director of Technology:
- Support engagement and implementation of innovative data and technology solutions to advance environmental outcomes with local, state and federal agencies. (e.g. ideas coming out of the 2021 [Water Data Prize](#))
- 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.
- Lead convenings, webinars, and public events to highlight prominent issues and solutions, as well as build cross-sector relationships.

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, community engagement, or environmental technology applications.
- Understanding of how to navigate multi-stakeholder dynamics at the community level.
- Proficient networking skills and ability to work with diverse stakeholders to build and sustain coalitions.
- Empathy for people and ability to craft policy and program solutions that reflect the realities of everyday life.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.

We will prioritize candidates who can bring:
- Creative thinking.
- Project management experience and experience operating in fast-moving and outcomes-oriented teams.
- Experience developing a technology for non-technologists who are doing environmental work, in particular from a user-centered design approach
- 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.
- A network of contacts within governmental agencies and environmental organizations.
- Environmental advocacy or community organizing experience.

Salary Range
$70,000 - $85,000

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 "Partnerships Lead, Data Technology Policy" 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.