



RURAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

Job Description: The Rural Sustainability Manager is responsible for monitoring emerging land use threats, development proposals, and regulatory updates affecting private lands and municipal planning in Okanogan County, while translating complex socioeconomic and environmental data into impactful public action. Working closely with the program staff and the Communications & Community Engagement Manager, they lead the planning, execution, and evaluation of grassroots advocacy campaigns and public education initiatives to promote climate adaptation, protect water rights, and ensure smart, resilient rural growth. They ensure that advocacy narratives are legally sound, scientifically accurate, and transparently documented. The ideal candidate is highly organized, knowledgeable, and adaptable, and possesses the capacity to maintain sharp focus while managing shifting priorities in real-time.

Reports to:	Executive Director (direct); Policy Director (dotted line)
Status:	30 hrs/week, hourly, non-exempt
Compensation:	\$30-\$35/hour DOE
Benefits:	Medical and cell phone stipends; 3 weeks of paid vacation
Schedule:	MVCC office in Twisp, with flexibility for remote and field work

Key Responsibilities

- Monitor county and municipal planning actions, including comprehensive plan updates, zoning amendments, building codes, and subdivision proposals.
- Evaluate and respond to issues concerning water rights, watershed protections, dark sky lighting ordinances, clean air, wildfire resilience, and climate adaptation.
- Partner with program staff and the Communications & Community Engagement Manager to translate complex planning, legal, and environmental priorities into clear, compelling, and real-time public narratives, toolkits, and action alerts.
- Design, execute, and evaluate multi-faceted advocacy campaigns that allow the public to seamlessly follow local land-use and sustainability issues as they unfold.
- Work with the Policy Director to determine opportunities of highest priority and impact regarding rural growth boundaries and resource protections.
- Identify a mix of opportunities for community education (including water conservation workshops, public info sessions, dark-sky events, social content, etc.) and work with the administrative team to implement.
- Maintain high mobility to conduct site visits, observe local development impacts, and pivot quickly to address shifting regulatory landscapes or immediate environmental threats.

- With the Communications & Community Engagement Manager, help draft public comments, factsheets, FAQs, and regulatory feedback rooted in science and planning accuracy to maintain organization credibility.
- Build strategic relationships with local residents, farmers/ranchers, Tribal nations, and municipal partners to amplify sustainable rural development efforts.
- Attend public events, planning commission hearings, city council meetings, outreach events, and coalition meetings as appropriate.
- Research foundation and federal grant opportunities; work with administrative staff to track impact metrics; submit progress reports for grants, including program data and deliverable updates.

Desired Qualifications, Experience, and Competencies

- Familiarity with and demonstrated passion for the mission of the Methow Valley Citizens Council and environmental conservation.
- Bachelor's degree or higher, or equivalent experience, in Urban/Regional Planning, Environmental Policy, Sustainability, Water Resource Management, or a related field.
- 3+ years of experience in environmental advocacy, municipal planning, water law tracking, or community organizing, especially in rural areas.
- Proven ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment, manage shifting priorities on short notice, and travel for field monitoring and community events.
- Strong understanding of Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA), SEPA, local zoning laws, and water right frameworks, with the ability to vet and align organizational narratives with scientific data and legal frameworks.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills, with a track record of working seamlessly across departments to optimize public transparency and build trust.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a dynamic, small-team environment.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and project management tools. Familiarity with GIS or zoning maps a plus.

To apply: Send cover letter and resume to rebekah@mvcitizens.org specifying "Rural Sustainability Manager" in the subject line. Applications received by **September 25** will be prioritized. No phone calls, please.

MVCC is committed to building an inclusive workplace for people from all backgrounds. As an equal opportunity employer, MVCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, disability, age, or any other legally protected status.

About MVCC: The mission of the Methow Valley Citizens Council is to raise a strong community voice for the protection of the Methow Valley's natural environment and rural character. Established in 1976, MVCC has since garnered strong community support as advocates for progressive land use and environmental values in the Methow Valley. The healthy rural character of this community – with low-density development, considerable open space, and clean air and water – has been preserved in significant part through MVCC's advocacy on land use planning and public land issues. Today, MVCC maintains its role as a watchdog organization, while lending its expertise in distilling complex issues and convening constructive dialogue to local and regional coalition-building efforts.