



Environment Policy Manager

Job title:	Environment Policy Manager
Reporting to:	Stuart Colville, Director of Strategy
Salary:	£39,000-£45,000 depending on experience (full-time)
Applications:	Please provide the following to careers@water.org.uk no later than 9am Wednesday 10 th March: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your CV• A covering letter explaining how your skills and experience fit the role• A response in no more than 300 words to the following question: “What should Government do to help the economy after Covid? What arguments or evidence would you deploy to convince others of your case?”
Location:	Currently home-based. Our office is in Westminster, London.

One of the water industry’s most vital responsibilities is to protect and improve the environment. We are the first sector to commit to [achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030](#), invest £1 billion each year into improving our rivers and seas, and are one of the most important industries for delivering the Government’s [25 year plan for the environment](#).

Water UK’s Environment Policy Manager is at the heart of this work. The successful post-holder will be responsible for securing better and more efficient outcomes for the environment across a broad sweep of fascinating challenges and opportunities: from developing new policies for encouraging wetlands; to developing new approaches to rivers that embrace the growth in ‘open swimming’; to encouraging more impact from legislation like the Environment Bill.

The Role

This role acts as the water sector’s focal point for environmental issues, and will be expected to contribute across that agenda.

You will be expected - and supported - to develop expertise in all aspects of environmental policy and regulation, and the ability to represent the sector to Government, regulators and others. You will also lead on five policy areas:

1. Reducing pollution to rivers, and promoting river health and biodiversity
2. Reducing pollution-triggering fatbergs and [changing consumer behaviour](#)
3. Microplastics and our [public interest commitment](#) on reducing plastic waste
4. Our relationship with agriculture, including influencing the future design and implementation of agriculture policy to ensure it supports water quality objectives, and ownership of our associated policy
5. The environmental implications of issues like Covid and Brexit

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Leading policy work and projects (for example, on new frameworks to improve rivers and habitats and reduce pollution). These will typically include conducting or commissioning analysis, developing positions, spotting risks and problems, coordinating responses and generating consensus
- Leading aspects of long-term environment strategy and regulation, including work with the Environment Agency on reforming the £1bn/year “Water Industry National Environment Programme”.
- Leading work on questions of environmental regulation and compliance, and acting as an important liaison with the Environment Agency, Ofwat, Defra and others (including devolved equivalents)
- Building networks with NGOs and other sectors, leading discussions and working together to solve problems
- Supporting and co-working with other members of the team on issues that touch on the environment (for example, on drinking water resilience, carbon, and drought response)
- Contributing to original thinking on solving particular environmental risks and challenges, and developing practical solutions. This will include work to reduce the impact of ‘fatbergs’ by developing our evidence base, supporting behaviour change campaigns, and shaping the response of Government and retailers to ‘extended producer responsibility’.
- Producing briefs and papers, and contributing to outward communications and public affairs work to secure change
- Supporting our international work and thinking about ‘what next after Brexit’. This will include liaising with peers in other countries and maintaining influence through our European trade body over critical aspects of EU legislation.
- Chairing or supporting working groups and other policy fora to develop and articulate positions.
- Horizon-scanning for emerging environmental issues and shifts in Government and regulator agendas

The Person

All candidates will be expected to be:

- A great team player, with a natural ability to collaborate across an organisation and the desire to see everyone succeed.
- Confident multitasking and prioritising workloads, with a can-do attitude, ability to get things done, and ability to manage projects
- Articulate in front of senior internal and external audiences
- Outward-looking and curious, with experience of working with and influencing other organisations or building coalitions and networks

In addition, the specific requirements of this role include:

Essential Skills

- The vision and intellect to develop compelling and insightful positions and plans, and experience of influencing decision-makers
- The creativity and numeracy develop innovative, evidenced and deliverable policy, and experience developing evidence-based positions and managing analysis. This could be in the public sector, a charity, a trade association, or similar.

- A natural ability to communicate with clarity, fluency and impact, both verbally and in writing
- The diplomacy and confidence to chair meetings, quickly judging and informing the views and drivers of others
- The initiative and drive to learn quickly, juggle tasks with limited oversight, and deliver small and medium-sized projects
- You will need to be comfortable working in a small team. That means a willingness to take responsibility, deal directly with senior staff, and a comfort with a lack of easy or 'off the shelf' answers.

Highly Desirable Skills

The successful candidate will also have as many as possible of the following:

- Experience of working in or with Parliament, Government, eNGOs or relevant regulators
- An understanding of relevant environment policy (particularly the drivers and issues around water quality, but wider related policy like natural capital, habitat and biodiversity would also be helpful)
- Experience of managing projects and working with consultants
- Experience of working in or with a regulated industry or member association.
- A relevant qualification (either science or humanities)

We strongly welcome applications from everyone, of all backgrounds, and are committed to treating every application fairly. Please note that all candidates must already be eligible to work in the UK.

About Water UK

Water UK represents all water and wastewater service providers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We are made up of a small and very friendly team of highly motivated people drawn from a range of industries and Government.

Though currently home-working, in more normal times we are headquartered in Westminster, London, and work closely with regulators, Government, Parliamentarians, civil society and experts of all kinds.

You can find out more about us at www.water.org.uk