



POSITION DESCRIPTION

WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST

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The Buzzards Bay Coalition seeks an effective problem-solver to serve as the Water Resource Specialist for this energetic, performance-driven and rapidly growing regional organization. The full-time position reports directly to the President, joins a talented staff and dedicated Board of Directors, and is responsible for the management of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects around the watershed aimed at reducing nitrogen pollution to Buzzards Bay.

The Water Resource Specialist will manage a suite of nitrogen-reducing demonstration projects in towns throughout the watershed. The position will continue and expand the Coalition's role as a regional leader in implementing on-the-ground solutions with wide application. The Water Resources Specialist will be an enthusiastic, technically-competent individual who can see projects through from initial planning to implementation to post-construction monitoring. The position requires a creative problem-solver with excellent communication skills.

The organization offers a great working environment; the opportunity to contribute to the success of a dynamic organization and have a direct impact on the future of our regional environment; and an outstanding quality of life on the shores of Buzzards Bay – all one hour from Boston and half an hour from each Providence and Cape Cod.

BACKGROUND

Buzzards Bay is a national treasure whose outstanding beauty and natural resources touch so many aspects of our lives here in southeastern Massachusetts. It is central to our quality of life, to our economy, and home to some of the world's leading oceanographic institutions. The Bay's waters support a thriving commercial shellfish and expanding recreational sportfishing industry, diverse and abundant wildlife populations, and some of the finest sailing on the entire globe. On its shores, the Bay's watershed lands are among the most beautiful on the eastern seaboard, with deep forests, clear rivers, and farmland as old as New England itself, all meeting the Bay's soft edge of beaches and saltmarsh through more than 30 harbors, coves and tidal estuaries.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3), membership-supported organization in July 1987 with start-up funding support from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The initial Board of Directors was comprised of individuals from throughout the Bay watershed - environmental advocates, cranberry growers, fishermen, marina owners, research institutions and town government. Today, the organization continues to maintain a governing Board from Westport to Woods Hole and from a variety of backgrounds.

The initial push to reverse the decline of Bay water quality and fisheries began in earnest in 1984 when Congress recognized the unique value of Buzzards Bay by selecting the Bay as one of four estuaries in the country to be studied under the new federal National Estuary Program.

Directing the activities of the National Estuary Program during its early years was a Citizens Advisory Committee comprised of local town officials, environmental advocates, and scientists. This group was charged, among other things, with determining if Buzzards Bay would benefit from the establishment of a private advocate/watchdog to ensure that the right decisions were being made for the Bay long after the program was dissolved. They determined that even more than federal recognition, what the Bay really needed was a community-based organization to speak for everyone who lives near, works on and enjoys the natural bounty of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. They founded the Buzzards Bay Coalition to be that independent voice.

OUR MISSION & SCOPE

Today, The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to the restoration, protection and sustainable use and enjoyment of our irreplaceable Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

The Coalition works throughout the entire Buzzards Bay Watershed to protect the region's coastal, river and drinking water quality and the upland forests, wetlands and streams that support a healthy watershed/bay ecosystem.

We are a \$2.5 million/year organization staffed by a team of 17 conservation professionals, aided by hundreds of volunteers, and supported by more than 8,400 members. As we have grown over the past 30 years, our effectiveness and reach have greatly expanded. What has not changed is our fundamental vision for the Bay we have committed to defend and restore.

OUR VISION

- A Buzzards Bay shoreline defined by safe swimming beaches, open shellfish beds and stretches of scenic open spaces for all to enjoy.
- Healthy waters that support abundant fish, shellfish and wildlife populations.
- A Bay safe from the threat of oil spills, industrial and sewer discharges and ocean dumping.
- A watershed where rivers, streams, forests and wetlands that buffer the Bay are protected.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the past two decades, the Buzzards Bay Coalition has earned a reputation as entrepreneurial, professional and focused on winning results for our local environment. We have:

- Partnered with towns and state agencies to clean-up pollution. The results of this work can today be seen in cleaner waters and safer beaches in every bay community.

- Preserved more than 8,000 acres of watershed lands as permanent open space and established the support services needed to aid towns and land trusts in the protection of many thousands of additional acres. The Coalition is an accredited land trust and the 2007 recipient of the 1st National Land Trust Excellence Award from the Land Trust Alliance.
- Responded to the 2003 Bouchard Oil Spill which fouled 93 miles of our shoreline by organizing the volunteer response, and subsequently led the effort to provide appropriate training and equipment for local first-responders in the event of another catastrophe. Following the spill, we pushed lawmakers to help secure some of the nation's strongest oil spill prevention laws and regulations at both the state and federal level.
- Created the most comprehensive volunteer-based water quality monitoring program in New England to guide Bay protection and restoration efforts, now entering its 26th year.
- Altered the course of hundreds of development projects in the watershed by working with town officials and developers to reduce the negative impacts of new growth on the health of the bay, our rivers and wetlands.
- Through public programs, in-school activities and Learning Centers in New Bedford, Woods Hole and Acushnet, educated over 10,000 thousand residents of all ages and communities throughout the watershed about what they can do to protect the Bay.
- Gone to court when necessary and succeeded in halting the largest source of pollution to the Westport Rivers, securing development setbacks to all of the bay's tidal rivers, and the permanent banning of dredge spoil disposal on the Bay bottom.

OUR WORK TODAY

The Buzzards Bay Coalition's staff, programs and initiatives are organized to achieve the following Program Objectives:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To create both an informed public today and future generations - tomorrow's bay stewards - who will understand the Buzzards Bay ecosystem (how it works, how it is threatened, and their place in it) and support its restoration and protection.

LAND CONSERVATION

To increase the rate of land protection and the amount of protected land in the watershed, the Coalition pursues a Bay-focused land protection strategy, empowers local land trusts and educates private landowners about conservation.

SCIENCE AND ADVOCACY

To better understand the Buzzards Bay ecosystem and its response to human-related impacts by gathering data on the health of the Bay in order to guide restoration and protection. And to use that data to pursue the restoration and protection of the Bay ecosystem through citizen advocacy and through the regulatory and legal process at the local, state and federal levels.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Water Resource Specialist will manage multiple projects across the watershed that showcase, real-world solutions to reducing nitrogen inputs to Buzzards Bay. Residential

wastewater is the major source of nitrogen to Buzzards Bay and projects will generally focus on wastewater solutions, including but not limited to the installation of nitrogen reducing on-site septic systems, neighborhood cluster systems, and municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Other areas of potential project development include innovations in home and institutional turf maintenance, agricultural fertilizer management and conservation boat mooring systems.

Examples of current projects include state of the art nitrogen removing septic system upgrades on 22 homes in West Falmouth (<http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/septic-system-upgrades-can-help-clean-up-west-falmouth-harbor/>) and determining the feasibility of a regional wastewater treatment in Upper Buzzards Bay (<http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/news/upper-bay-towns-are-coming-together-to-restore-clean-water-in-buzzards-bay/>)

Projects are typically performed in cooperation with multiple partners such as towns, neighborhood associations, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. The ability to effectively communicate and manage relationships with partners and homeowners is a critical component of this position. The Water Resource Specialist is expected to communicate directly with local boards of health and conservation commissions, which will require evening meetings.

The Water Resource Specialist will develop grant applications and perform grant management. The position will be expected to work on projects from conception to implementation, including but not limited to planning, budgeting, developing procedures and Requests for Proposals, to being present on site supervision and follow-on monitoring and tracking.

To support the dissemination of project results, this position will be expected to perform data analysis and develop reports for internal and public use. The position will organize and facilitate a series of Decision Makers Workshops each spring that are aimed at increasing the capacity of local town staff and officials to replicate demonstration projects.

The full-time position reports to the President and works closely with the Senior Attorney and Science Director. The ideal candidate will have a technical background in environmental science, engineering, or related discipline and at least seven years of project management experience. Master's Degree and familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) preferred.

The successful candidate will have a proven track record of success managing projects, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and a passion for the environment and Buzzards Bay. The position is based at the Coalition's headquarters on New Bedford's waterfront.

TO APPLY

The position is currently available. Please send a resume and cover letter, via email, to:

Mark Rasmussen, President, Buzzards Bay Coalition
rasmussen@savebuzzardsbay.org

*The Buzzards Bay Coalition is an equal opportunity employer
and actively seeks a diverse pool of candidates in this search.*