



Save the Sound®

Action for our region's environment.

Employment Opportunity at Save the Sound Ecological Communications Specialist

Full-time (30 hours), based in New Haven, CT

October 19, 2021

Position Summary

Are you interested in using your voice and creativity to restore natural ecosystems and achieve environmental justice? Save the Sound is looking for a curious and inventive storyteller to join the Ecological Restoration team.

The Ecological Communications Specialist has the unique challenge of translating the technical work of ecological restoration for a broad range of audiences. This role will report to the Assistant Director of Ecological Restoration, and work closely with the Restoration and Communications teams to implement a strategy for communicating the status, science, and significance behind each and every project the Ecological Restoration team takes on. The ideal candidate is a prolific and effective communicator with a deep curiosity about the natural world. Using the written and spoken English and Spanish, graphic design, photo/video, and a broad array of media channels, the Ecological Communications Specialist will build awareness, engagement, and support for restoration projects of all scales across the Long Island Sound region.

Who We Are

Save the Sound leads environmental action across Connecticut, Westchester, NYC, and Long Island. We fight climate change and build resilient communities, save endangered lands, protect the Sound, and restore its rivers.

Our Ecological Restoration team of ecological engineers, biologists, and project managers mobilizes partners and resources to bring back vibrancy to our shores, rivers, and wetlands. This on-the-ground work includes reopening dammed rivers to migrating fish, installing innovative green infrastructure to stop polluted stormwater from reaching the Sound, and developing nature-based solutions to prevent inland flooding and help our shores absorb the impact of stronger storms. Our cleanups and plantings give people a way to positively impact the world around them, and our policy advocacy sets the stage for pioneering approaches to climate resiliency. We provide the conditions for natural processes to take their course, so ecosystems can rebound and support abundant life.

Learn more about us at www.savethesound.org.

Job Responsibilities

This position is responsible for daily communications and project-specific deliverables related to Ecological Restoration team projects.

- PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS



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- Stay up-to-date on active projects. With the support of the Assistant Director, build and execute a communications plan and content calendar for each.
- Cultivate and maintain active press/media relationships to target stories to topically and geographically appropriate audiences, including new audiences.
- Field stakeholder/audience questions and inquiries, as well as requests for press interviews or for speakers.
- Produce written communications, including press releases, public emails, website updates, social media, and blog posts that inform, activate, and expand Save the Sound's audience.
- Produce web pages and fact sheets for each Ecological Restoration project, as well as exercising creative freedom with other distributable content or storytelling media.
- **CONTENT CAPTURE AND PRODUCTION**
 - Maintain close communication with project managers, and find advantageous opportunities to join the team in the field and document progress on active projects.
 - Capture photography and video using cell phone and professional photography equipment in a variety of environments.
 - Process content, including graphic design and photo/video editing to transform raw content into compelling digital content for social media, web, emails, presentations, and printed materials.
- **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**
 - Work with Save the Sound's Communications, Membership, and Development teams to organize projects kickoffs, groundbreakings, and celebrations. Help with logistics, coordinating press, and capturing content.
 - Host webinars for project stakeholders and/or the general public.
 - Learn and help to improve the organization of digital assets so you can respond effectively to internal and external requests for photo/video content.
 - Act as a member of Save the Sound's cross-department Communications team, sharing skills and developing stories that connect Ecological Restoration projects and principles to our Climate, Clean Water, and Land Conservation work.

Required Qualifications and Characteristics

- Highly organized and adaptive, with a proven ability to balance and move between shifting deadlines and priorities.
- Very strong writing skills and ability to employ a variety of authoritative (i.e., press release) and friendly (i.e., social media or volunteer email) voices.
- Able to effectively describe scientific topics and concepts in layperson terms, without losing the scientific meaning and significance.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to cultivate and manage new and existing relationships with people from a wide range of backgrounds.
- Access to a vehicle for travel to project sites across the Long Island Sound region in Connecticut and New York, some of which are not reachable by public transit.
- College degree/formal training in a relevant field (communications, marketing, journalism) plus at least one year of work experience, or at least three years relevant work experience.



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Desired Qualifications and Characteristics

- Highly proficient or fluent written and spoken Spanish language skills are strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team in a dynamic, project-based setting.
- Experience with graphic design for print and social media applications.
- Comfort working in Adobe Suite, especially Photoshop, InDesign, and Premiere.
- Familiarity with web editing in WordPress (or similar content management system).
- Firm command of Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint.
- Experience working with press and giving live interviews.
- Comfortable with public speaking, both in-person and in virtual settings.
- Experience with event planning and production.
- Excellent command of Zoom and ability to learn other videoconferencing platforms.
- Proficient with social media, especially Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter—particularly interested in demonstrated creativity in use of these platforms to showcase work and engage followers and in management for an organization or business.
- Interest in advancing environmental justice and empowering communities.
- Passion for the outdoors/natural world (you tell us how that is manifest in your life!).

Terms and Compensation

This is a full-time, 30 hours/week staff position, with occasional weekend work required. Compensation is in the \$19-23/hr range, based on experience. Comprehensive benefits include health insurance, 403b, life and long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacations, and opportunities for professional development.

This is a grant driven, at-will position.

How to Apply

Please email the following to eco@savethesound.org with “Ecological Communications Specialist” in the subject line:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- 2 writing samples totaling at least 700 words (preferably including one Spanish writing sample); 1-2 examples of design work for social media or website (online content or emailed digital files)
- List of references

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, beginning October 19, 2021, and will be accepted until the position is filled.

We will be touch to acknowledge receipt of your application and to schedule selected applicants for an interview. Please be patient; we are a thoughtful and thorough organization, and our hiring process can take from 7 to 10 weeks. You will be informed when the hiring process is complete.



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Additional Details Common to All Positions

Save the Sound's Commitment to Equity and Diversity

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.

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, and to add and retain more outstanding Black, Indigenous, and 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 and equitable outcomes through our work.

Shared 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 Save the Sound's members, external partners, policy makers, and the general public.
- Completing all administrative work on time, such as timesheets, purchase orders, project reports, and planning documents.

COVID-19 Considerations

This position will be based in Save the Sound's New Haven, CT but currently works primarily remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic; organizational leadership is developing a plan for safe return in the future. Some travel within the region and/or fieldwork is required.

Save the Sound requires that all new hires submit proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 for the safety of all staff and the communities where we work.