



POLICY PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR

REGIONAL POLICY PROGRAM ON FORESTS, FARMS, FISHERIES AND COMMUNITIES

Are you a dynamic, experienced policy professional with a passion for land conservation, the environment, and their intersection with human health, justice and equity? We seek a full-time Policy Director to co-lead and coordinate our new joint policy program and advance our shared commitment to integrated land and water conservation, food systems, racial equity, and environmental justice. This is not a lobbyist role.

Program Overview

[Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities](#) (WWF&C) and [Food Solutions New England](#) (FSNE) are collaborating to launch a new policy initiative to advance forest and farmland conservation, environmental sustainability, and human well-being across New England. The objective of the *Regional Policy Program on Forests, Farms, Fisheries and Communities* is to increase the effectiveness of WWF&C, FSNE and our many private and public partners in informing local to federal policy and multi-state and region-wide solutions that advance land and water protection; improve food, forestry and fisheries systems; strengthen environmental and land justice; and benefit nature and all in society.

The new initiative will develop a New England-wide community of collaborators and networks to assimilate policy information across the six-state region and federally on an ongoing basis. The initiative will synthesize this regional information for use by WWF&C and FSNE programs and for open external distribution; utilize it to inform our strategic directions, research, publications, communications and actions; and identify and convene partners and networks for ongoing collaboration and action.

Overview of the Policy Program Co-Director Positions

The policy initiative will be supported by two dedicated positions based at the [Sustainability Institute](#) at the University of New Hampshire. The open position is focused on land conservation; its established counterpart is centered on food systems. The directors will coordinate this collaborative effort working closely with the lead coordinators for WWF&C and FSNE and a joint advisory board.

Food Solutions New England (FSNE) is affiliated with the Sustainability Institute at University of New Hampshire. Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities (WWF&C) is an integrated initiative of lead partners including [Harvard Forest](#) at Harvard University, [Highstead Foundation](#), the [Northeast Wilderness Trust](#), [New England Forestry Foundation](#), [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#), and the [Family Forest Research Center](#) at the University of Massachusetts with funding from Highstead.

Both initiatives collaborate across the six-state region with strong networks (e.g., [Regional Conservation Partnership Network](#), [Northeast Forest Network](#), [ALPINE](#)—*Academics for Land Protection in New England*, the [Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance](#), and [Conservation Finance Network](#)), projects (e.g., [New England Feeding New England](#), [Farm to Institution New England](#)), conservation organizations, academic institutions, and state and federal agencies.

Policy Program Co-Director

The successful candidate will have or will develop relationships with New England organizations, agencies and state and regional decisionmakers and lawmakers active in forest and farm conservation, environmental affairs, food and forestry systems, environmental justice, and associated policy realms. They will team with other staff and partners to integrate, exchange and coordinate information, activities, science, strategies and tactics to advance goals related to the [Wildlands & Woodlands Vision](#) and [New England Food Vision](#).

Responsibilities

Overall -- Develop and Promote Strategic Relationships, Networks, and Action across New England

- Cultivate relationships and build strategic alliances among individuals, organizations, and agencies across the region and in policy areas relevant to land conservation, forest and farm sustainability, and community well-being, including environmental justice and equitable access to land, healthy food and a livable environment for all.
- Utilize these relationships to advance the development and support the success of policy initiatives and partner program efforts that advance the priorities WWFC and FSNE.

Synthesis and Dissemination of Six-State Regional Policy Activities (40%)

- Develop a six-state community of knowledgeable and well-connected collaborators and networks to gather, assimilate and synthesize regional policy information on an ongoing basis.
- Share these syntheses openly, internally and externally to all partners, to inform research, reports, communications and coordinated activities in support of local, state, regional and federal decision-making and action in policy and management.

Policy Network Coordination (25%)

- Collaborate with WWFC and FSNE staff and partners to convene, coordinate, and support key stakeholders to catalyze and advance state and regional policy and action.
- Assist in facilitating meetings/convenings on specific topics, in support of collaborator initiatives and to advance regional collaboration on Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities
- Synthesize group insights and recommendations to inform WWFC/FSNE priorities, activities and communications.

Analysis & Outreach (25%)

- Identify topics and oversee the development of reports, position papers, and opinion pieces that highlight and frame key policy topics through an FSNE/WWFC lens. Includes conducting necessary research, writing, and editing in collaboration with communications team.
- Work with partners in the research community to identify and address key questions of relevance to FSNE/WWFC policy priorities. Collaborate with researchers, including students and interns, to generate effective analyses and insights for policymakers, organizers, and advocates.
- Coordinate workshops, panel discussions, and convenings on key policy topics. Help build contact lists dedicated to these topics.

Program and Project Management (10%)

- Provide project management to keep work on track, including developing and implementing timelines, budgets and team deliverables and milestones. Tracking and reporting on progress.

Reporting Structure

The policy co-directors will report to the co-coordinators of WWF&C and FSNE (Tom Kelly and David Foster), will work closely with other members of both initiatives, and will be members of their steering committee.

The *Regional Policy Program on Forests, Farms, Fisheries and Communities* is coordinated by Foster and Kelly and has an advisory committee representing the combined interests of WWFC and FSNE.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree and seven years of related experience, or Masters degree and five years, or Ph.D. degree and three years related experience.
- Knowledge of and experience with New England's forest and farm land conservation activities, food network and environmental justice challenges and a network of connections in these disciplines.
- Excellent facilitation and communication skills, including ability to synthesize complex ideas to increase understanding and, where appropriate, spark action.
- Demonstrated commitment to and success in large collaborative efforts, with the capacity to make connections and work productively across a wide range of issues and activities.
- Demonstrated strong project management skills.
- Experience with and commitment to racial and social equity, and environmental and food justice.
- Ability to travel and collaborate throughout New England.
- Knowledge of and deep commitment to the natural and cultural landscapes of New England.

The Initiatives

[WWF&C](#) is a regional initiative founded at the Harvard University's Harvard Forest with publication of the [Wildlands and Woodlands Vision for Massachusetts](#) in 2005 and expanded region-wide five years later through partnership with Highstead Foundation in the release of the [W&W Vision for New England landscape](#). Following the release of [The New England Food Vision](#) (2014) in collaboration with FSNE, our initiative expanded to address integrated land and water conservation for the benefit of nature and society in [Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities](#). This vision, based on science, sound stewardship and collaboration with diverse partners seeks to protect the region's lands and waters today, to ensure that everyone shares equitably in the countless benefits of nature tomorrow. Our work lays out measurable goals for New England and illuminates the pathways that are vital for their achievement.

[Food Solutions New England](#) is a regional, six-state network that unites the food system community around a shared set of values – democratic empowerment, racial equity, and dignity for all, sustainability, and trust – and strengthens the movement's ability to achieve *The New England Food Vision goals*. The FSNE network is supported and coordinated by the UNH Sustainability Institute

To apply in confidence:

Please submit cover and resume at <https://jobs.usnh.edu/postings/54367>. The position is available immediately. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive and will be accepted until the position is filled.

This is a full-time [benefited](#) position with the [UNH Sustainability Institute](#) based at the University of New Hampshire's Durham campus. This is a one-year term position with the possibility of renewal depending upon funding and performance. Starting annual salary is \$70,000-\$75,000. The position offers flexibility regarding remote work arrangements. Candidates should be based in New England and be available to travel throughout the region to promote the joint policy initiative and to attend meetings of WWF&C and FSNE.