

GoodCitizen

Waverley Street Foundation
Program Officer
Location: San Francisco, CA

ABOUT WAVERLEY STREET FOUNDATION

Waverley Street Foundation (WSF) builds and supports solutions at the intersection of climate change and community priorities, focusing on efforts and initiatives that draw connections between urgent local and community-based issues—including housing, transportation, food security, regenerative agriculture, and more—and the health of our planet. The Foundation is especially eager to partner with communities that are already enduring severe impacts of climate change and that deserve a central place in solutions. WSF prioritizes representation, diversity, equity, and inclusion in all facets of its work.

Unlike most philanthropies, WSF will spend down its assets—approximately \$3 billion—over the next 9 years, a decision that empowers it to support not only sensible and pragmatic solutions but also daring bets and breakthroughs that can alter the trajectory of the climate crisis and unlock a new and better future for humanity.

WSF strives to do things differently and be entrepreneurial and innovative in their grantmaking approach. As they take on the task of addressing global climate change, they are adopting a campaign mindset where they look to empower people and communities to ensure that their governments adopt and implement climate friendly policies. Starting with some of the highest emitting nations in the Global South, the goal is to demonstrate the collective will of humanity to reside on a livable planet, and to develop momentum for climate improvements that results in a global transition to clean energy sources and sustainable living. WSF works in deep collaboration with field experts and advisors, as it is essential that the Foundation's strategy is developed not in conference rooms but out in the world, informed by the lived experiences and innovative ideas of the people most directly impacted by the problems the foundation seeks to address. Specifically, WSF convenes community experts from a variety of disciplines to understand their experiences and help realize their solutions.

To execute against their ambitious goals, WSF is seeking two Program Officers to support their team.

THE OPPORTUNITY: PROGRAM OFFICER

Waverley Street Foundation is building out its team of Program Officers to advance work that will bring the foundation's ambitious climate goals into fruition. The Program Officers will help shape and guide the trajectory of the Foundation's climate initiatives, specifically advancing the Foundation's work on renewable energy and regenerative agriculture in California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Reporting to the Head of US programs, the Program Officers will oversee and build significant grant portfolios and partnerships with likeminded funders and key stakeholders. The Program Officers will also work closely with other program staff to identify opportunities for collaboration that advance the foundation's ambitious climate goals.

YOUR MISSION

Strategic Program implementation

- Co-Develop and implement strategic grantmaking initiatives in renewable energy and/or regenerative agriculture in California, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- Identify gaps and opportunities in the field ripe for philanthropic engagement and executing a responsive grantmaking strategy to deploy resources.
- Collaborate with the leadership team and the Director of Learning to define program priorities and outcomes.

Grants Management

- Oversee the entire lifecycle of grants, from project scoping to proposal evaluation to monitoring and reporting on impact.
- Work closely with grantees to provide support, guidance, and ensure the effective utilization of resources.

Research and Analysis

- Stay abreast of current trends, innovations, and challenges in the climate sector.
- Conduct thorough due diligence and research to identify potential partners, projects, and opportunities for collaboration.

Partnership Building

- Develop and maintain relationships with existing grantees and new prospects to learn from current work, explore emerging opportunities, and build new concepts.
- Facilitate collaboration and networking within the climate philanthropy community.
- Measure and track progress of the grantee portfolio while incorporating learning into program activities.

Advocacy and Outreach

- Represent the organization in relevant forums, conferences, and networks.
- Advocate for policy changes and initiatives that align with the organization's mission.

EXPERIENCE YOU BRING

Waverley Street Foundation seeks candidates who demonstrate an unwavering passion for and commitment to advancing equitable and transformative solutions to the climate crisis and communities. They are deeply curious and have credible expertise in renewable energy and/or regenerative agriculture, with experience in California, Arizona, and/or New Mexico. Previous grantmaking experience is very highly desired.

Candidates must bring a strategic mindset; they need a proven ability to identify and translate strategic vision into tangible actions and outcomes. A combination of strong analytical skills and the ability to influence change in highly nuanced contexts is critical. Since they will be joining a new, startup organization with ambitious goals, candidates must enjoy and thrive in ambiguity and bring a desire to jump in as and where needed. They must also be able to organize, prioritize, and meet deadlines in a fast-paced environment with multiple and competing demands.

Strong writing, active learning, and curiosity are important characteristics for this role. Program Officers need to have a high comfort level with reaching beyond their current areas of expertise to become quickly knowledgeable about Waverley Street Foundation's other programmatic

priorities with the ability to quickly see connections, opportunities, and intersections.

Humble and self-aware, the ideal candidates possess high levels of emotional intelligence and the ability to be versatile and diplomatic. We seek candidates who are skilled at working across cultures and geographies and communicate effectively with diverse audiences.

Relevant qualifications include:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in a relevant field (e.g., environmental science, sustainability, public policy).
- Content expertise in renewable energy and/or regenerative agriculture in California, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- Grantmaking, grants management and philanthropy experience with a preferred focus on climate change and environmental issues; an understanding of philanthropy's role in driving positive change.
- State-level policy and advocacy; a working knowledge of how to get things done within state government structures, particularly in California.
- Cross sector collaboration and proven track record within complex, multi-stakeholder projects/organizations.
- Proven analytical, strategic thinking, and program management skills; skilled at synthesizing information and distilling complex ideas into clear, concise, and actionable forms.
- Demonstrated excellence in written and verbal communication.

KEY ATTRIBUTES FOR SUCCESS AT WSF

- Ability to work collaboratively and independently in a dynamic, fast-paced environment and pitch in proactively as needed.
- Interpersonal dexterity to work effectively across identities, cultures, and sectors.
- Relationship builder who can cultivate diverse networks.
- Humble and open to differing views and perspectives.
- Intellectual curiosity; stays current on climate change news, science, and trends in their field.
- Resilient: able to break down barriers to getting things done, while always operating with unassailable integrity.
- Low drama, good humor, and joie de vivre.

COMPENSATION

Salary: This position offers a salary range of \$140,000 - \$175,000. The exact offer will be determined by a variety of factors such as the candidate's individual skills, qualifications, and experience relative to the requirements of the role.

Benefits: In addition to salary, this position includes a comprehensive benefits package that includes health, dental, and vision insurance, 401(k) plan with employer match, paid time off, and other perks.

Location: This is a hybrid role based in San Francisco, with an expectation of working in-office three days per week.

TO APPLY

Please submit your resume and cover letter expressing your interest in the position and fit for the role via the “Become a Candidate” button. Letters may be addressed to Jailan Adly.

Applicants applying by February 12 will be given priority consideration, with the position open until filled.

GoodCitizen has been exclusively retained by Waverley Street Foundation to lead this search. For questions, please contact:

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