

NET ZERO AND INNOVATION MANAGER

Overview

Job Title: Net Zero and Innovation Manager

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer (Forth Green Freeport)

Term: Permanent but open to considering secondments.

Salary: £55,000 - £65,000, dependent on experience.

Role:

As Net Zero and Innovation Manager, you will lead efforts to ensure businesses operating within Forth Green Freeport's sites adhere to the Net Zero Charter and contribute to net zero goals. You will also lead the development and delivery of innovation initiatives across Forth Green Freeport.

You will work with our stakeholders to design, lead and monitor initiatives aiming to realise our net zero ambitions, leading these programmes into delivery and lasting impact. You will provide guidance on compliance, support businesses to embed responsible sustainability practices, and work closely with government, regulators and industry partners to drive high standards of ethical business conduct.

You will work with businesses, educational institutions, government agencies, and research bodies to foster industrial innovation. This is a strategic role requiring experience in public-private partnerships focused on the commercialisation of research.

As senior member of a small core team within the Forth Green Freeport Operating Company, you will be comfortable operating independently and occupying a position of significant influence.

Forth Green Freeport:

Forth Green Freeport (FGF) was announced as a successful Green Freeport bid by the Scottish and UK Governments in August 2023. We are now one of Scotland's two Green Freeports, centred around the industrial heartland of the Forth Estuary.

The heart of FGF's activities is maximising the potential of our transition to net zero across the Green Freeport sites of Grangemouth, Rosyth, Leith and Burntisland.

Each site represents a significant opportunity for the Scottish economy, by attracting significant inward investment, building international trade and export capability, and creating high quality and well-paid jobs. New technology backed skills development will address areas of acute deprivation within our communities.

Our partners include Babcock, CalaChem, Edinburgh Airport, Falkirk Council, Fife Council, Forth Ports, INEOS, Royal Navy, Scarborough Muir Group and The City of Edinburgh Council. All will play an integral part in the development and the delivery of your work on net zero and innovation, alongside our wider stakeholders.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

1) Strategy and engagement

- Develop and implement strategies for delivering net zero vision and objectives of Forth Green Freeport.
- Identify strategic opportunities for driving forward our net zero strategic aims, working with stakeholders to develop business cases and secure formal approval.
- Monitor delivery against the Net Zero Strategy, reporting on progress, identifying risks and tackling barriers to progress.
- Develop partnerships with universities, R&D centres, and innovation hubs to drive knowledge exchange and commercialisation of research.
- Identify and support businesses in accessing innovation funding, R&D tax incentives, and grants.
- Promote the Freeport as a centre for technological innovation, supporting companies to develop and adopt new technologies in areas like renewable energy, digitalisation, and AI-driven manufacturing.
- Facilitate collaboration between start-ups, SMEs, and larger corporations to create an innovation ecosystem within the Freeport.
- Engage local communities to build support and create partnerships innovation projects.
- Maintain knowledge of relevant regulations, legislation and best practice related to innovation, and assess how changes might impact FGF.
- Work with other FGF staff and across governance forums to ensure FGF's approach to innovation are incorporated into the FGF offer to investors.
- Promote the principles of the circular economy, energy efficiency and sustainable supply chain practices.
- Collaborate with industry bodies, environmental agencies and local authorities to support businesses in reducing their carbon footprint.
- Work with other FGF staff and across governance forums to ensure net zero strategies are incorporated into the FGF offer to investors.
- Co-design Net Zero plans with the FGF Board, relevant FGF sub-committees and our local partners.
- Early engagement with potential business to share knowledge of environmental and net zero regulations and requirements.

2) Monitoring and Compliance

- Track and report on compliance with Net Zero targets amongst businesses operating in the FGF sites.
- Appraise potential investments in FGF sites for alignment with Net Zero targets and make recommendations to the relevant sub-committees.
- Support business across FGF to overcome regulatory barriers to innovation, adhere to environmental regulations and manage sustainability reporting and compliance documentation.
- Conduct regular environmental audits and assessments to identify areas for improvement and check pace and direction of change aligns to the ambition establish in FGF strategies.

3) Programme design and management

- Design and oversee a portfolio innovation projects, ensuring they achieve measurable social and economic impacts and align with FGF's strategic objectives.
- Review and appraise innovation projects and facilitate input and endorsement of the from sub-committees and stakeholders on proposed and ongoing projects.
- Develop and maintain a performance framework to track innovation output, and report delivery against the framework to FGF governance and stakeholders.
- Co-design and commission targeted activities or interventions to support projects achieve their targets.
- Foster a culture of innovation across the Green Freeport by developing and implementing programs that encourage creativity, research and development.
- Identify and support innovative projects and technologies that can enhance the Green Freeport's efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness.
- Produce reports and recommendations for FGF governance bodies on innovation programme effectiveness and future priorities.

Person Specification

Education

- Degree level qualification.
- Relevant professional certifications preferred but not essential.

Experience and Skills

- Experience in strategic planning related to net zero, carbon emissions and sustainability.
- Strong background in innovation strategy.
- Understanding of R&D, innovation funding and commercialisation pathways.
- Strong analytical and reporting skills, with the ability to appraise and measure economic and social impact, and to assess potential investment opportunities for their adherence to net zero targets.
- Excellent stakeholder engagement skills, with experience working within multi-sector public-private partnerships.
- Management of conflicting priorities and deadlines, balancing the interests of multiple stakeholders, while working under pressure.
- Analytical skills and ability
- Knowledge of different appraisal methodologies related to net zero.
- Confident in drafting, delivering and defending recommendations to senior stakeholders, including corporate boards.
- Strong communication and negotiation skills, with the ability to build, maintain and leverage influence through diverse stakeholder relationships.
- Accurately represent and communicate the organisation's position to external audiences.
- Maintain knowledge of legislation, regulation and best practice related to your areas of responsibility and identify the impact changes on FGF.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite,
- A drivers' license and access to own transport is preferred.