



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### Land Programs & Sustainable Communities Director

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) seeks a full-time Land Programs and Sustainable Communities Director to lead our organization's efforts to promote Sustainable Communities strategies through public policy reform. This position utilizes a range of skills and relationships to rebuild Michigan's cities and small towns, protect forests and farmland, create more transportation choices and promote neighborhood revitalization. This position will be based in MEC's Lansing, Michigan headquarters, and will regularly work with MEC's Detroit office.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Collaborate with MEC staff, board members and member groups to develop strategies and implement action plans to achieve our Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth priorities.
- Partner with MEC allies to lead, expand and diversify existing land use and transportation collaborations and build new alliances around emerging issues as appropriate.
- Review, translate and comment on proposed legislation, administrative reforms and proposed permits that impact community land use, planning, infrastructure and environmental protection.
- Educate state and local legislators, agency officials and administrators, development professionals, business leaders, and other Michigan decision makers on key land use, transportation and environmental issues facing Michigan.
- Represent MEC and our member organizations on workgroups, councils and committees reviewing and developing recommendations for policy reform related to environmental and Smart Growth issues.
- Respond to media inquiries on Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth issues.
- Assist in preparing proposals to charitable foundations that support Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth work and report on work completed under existing grants.
- Work with colleagues responsible for other MEC environmental programs to identify and capitalize on cross-program opportunities, especially with MEC's Detroit office.
- Provide content for MEC's quarterly newsletter, website and other publications.
- Attend state, regional and national land use, community development and Smart Growth conferences.
- Fulfill office responsibilities shared by our 13-person staff.
- Be available for frequent local and occasional long-distance travel, including up to one day per week in MEC's Detroit office.

## **Current MEC Sustainable Communities and Smart Growth Priorities**

- Adopt policies that improve Michigan's environmental legacy, economic security and community vitality through adherence to the Smart Growth Network's Ten Tenets of Smart Growth [[http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about\\_sg.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about_sg.htm)] and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities' Six Livability Principles [<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership/#livabilityprinciples>].
- Integrate of housing, transportation and economic development policy at the federal, state, regional and local levels.
- Preserve open space, enhance ecosystems services, and protect farmland and working lands for food and fiber production.
- Enhance urban and rural quality of life through place-making programs, transportation and community-based infrastructure investments, and adherence to social justice principles.
- Implement Smart Growth strategies appropriate to urban, small town and rural contexts throughout Michigan.
- Address environmental links to obesity, including impacts of our built environment and land use decisions related to community planning and design, walking and biking, transit access and school siting policies.
- Reform state and federal planning, land use, transportation and economic development policy in Michigan to reflect Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities strategies.
- Advance general urban redevelopment, infill development and land preservation goals.

## **Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree required; Masters degree in field related to urban planning, community development or environmental science preferred.
- Public policy development, advocacy and/or implementation strongly preferred.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Experience and aptitude working in diverse coalitions, alliances or other groups.
- Political experience a significant plus.
- Commitment to protection of the environment, economic empowerment and social justice a must.

## **Compensation**

- Salary commensurate with experience.
- Benefits include health and dental insurance, 403b retirement plan, and paid vacation.

## **Application Procedure**

To apply, please send resume, cover letter, three references and a writing sample to:

Chris Kolb  
President  
Michigan Environmental Council  
119 Pere Marquette, Ste. 2A  
Lansing, MI 48912

Applications may be e-mailed to Judy Bearup at [jobs@environmentalcouncil.org](mailto:jobs@environmentalcouncil.org). If you have questions, please use the e-mail above or call Judy Bearup at 517-487-9539.

The deadline for applications is the close of business, February 25, 2011.

### **About the Michigan Environmental Council**

MEC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and operates as a coalition of more than 60 environmental, public health, and faith-based groups around the state. Created in 1980 to lead Michigan's environmental movement in achieving positive change through the political process, MEC has long been a strong presence in the Michigan Capitol. MEC combines deep environmental policy expertise with close connections to key state and federal decision makers, decades of experience getting things done in the political process, and an ability to rally broad and powerful alliances in support of reforms. With our member groups and partners, MEC promotes public policies to ensure that Michigan families will enjoy clear waters, clean beaches, beautiful landscapes and healthy communities for years to come.

***MEC is an equal opportunity employer. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply.***