



Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Title: Director of Advocacy

Reports to: Executive Director

Status: F/T salaried exempt

Salary: \$70,000 to \$80,000 commensurate with experience.

Audubon Society of Rhode Island seeks a dynamic and strategic leader to drive the organization's local, state, and regional public policy priorities. The position will serve on the management team. He/she/they work across departments to accomplish Audubon's goals.

Our Mission: The mission of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island is to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy for the benefit of people and all other life.

Climate change has emerged as a principal priority of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. We work with partners to drive policies and promote responsible clean energy projects. We are committed to investing more energy and resources in solutions that get Rhode Island to reach Act on Climate goals.

Our partnership-based approach to policy, advocacy, and implementation has been critical to our success. We are seeking a leader who embraces that approach and desires to build our grassroots advocacy network to advance our policy priorities that, include: climate change action, renewable energy development, land conservation, biodiversity, nature-based solutions for climate resiliency, wildlife conservation, environmental education, and diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.

We are looking for a Director of Advocacy to lead Audubon's Advocacy program responsible for (i) determining and implementing mission-related policy guided by our strategic plan; (ii) advocating for local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, and regulations; and (iii) engaging Audubon's members and partners in advocacy campaigns. The Advocacy Director is the liaison between Audubon and policy-makers at the local, state, and federal levels, testifying at public meetings and representing Audubon on boards and commissions.

The Director collaborates with Audubon's Advocacy Committee to set policy and implement the organization's strategic plan.

Essential Functions and Responsibilities

Develop and Implement Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Policy and Advocacy Strategy

- On an annual basis, develop a policy, legislative, and administrative strategy that drives the organization's objectives working closely with the staff, Board members, and others across the organization;
- Collaborate with local, state, regional, and national conservation organizations to shape and accomplish Audubon Society of Rhode Island's environmental policy objectives;
- Explore opportunities to advance policies promoting active protection, management, and stewardship of lands as a critical tool for sequestering carbon and protecting biodiversity;
- Develop a strategy to engage our staff, members, and wildlife refuges visitors as active partners in advancing our policy priorities.

Develop Audubon Society of Rhode Island's Grassroots Advocacy

- Guide the development of issue-oriented campaigns that engage grassroots policy priorities;

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- Build a statewide network of advocacy ambassadors who build close working relationships with members of the State Administration, legislature, and Audubon members;
- Support the development of digital tools to enhance Audubon’s Action Alerts and engagement priorities.

Lead Governmental Affairs

- Serve as Audubon’s registered legislative lobbyist on public policy positions, funding priorities, and concerns before elected and appointed state, federal, and local officials and their staff;
- Coordinate Audubon’s representation on state committees, commissions, and boards charged with drafting regulations or formulating policies relevant to Audubon’s legislative goals and environmental policy objectives;
- Ensure the active monitoring of current and proposed legislative and executive branch actions related to Audubon’s institutional and core mission areas.

Serve as the Media and Community Relations Point of Contact on Environmental Policy

- Work with the communications team to respond to media inquiries related to public policy issues; communicate to business and civic groups, other organizations, and the general public on advocacy issues;
- Serve as Audubon Society of Rhode Island’s spokesperson on policy, advocacy, and related issues.

Manage the Public Policy and Advocacy Team, and Fundraise for Priorities

- Serve as an active member of Audubon’s management team, including recruitment, training, and professional development, program goals, budget management, performance evaluation, and accountability;
- Supervise Audubon’s energy fellows, interns, and anticipated future additional staff;
- Participate in and support Audubon’s Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access work;
- Work closely with the Development Department to identify, secure, and participate in the administration of funding from private foundations, individuals, and government grant programs to drive the growth of the Advocacy program.

Qualifications

- A minimum of five years of experience with a proven history of effective policy and advocacy leadership in environmental conservation, energy/climate change policy, issue-related campaigning, planning, or related fields, with at least two years of supervisory experience;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; ability to deal effectively with a wide range of audiences, including the media, legislators, technical specialists, and the general public;
- Familiarity and comfort with computer programs such as Microsoft Office, Teams, and online engagement;
- A flexible schedule with the ability to work weekend and evening hours for events and meetings when necessary is required;
- Ability to relate to and seek input from a diverse range of people and exercise cultural competence and inclusion with the ability to promote, embrace, and respect ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity and to accommodate physical and intellectual disabilities.

To Apply

Audubon is committed to representing Rhode Island’s diversity in our staff, volunteers, boards, and membership and creating a positive, inclusive workplace culture where all can thrive. We encourage anyone who is interested in this role to apply, regardless of whether you think you meet all of the qualifications. The top candidates will have their own unique perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds.

The position offers comprehensive healthcare, paid leave, 401(K) retirement plan, professional growth opportunities, and a supportive community that values your contributions.

Please send one pdf attachment including: 1) Cover letter expressing why you are a candidate for this position with your commitment to protecting nature and how this position aligns with your professional career goals. 2) Three references. 3) Your current resume to: careers@asri.org subject line “Director of Advocacy.”

Audubon Society of Rhode Island is an Equal Opportunity Employer