



POSITION DESCRIPTION

WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST

POSTED:

The Buzzards Bay Coalition seeks an effective **problem-solver and project manager** to serve as the Water Resource Specialist for this energetic, performance-driven and rapidly growing regional organization. The full-time position reports to the Vice President of Clean Water Advocacy, joins a talented staff and dedicated Board of Directors, and is responsible for the management of wastewater and green infrastructure projects around the watershed aimed at reducing nitrogen pollution to Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound.

The Water Resource Specialist will develop and manage a suite of nitrogen-reducing demonstration projects in towns throughout our region. The position will expand the Coalition's role as a regional leader in implementing on-the-ground solutions with wide application. The Water Resource Specialist will be an enthusiastic, technically-competent individual who can see projects through from initial planning to implementation to post-construction monitoring. The position requires a creative problem-solver with excellent communication skills.

The organization offers a great working environment; the opportunity to contribute to the success of a dynamic organization and have a direct impact on the future of our regional environment; and an outstanding quality of life on the shores of Buzzards Bay – all one hour from Boston and half an hour from each Providence and Cape Cod.

BACKGROUND

Buzzards Bay, and adjacent Vineyard Sound, are a national treasure whose outstanding beauty and natural resources touch so many aspects of our lives here in southeastern Massachusetts. The Bay and Sound are central to our quality of life, to our economy, and home to some of the world's leading oceanographic institutions. The Bay's waters support a thriving commercial shellfish and expanding recreational sportfishing industry, diverse and abundant wildlife populations, and some of the finest sailing on the entire globe. On its shores, the Bay's watershed lands are among the most beautiful on the eastern seaboard, with deep forests, clear rivers, and farmland, all meeting the Bay's soft edge of beaches and saltmarsh through more than 30 harbors, coves and tidal estuaries.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3), membership-supported organization in July 1987 with start-up funding support from the US Environmental Protection

Agency. The initial Board of Directors was comprised of individuals from throughout the Bay watershed - environmental advocates, cranberry growers, fishermen, marina owners, research institutions and town government. Today, the organization continues to maintain a governing Board from Westport to Woods Hole and Martha's Vineyard and from a variety of backgrounds.

OUR MISSION & SCOPE

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay, its watershed, and the adjacent waters of Vineyard Sound. The Coalition works to improve the health of our coastal ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

The Coalition works throughout the entire Buzzards Bay and Sound watersheds to protect the region's coastal, river and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands and streams that support a healthy watershed/bay ecosystem.

We are a \$3.5 million/year organization staffed by a team of 22 conservation professionals, aided by hundreds of volunteers, and supported by more than 10,000 members. As we have grown over the past 35 years, our effectiveness and reach have greatly expanded. What has not changed is our fundamental vision for the Bay we have committed to defend and restore.

OUR VISION

- A shoreline defined by safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds and stretches of scenic open spaces for all to enjoy.
- Healthy waters that support abundant fish, shellfish and wildlife populations.
- A Bay safe from the threat of oil spills, industrial and sewer discharges and ocean dumping.
- A watershed where rivers, streams, forests and wetlands that buffer the Bay are protected.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the past three decades, the Buzzards Bay Coalition has earned a reputation as entrepreneurial, professional and focused on winning results for our local environment. We have:

- Partnered with towns and state agencies to clean-up pollution. The results of this work can today be seen in cleaner waters and safer beaches in every bay community.
- Preserved more than 9,000 acres of watershed lands as permanent open space and established the support services needed to aid towns and land trusts in the protection of many thousands of additional acres. The Coalition is an accredited land trust and the 2007 recipient of the 1st National Land Trust Excellence Award from the Land Trust Alliance.
- Responded to the 2003 Bouchard Oil Spill which fouled 93 miles of our shoreline by organizing the volunteer response, and subsequently led the effort to provide appropriate training and equipment for local first-responders in the event of another catastrophe. Following the spill, we pushed lawmakers to help secure some of the nation's strongest oil spill prevention laws and regulations at both the state and federal level.

- Created the most comprehensive volunteer-based water quality monitoring program in New England to guide Bay protection and restoration efforts, now in its 30th year.
- Altered the course of hundreds of development projects in the watershed by working with town officials and developers to reduce the negative impacts of new growth on the health of the bay, our rivers and wetlands.
- Through public programs, in-school activities and Learning Centers in New Bedford, Woods Hole and Acushnet, educated over 10,000 thousand residents of all ages and communities throughout the watershed about what they can do to protect the Bay.
- Gone to court when necessary and succeeded in halting the largest source of pollution to the Westport Rivers, securing development setbacks to all of the bay's tidal rivers, and the permanent banning of dredge spoil disposal on the Bay bottom.

OUR WORK TODAY

The Buzzards Bay Coalition's staff, programs and initiatives are organized to achieve the following Program Objectives:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To create both an informed public today and future generations - tomorrow's bay stewards - who will understand the Buzzards Bay ecosystem (how it works, how it is threatened, and their place in it) and support its restoration and protection.

LAND CONSERVATION

To increase the rate of land protection and the amount of protected land in the watershed, the Coalition pursues a Bay-focused land protection strategy, empowers local land trusts and educates private landowners about conservation.

SCIENCE

To better understand the Buzzards Bay ecosystem and its response to human-related impacts by gathering data on the health of the Bay in order to guide restoration and protection.

ADVOCACY

To use data to pursue the restoration and protection of the Bay ecosystem through citizen advocacy and through the regulatory and legal process at the local, state and federal levels.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Water Quality Specialist will manage multiple projects across the watershed that showcase, real-world solutions to reducing nitrogen pollution inputs to Buzzards Bay. Residential wastewater is the major source of nitrogen to Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound and projects will generally focus on wastewater solutions, including but not limited to the installation of nitrogen reducing on-site septic systems (including on-going management to ensure optimal performance), neighborhood cluster systems, and municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Other areas of project development include innovations in home and institutional turf maintenance, inlet and harbor dredging projects, agricultural fertilizer management and conservation boat mooring systems.

Examples from our current project portfolio include:

1. state of the art nitrogen removing septic system upgrades on West Falmouth Harbor (<http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/septic-system-upgrades-can-help-clean-up-west-falmouth-harbor/>)
2. determining the feasibility of a regional wastewater treatment in Upper Buzzards Bay (<http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/upper-bay-towns-are-coming-together-to-restore-clean-water-in-buzzards-bay/>)
3. installation of conservation moorings to encourage eelgrass recovery and sequester nitrogen rich sediments. <https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/installing-conservation-moorings/>
4. installation and performance tracking of pilot 'Layer Cake' septic systems. <https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/pilot-project-will-test-new-septic-system-design-to-address-bays-biggest-source-of-nitrogen-pollution/>
5. assessment of inlet management options to improve water quality in James Pond, West Tisbury. <https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/declining-water-quality-james-pond/>

Projects are typically performed in cooperation with multiple partners such as towns, neighborhood associations, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. The ability to effectively communicate and manage relationships with partners and homeowners is a critical component of this position. The Water Resource Specialist is expected to communicate directly with local boards of health and conservation commissions, which will require evening meetings.

The Water Resource Specialist will develop grant applications and perform grant management. The position will be expected to work on projects from conception to implementation, including but not limited to planning, budgeting, developing procedures and Requests for Proposals, to being present on site supervision and follow-on monitoring and tracking.

To support the dissemination of project results, this position will be expected to perform data analysis and develop reports for internal and public use. The position will organize and facilitate a series of Decision Makers Workshops each year that are aimed at increasing the capacity of local town staff and officials to replicate demonstration projects.

The full-time position reports to the Vice President of Clean Water Advocacy and works closely with the Staff Attorney and science staff. The ideal candidate will have a technical background in environmental science, engineering, or related discipline and at least seven years of project management experience. Master's Degree and familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) preferred.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of success managing projects, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and a passion for the environment and Buzzards Bay. The position is based at the Coalition's headquarters on New Bedford's waterfront.

TO APPLY

The position is currently available. Please send a resume and cover letter, via email, to:

Korin Petersen, Esq., Vice President of Clean Water Advocacy, Buzzards Bay Coalition
petersen@savebuzzardsbay.org

*The Buzzards Bay Coalition is an equal opportunity employer
and actively seeks a diverse pool of candidates in this search.*