

Ecological Land Cooperative

For a living, working countryside



Fundraiser - Job Description and Person Specification

The Ecological Land Cooperative (ELC) is a social enterprise based in Brighton, East Sussex. We exist to create affordable access to land for new entrants to ecological agriculture and mixed farming. Following the successful delivery of our first site, a cluster of three ecological smallholdings at Greenham Reach in Mid Devon, we have also purchased an 18.5 acre site in East Sussex. We have an ambitious plan to deliver around 20 smallholdings over the next 4 years.

We currently employ 1 full-time and 3 part-time staff, and strategic direction is led by ELC's Board of Directors, which currently has 5 members who are elected at the Cooperative's AGM. There are 300 members of the Cooperative.

We believe that ecological land-based livelihoods can help solve some of the most pressing environmental and social problems of our time, and seek to marry ecological principles with sound business practice to help more people live and work on the land. This type of small-scale ecological production delivers a number of benefits including protecting the environment, building vibrant rural communities, providing employment and training, and supporting healthy diets through affordable, local produce.

Beyond this, our vision is one where land is valued and used as a means to enhance our collective good. At present, land in the UK is the target of financial speculation; in contrast, our model champions a collective, ecological and cooperative vision of land ownership and land use.

The Fundraiser

The Fundraiser is responsible for sourcing donations, grant and loan funding for all aspects of the work of the Ecological Land Cooperative, and our sister charity the Ecological Land Trust, and is supported by the Operations Manager.

Hours

3 days (22.5 hours) per week. The post is expected to be Brighton based with the opportunity to work flexible hours and from home.

Remuneration

£ 26,374 per annum* pro rata, actual salary for 3 days (22.5 hours) per week, £15,824.

* the ELC has a flat payment structure, with all workers paid at the same rate. As soon as our organisational productivity exceeds our business plan targets, we'd like to increase the level of pay across the organisation.

Job Description

The Fundraiser is responsible for:

- Assessing the funding needs of the ELC and creating the Fundraising Strategy and work plan to meet those needs.
- Researching and identifying appropriate potential sources of funds for the ELC, including grants, loans, donations, legacies, crowd-funding, awards, events, consultancies and any other form of fundraising worth considering.
- Building a network of potential funders for ELC and keeping an up to date contact management database to include all forms of contact made with funders.
- Consider how best to use our membership base to raise funds for the work of the ELC.
- Writing funding bids, both narrative and financial budgets, in conjunction with other members of the ELC team, and stewarding the bid process through to completion.
- Ensure that any reports and other monitoring requirements for funders are diarised and delivered on time, in conjunction with other members of the ELC team.
- Representing the ELC at meetings, conferences and events where funders may be present.
- Preparing regular progress updates for the Operations Manager and ELC Board.
- Supporting the work of fundraising volunteers as necessary.
- Any other aspect of fundraising work considered reasonable.
- Contributing to the work of the ELC as part of the staff team, including team meetings, strategic planning and away-days, and team-building or social events.

Person Specification

Essential Skills and Experience

- Demonstrated ability to raise funds from a variety of sources.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain professional networks.
- Excellent written English and the ability to adapt written materials to different audiences.
- Experience of developing successful crowd-funding fundraising campaigns.
- Experience of using and maintaining a fundraising database.
- Excellent ICT skills.
- A commitment to working cooperatively.

Desirable Skills and Experience

- Experience of working within the environmental movement, the coop movement or the third sector.
- Experience of working on community share offers and/or membership development.
- Experience of the low-impact movement or agro-ecological farming.
- Familiarity with web-based management tools such as Google G-Suite, Slack.
- Experience of cooperative management and inclusive decision making.

- Experience of remote working or an understanding of the challenges and opportunities of working remotely as part of a small and diverse team.