Air Monitoring Fellow (E. OH / WV Panhandle)  
FracTracker Alliance

APPLY NOW

Application Deadline: September 29, 2023

Compensation: This is a full time, exempt position with a starting salary range of $45,000-$50,000; Benefits offered for this position include, but are not limited to: health, vision, and dental care coverage, 401(k) employer match, paid holidays, and paid time off.

Position reports to: Midwest Program Director, FracTracker Alliance; Leatra Harper, Freshwater Accountability Project

Location: Eastern Ohio and the West Virginia panhandle (Hancock, Marshall, Brooke, Belmont, Monroe, and Jefferson Counties)

OVERVIEW:

Founded in 2012, FracTracker Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that maps, analyzes, and communicates the risks of oil, gas, and petrochemical development to advance just energy alternatives that protect public health, natural resources, and the climate. We provide timely and provocative data, ground-breaking analyses, maps, and other visual tools to help advocates, researchers, and the concerned public better understand the harms posed by hydrocarbon extraction.

The Air Monitoring Fellow will play a supportive role in a community-led air monitoring project in the Ohio River Valley between Ohio and West Virginia (Hancock, Marshall, Brooke, Belmont, Monroe, and Jefferson Counties). This project is a three-year project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the American Rescue Plan. The project is being carried out by Freshwater Accountability Project, CREATE Lab, Environmental Health Project, and FracTracker. This project will engage local audiences to educate the public about air pollution from industrial sources in the Ohio River Valley. The position will consist of field work to conduct air sampling and monitoring, and troubleshooting equipment, and engage with air monitor hosts. The Fellow will also support the creation of presentations and reports to communicate findings from air monitoring.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
Job covers three years of EPA Community Air Monitoring Project, with training provided on the following responsibilities.

Half of responsibilities will be spent doing field work. Field work includes:
- Meet with churches, schools and civic organizations as well as individual residents with air quality concerns to introduce air monitoring tools and evaluate existing sources of pollutants. Working with people experiencing air pollution or living next to industrial polluters:
- Represent the project publicly and support community engagement to find best locations for monitors in collaboration with pollution modeling and GIS analyst project partners
- Build and sustain community partnerships with a basis of trust and respect
- Install and maintain air monitoring hardware
- Prepares reports of findings in home performs technical investigations and inspections, conducts investigation of complaints, documents activities
- Train residents in filing complaints and inform on best watchdog tactics
- Make recommendations for health interventions actions if needed
- Receive training to deploy summa canisters or collect Spod-triggered sample, fill out chain of custody paperwork, and mail for analysis.
- With training, collect air samples, coordinate laboratory analysis, and prepare follow up reports, as necessary.
- Comply with QA/QC protocol and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the project
- Operate equipment while maintaining accurate calibration.

_Half of the responsibilities will be spent supporting research, data interpretation, and report/presentation writing. Those activities include:_

- Contribute to writing quarterly reports analyzing and interpreting the data from the project in accordance with grant-required timeline
- Supporting research on most egregious air pollution violators
- Report and document air pollution exceedances to proper regulatory agencies
- With training, become familiar with emission inventory reports; quantify air pollutant emissions and impacts, and monitor toxic release inventory (TRI) reporting for evaluation and placement of air monitors. Prepare recommendations and reporting of results
- Develop working familiarity with federal, state and local air quality regulations.
- Demonstrated understanding of air emissions and emission reporting processes including air permit interpretation and application.
- Regularly follow up with regulators about submitted complaints
- Support research efforts to identify best placement of air monitors
- Track miles, spending, hours, and activities and report to Project Manager
- Attend weekly team meetings with project partners, field scientists, and project manager

This list of duties and responsibilities is not intended to be all-inclusive and may be expanded to include other duties or responsibilities as needed, including getting quotes from labs and making presentations of results with follow up with regulators.
QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excellent communication (written/verbal), strategic thinking, negotiation, presentation skills. Must be able to apply tact and diplomacy in dealing with a variety of people in a variety of situations.
- Experience building and sustaining professional relationships with local residents, project partners, government employees, or others as needed.
- Interest in Environmental Justice and advocacy.
- Ability to read and apply general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations.
- Ability to speak in public forums.
- Competency in technical writing including ability to write data reports, draft correspondence with various stakeholders, and procedure manuals.
- Preferences will be granted to applicants who have experience researching air pollution, air monitoring and environmental regulations.
- Must have a valid driver's license and reliable vehicle for community outreach and air monitoring installation and troubleshooting. Mileage compensation will be provided.
- Must be able to utilize a provided computer for word processing functions, generate spreadsheets as needed, and enter data into established database management systems.

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FracTracker Alliance is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to providing equal employment opportunities without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, citizenship status, age, veteran status, or disability.