

Job Announcement Staff Research Analyst, Energy and Climate Change

Downstream Strategies offers clients an alternative to mainstream environmental consulting by combining sound interdisciplinary skills with a core belief in the importance of protecting the environment and linking economic development with natural resource stewardship. Our program areas include Environmental Policy, Geographic Information Systems, and Environmental Science. The Environmental Policy program is divided into two sub-programs: Water Resources and Energy and Climate Change.

We seek a staff research analyst to support a wide range of environmental policy and science projects, with a focus on energy, economic development, and climate change. The successful candidate will bring multiple skills and will be a key team member on projects in Appalachia and beyond. This is a full-time, salaried position. Salary will be based on education, experience, and commitment. Benefits include a flexible policy for paid time off. Benefits may also include a share of company ownership.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and interviews will be scheduled as soon as possible. The position will begin as soon as a candidate is selected and able. To apply, please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and two references to Evan Hansen, President, at ehansen@downstreamstrategies.com.

Duties and responsibilities

Specific tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Participate as a project team member on a wide variety of science and policy projects related to energy, climate change, and economic development.
- Collect data and information from various sources, including government reports and databases, literature reviews, and personal interviews.
- Analyze data, create charts and tables, and write reports.
- Perform policy analyses.
- Collaborate with our GIS team to create and refine maps and spatial analyses.
- Depending on skills, help with internal projects such as the development of marketing materials, maintenance of computer systems, and upkeep of office space.
- Help foster an interdisciplinary atmosphere at Downstream Strategies.
- On occasion, serve on project teams for water resources projects.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in a program related to environmental science, energy, climate change, economic development, and/or policy analysis.
- One or more years' experience working in a related field.
- Aptitude for data synthesis and presentation.
- Experience with policy analysis.
- Proficiency with software tools including Excel, Access, and Word. Proficiency with GIS software would be a plus.
- Experience with technical writing.

Preferred additional skills and characteristics:

- Graduate degree or equivalent.
- Experience in project management or interest in developing such skills in the future.
- Skills and experience giving public presentations and speaking at public meetings.
- Familiarity with data and policies related to energy, economic development, and climate change.
- Familiarity with people, organizations, and issues in Appalachia.
- Interest in helping develop Downstream Strategies' program areas.
- Computer skills including database design and administration, programming or web development, and/or network administration.
- Marketing and design skills.

Downstream Strategies

Downstream Strategies was founded in 1997 and has recently entered a period of growth. We currently have a full-time staff of five. We have a fast-paced, dynamic, collaborative work environment.

Most clients are nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and universities. Clients also include businesses, attorneys, and individuals. Whether a project involves a specific permit, a watershed, or a national program, we believe that all stakeholders—not just those with large budgets—deserve sound science and policy analysis.

In addition to employees, Downstream Strategies creates an exciting interdisciplinary environment by engaging affiliates and subcontractors, including university professors, graduate students, and independent environmental scientists. In recent projects, for example, we have teamed with a natural resource economist, a hydrogeologist, a biogeochemist, and a public health expert.

Selected recent Downstream Strategies projects related to this position description include:

- **Fish habitat modeling.** Downstream Strategies was just selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to develop GIS models that predict fish habitat based on landscape and other factors in the Midwest and Great Plains regions.
- **Economic benefits of clean water in the North Branch Potomac River.** Downstream Strategies is conducting research and surveys for government agencies in Maryland to calculate the local economic benefits of continuing to treat pollution from abandoned coal mines even after federal funding runs out.
- **Inventory of Appalachia's water assets.** For the Appalachian Regional Commission, Downstream Strategies is collaborating with West Virginia University and Penn State University to develop indicators related to the region's natural water assets, including quality, quantity, access, and value.
- **Comprehensive watershed planning.** On behalf of local stakeholders, Downstream Strategies is developing a comprehensive watershed plan for the Upper Elk River watershed, West Virginia's premier trout stream and an important tourist destination.
- **Landfill gas-to-energy.** Downstream Strategies researched why landfill gas-to-energy projects have not been implemented in West Virginia, educated local solid waste authorities and state agencies on the benefits of developing such projects, and is now working to implement them.
- **Economics of wind versus coal.** Downstream Strategies analyzed two potential development scenarios: the construction of an industrial wind farm versus the development of mountaintop removal coal mines.
- **Economic trends for coal in Central Appalachia.** For our first publication in our white paper series, "Thinking Downstream," Downstream Strategies analyzed the decline in Central Appalachian coal production and the challenges to future production, and concluded that there is an urgent need for state and local leaders to support economic diversification across the region.
- **Economic benefits of abandoned mine reclamation.** Downstream Strategies calculated the local economic benefits of remediating abandoned mine drainage in the West Fork Susquehanna River watershed in Pennsylvania.

- **TMDL implementation.** Downstream Strategies researched factors that led toward successful implementation of total maximum daily loads in West Virginia and Ohio.
- **Expert testimony.** Downstream Strategies has provided expert testimony before appeals boards and the West Virginia Public Service Commission related to the Clean Water Act, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and impacts of transmission lines on streams and wetlands.

Downstream Strategies is located in Morgantown, West Virginia, an historic town in Monongalia County along the banks of the Monongahela River. Best known as the home of West Virginia University, Morgantown is 75 miles south of Pittsburgh, and its surrounding areas offer a wide range of outdoor recreation activities including hiking, fishing, whitewater rafting, and skiing. Downstream Strategies is currently opening a satellite office in Alderson, West Virginia; this position, however, will be based in the Morgantown office.

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