



Save the Sound[®]

Action for our region's environment.

Clean Water Advocate

Save the Sound

Full Time Staff Position in Westchester, NY Office

Do you have a passion for environmental advocacy and enjoy working with a variety of partners, from government agencies and officials to community organizations and volunteers? Save the Sound is seeking a clean water advocate to join our dynamic team, working collaboratively to protect and restore Long Island Sound.

Who We Are

Save the Sound leads environmental action in your region. We protect the Sound, restore its rivers, fight climate change while building resilient communities, and save endangered lands. We do this in many ways, from legislative advocacy and legal action to engineering, environmental monitoring, and hands-on volunteer efforts. For more than 40 years we've been ensuring people can enjoy the healthy, clean, and thriving environment they deserve—today and for generations to come.

Our Water Quality Team advocates for the health of Long Island Sound through community organizing; data collection, analysis and visualization; legal and legislative advocacy; engaging and informative storytelling; and targeted pollution reduction campaigns. Our growing team brings a variety of backgrounds, characteristics, and skillsets together to produce tangible outcomes that improve the environs of Long Island Sound. We are highly collaborative, nimble, and innovative in our approach to achieving our shared mission of clean and life-filled waterways.

Our organizational leadership and staff are working to deepen Save the Sound's diversity, equity, and inclusion. We seek to attract a more diverse applicant pool. We seek to add and retain more outstanding people of color to all levels of our team. We work in diverse communities and landscapes, and are actively working to increase our focus on driving environmental justice action for equitable outcomes within diverse communities through our work.

The Position

The Clean Water Advocate will be a member of our Water Quality Team, based out of the New York office, and will report directly to the Director of Water Quality. Their advocacy work will focus on communities where there are longstanding water pollution problems, with a priority given to environmental justice communities. Working with existing and new local partners, and their Save the Sound colleagues, they will develop and undertake strategies to tackle local pollution sources with an eye towards near and long-term solutions. They will work with a variety of partners within each community, from students to local advocates to government and business representatives. They will work closely with our staff communications specialists, scientists, attorneys, and the Long Island Soundkeeper. When restoration projects are a part of the solution they will collaborate with our ecological restoration team.

They will also work with our Regional Director of Water Protection to advance legislative priorities that support our clean water work at the municipal, city, county, and state level. They will research proposed legislation and regulations related to Save the Sound's priorities and participate in the preparation of comment letters, public petitions, and lobbying activities. They will represent Save the Sound at public meetings and in interviews with the press. The position will work closely with Save the Sound communications staff to translate community work into public messaging.

The majority of the Clean Water Advocate's time will be invested in direct advocacy and coalition building to further our strategic Long Island Sound restoration and protection goals, such as:

- *Clean up the Sound:* Rallying community support to reduce fecal bacterial pollution at the worst polluted beaches and to slash nitrogen pollution that is destroying the ecological fabric of Sound bays and harbors in coordination with our water quality, membership, and legal teams. Working with the Soundkeeper and local residents to address water pollution issues.
- *Develop New Advocates for Clean Water:* Identify communities where there is not a strong local advocacy voice or movement in place to fight for clean and healthy waterways and/or better public access to the Sound. Work with interested local partners to develop and support that informed and empowered local voice, aligning interested groups with the resources and knowledge needed to build that capacity long term.
- *Invest in the Sound:* Promote nature-based and clean water investments in the Sound and our rivers that will produce clean water, help protect our neighborhoods from flood risks associated with climate change, and bring back a healthy web of fish and wildlife to the Sound by advocating for funding and policies primarily before New York State agencies and the New York State legislature.

Save the Sound will provide a laptop computer, access to our company server, remote IT support as needed, and a cellphone to ensure smooth remote working experience. All company meetings are taking place on Zoom or via conference call at this time and into the foreseeable future.

Key Responsibilities:

- Collaborate as part of the Water Quality Team in the identification and abatement of pollution hotspots found by the water quality monitoring work.
- Conduct research on water quality related Long Island Sound issues and initiatives, and collaborate with colleagues and partners on related courses of action.
- Provide project leadership in specific community campaigns focused on clean water, access to the Sound, transparency on water pollution sources and incidents, and other related issues.
- Plan and support team efforts to bring traditional and social media attention to newsworthy events in those communities, in coordination with our communications team.
- Work with the team to develop practices and processes that center authentic working relationships which advance environmental justice.
- Represent Save the Sound in coalitions, workgroups, and committees that relate to your work.
- Prepare and give public presentations in a variety of settings including municipal meetings, conferences, for schools and community groups, and other speaking venues.
- Create content for blog posts, emails, and social media communications as needed.
- Support the development team by providing project reports and budgets for funders.

Desired Characteristics and Qualifications:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate clearly about complex issues in a way that is engaging to a broad audience;
- Self-motivated and ability to work in a team atmosphere.
- Comfort working in fast paced environment and on multiple project simultaneously.
- Ability to work independently and demonstrate flexibility with a wide-ranging set of projects.
- Strong commitment to improving the health of Long Island Sound and its watershed.
- Demonstrated interest, knowledge, and experience in clean water advocacy.
- Bachelor's or advanced degree and/or equivalent work experience in environmental studies, environmental policy, environmental law, or related field of study.
- Demonstrated knowledge of, and experience working with, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and municipalities.
- Ability to travel statewide, to participate in evening meetings, and to work occasional weekend days.

Common Organizational Job Responsibilities:

- Maintaining positive and productive working relationships with all Save the Sound staff members, including providing and receiving constructive feedback,
- Participating in building productive relationships with CFE/Save the Sound's members, external partners, policy makers, and the general public and
- Completing all administrative work on time, such as time sheets, purchase orders, project reports and planning documents.

COVID-19 Considerations: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only Save the Sound team members who need to use our lab or field equipment are currently coming into the New York office, with the remainder of the team working remotely. We are working on a move to a new and larger location nearby in Westchester where all NY based staff can come into work in a COVID-safe environment. This position will need to work remotely until the new office is ready and safe for staff use, which is anticipated to happen early in 2021. As a result, there is some flexibility with timeline of relocation to the Westchester area, should that be required.

Compensation: Salary is commensurate with experience. Comprehensive benefits package includes health insurance, 403b, life and long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacations, and opportunities for professional development.

To Apply: Interested candidates should e-mail a resume, cover letter, and the names of three references to waterquality@savethesound.org with the words "Clean Water Advocate" in the subject line. We are a thoughtful and thorough organization. We will be in touch to acknowledge receipt of your application and to schedule selected applicants for an interview. Our hiring process can take from 7 to 10 weeks. You will be informed when the hiring process is complete. Please be patient.

Save the Sound is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit discrimination based on age, color, disability, marital or parental status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status or any other legally protected status in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.