

Position Description: VCN Campaigns and Policy Manager – Clean Water & Land Conservation

The Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) seeks a committed and motivated individual to lead its clean water and land conservation campaign work. The Campaigns & Policy Manager will develop and implement strategic advocacy campaigns focused on increasing civic and organizational participation, improving coordination among allies, and advancing clean water and land conservation policy in Virginia.

About VCN:

Founded as the Conservation Council of Virginia in 1969, VCN began as a roundtable of major conservation groups and has grown to include over 100 Network Partners across the Commonwealth and a full-time staff of five. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.

Playing a unique role in Virginia's conservation community, VCN helps the community speak with one coordinated voice. VCN is a facilitator of strategic action, a resource for partners statewide and a constant conservation presence in Virginia's Capitol. The organization and its staff are focused on strengthening the conservation community as a whole and winning environmental victories that benefit all Virginians.

VCN brings together the Commonwealth's conservation community by:

- 1) Coordinating the Common Agenda process and the publishing and distribution of "Our Common Agenda" Environmental Briefing Book, helping Network Partners and advocates communicate with decision makers prior to each General Assembly session.
- 2) Hosting annual events that educate Virginians on environmental issues and training them how to be effective advocates for Virginia's environment. Annually, VCN coordinates with Partners and hosts the Virginia Environmental Assembly, the Legislative Preview, and Conservation Lobby Day.
- 3) Serving as the Virginia state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.
- 4) Serving as an information hub for both Network Partners and for state elected officials.

Critically important is VCN's work on a day to day basis to increase partner and citizen participation in policy discussions by coordinating issue-specific workgroups across the full range of environmental interests. Additionally, VCN helps to coordinate actions directed at educating state lawmakers and officials.

VCN's network of partners work on a wide range of issues from stream restoration to transportation reform to renewable energy advancement to stopping mountaintop removal to promoting sustainable community growth and more. Given the work of its Partners, VCN's main program areas fall into three categories: Healthy Rivers, Clean Energy, and Green Communities. VCN is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, elected by Network Partners. The organization maintains a professional staff of organizers and advocates based in Richmond. For more information visit vcnva.org.

About the Position:

VCN's Campaigns and Policy Managers are dynamic leaders who support and engage Network Partners statewide and further strengthen the Commonwealth's conservation voice.

The Campaigns and Policy Manager is responsible for:

- Working with partners to develop multiple statewide coordinated campaigns to advance both water and land conservation policy; this can include regulatory, administrative, and legislative strategies
- Organizing and providing a driving force behind campaign implementation, including press conferences, opinion-editorials, special events, education outreach, etc.
- Providing support to Network Partners to implement campaign strategies and tactics, including specialized campaign plans, issue briefings, talking points, action alerts, etc.
- Watchdogging state policy changes and their impacts on water, the Chesapeake Bay and land conservation.

- Shepherding Network Partners through the annual Common Agenda process and engaging them in annual events; this includes creation of VCN's Environmental Briefing Book and other activities
- Helping to lead VCN's Legislative Committee, including tracking legislation, developing positions for and against bills each Legislative Session, and communicating those positions to stakeholders and elected leaders
- Connecting Network Partners and local members to their elected representatives
- Communicating regularly with allies and Network Partners by staffing VCN's Healthy Rivers Workgroup, sending regular updates to partners on the priority water, Chesapeake Bay and land conservation issues, and meeting one on one with partners
- Acting as the Choose Clean Water Coalition state lead by leading communication and facilitation of Chesapeake Bay restoration campaigns
- Recruiting new groups to join VCN by engaging them in water and land conservation campaigns
- Developing and maintaining strong relationships with state and local elected officials as well as diverse allies across the Commonwealth
- Being a vocal advocate and spokesperson for Virginia's environment, for VCN, and for its Network Partners

Qualifications:

VCN is looking for candidates who bring three to five years of nonprofit advocacy experience to the position—an emphasis on conservation is preferred. Candidates must have a proven track record of coalition coordination, strategic campaign development, and tactical implementation. A working knowledge of Virginia's General Assembly is preferred. Strong written and interpersonal communication skills are a must. Additionally, candidates who apply must have a strong commitment to environmental protection and a drive to fulfill the organization's mission. Flexibility to travel statewide and work outside of the typical business day is expected.

Location:

This full time position is located in Richmond, Virginia.

Compensation:

Nonprofit salary commensurate with experience; holidays, vacation, retirement, family leave

To Apply:

Submit the following application components to exec@vcnva.org or to VCN Executive Director, 409 East Main Street, Suite 201, Richmond VA 23219:

1. Cover Letter (including salary requirement)
2. Resume (including three professional references)
3. A recent campaign writing sample or campaign plan you developed

No visits or calls please.

Deadline:

Position is open until filled.

It is the policy of Virginia Conservation Network to consider all candidates equally without regard to age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or other non-merit factors.