Climate Justice Organizer Job Description

WE ACT for Environmental Justice seeks a Climate Justice Organizer to draw together and galvanize individuals and communities to solve common problems; meet shared needs; and create awareness and support of WE ACT’s programs, issue areas, and positions.

This position will be primarily focused on increasing WE ACT’s grassroots power on our climate justice work as part of our Northern Manhattan Climate Agenda. This person will be focused on community organizing for the new campaign, Out of Gas: In with Justice, which seeks to equitably transition low-income households off fossil fuels through State policy changes and connecting with community members in Northern Manhattan. Additionally, we expect this position to assist in organizing for other climate justice projects, and broader membership and advocacy work.

The individual in this position nurtures leaders at the local level; educates community residents and families about environmental health issues; and develops a community voice for influencing environmental policy.

Essential Responsibilities and Duties:

1) Galvanizes individuals and communities

- Attends and presents at community meetings, community board meetings, tenants association meetings, and other meetings of community stakeholders to share information and learn about community concerns.
- Creates and/or participates in community activities that heighten the awareness of the role of environment in health outcomes and disease prevention, including, monthly membership meeting, working group meetings, Earth Day celebrations, community conversations, and demonstrations.
- Employs community organizing tools and tactics, including but not limited to door knocking, phone banking, 1 on 1’s, power mapping, accountability sessions, and strategic collaboration with other environmental justice organizations.

2) Nurtures leaders, educates community residents, and develops a community voice

- Develops and leads grassroots membership based working groups to advance WE ACT campaigns and projects.
- Develops and conducts trainings and workshops that help community residents identify key environmental health concerns, and improve their understanding of those concerns.
- Develops and conducts trainings and workshops that help cultivate the leadership skills of community residents.
- Provides information to community residents on environmental health and policy resources, such as medical outreach programs, legal information programs, and topical resources. Prepares and distributes educational materials in the community.

3) General/Other

- Prepares reports as required by various private, federal, state, and local agencies, which provide funding to support WE ACT’s community organizing and outreach initiatives.
- Works with elected officials and their staff at the city, state and federal levels with a focus on city hall.
- Liaises with contractors, landlords, engineers, energy experts, and residents to electrify apartments.
- Takes an active role in coalitions working on issues that are critical to WE ACT’s theory of change.
● Provides translation services as needed and able.
● Performs other duties as assigned to meet the General Purpose of the position.

Additional Duties

Community Organizing and Outreach Coordinator may be required to lift or carry educational materials, brochures, presentation equipment, and handouts, and will often have to stand, walk, and reach when giving community trainings and presentations.

The Community Organizing and Outreach Coordinator will occasionally participate in or lead outdoor community activities.

Skills:

● Superior Written and Oral Communication: i.e., writing letters, giving presentations, creating fliers, drafting agendas, writing and giving testimony, calling elected/appointed officials.
● Ability to work well individually and in teams, i.e. conducting environmental justice trainings, coordinate and lead community meetings
● Ability to think strategically and quickly
● Working Knowledge of Microsoft Office Software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and Internet Research, i.e. creating presentations, creating sign in sheets
● Ability to speak fluent Spanish is strongly preferred

Educational Requirements:

The applicant must meet one of the following sets of criteria:

I) Graduate Degree in an applicable field and 2 years professional experience (or sophisticated professional/academic experience of a period of less than 2 years)
II) Bachelor's Degree in an applicable field and 4 years professional experience (or sophisticated professional/academic experience of a period of less than 2 years)
III) High school diploma and 10 years professional experience.

Additional Qualifications

● Knowledge and interest in environmental health issues in Northern Manhattan a plus
● Knowledge about energy policy, and technical aspects of electrification or building maintenance is a plus
● Passion about social and environmental justice
● Ability to laugh and have fun.

Start Date: February 15, 2020

Applications

● Send to evelyn@weact.org, Telephone calls will not be accepted.
● Include cover letter, resume, three references, and daytime contact information.

WE ACT is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ communities.