

Ecological Land Cooperative

For a living, working countryside



Fundraiser

About the ELC

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 two sites, clusters of three ecological small farms in Mid Devon and East Sussex, we have also purchased and are in the process of developing three further sites across the South of England and Wales. We have an ambitious plan to add five more smallholding sites to our portfolio over the next four years.

We currently employ one full-time and five part-time staff, and strategic direction is led by ELC's Board of Directors, which currently has five members who are elected at the Cooperative's AGM. There are currently 485 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 we 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.

Job Description and Person Specification

The Fundraiser is responsible for sourcing donations, grants, and loan funding for all aspects of the work of the Ecological Land Cooperative, and our sister charity the Ecological Land Trust, supported by and reporting to the Coordinator.

Hours and Remuneration

2 days (15 hours) per week. The post is expected to be home based with the opportunity to work flexible hours and occasional visits to Brighton to meet with colleagues.

£28,821 per annum* pro rata, actual salary for 2 days (15 hours) per week £11,528 per annum (£14.78 per hour) plus up to 4% matched pension contribution.

* 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's strategic plan and creating the Fundraising Strategy and work plan to meet those needs in conjunction with the Coordinator.
- 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 up to date records using the CiviCRM contact management database to include all forms of contact made with funders.
- Consider how best to work with our members to raise funds for ELC's work.
- 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 Coordinator 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.
- Maintaining good administration and filing using Google Drive.

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.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Experience of using and maintaining a fundraising database.
- Excellent ICT skills.
- A commitment to working cooperatively.
- Commitment to the aims and objectives of the ELC.

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 developing successful crowd-funding fundraising campaigns.
- Experience of the low-impact movement or agro-ecological farming.
- Familiarity with online tools such as Google Drive, Slack and CiviCRM.
- Experience of cooperative management and inclusive decision making.
- Experience or an understanding of the challenges of working remotely.
- Experience of working as part of a small and diverse team.