

Position: Policy Manager .8 FTE (Part-time, 32 hours/week)
Location: Washington & Oregon Reports to: Program Director

Spark Northwest seeks a Policy Manager to serve as our point person on community-generated clean energy policy in Oregon and Washington. We are looking for someone who shares our vision of a just transition to clean energy. The Policy Manager cultivates relationships with allies and deploys our policy strategy to advance clean energy that benefits BIPOC and low-wealth communities.

Spark Northwest partners with communities to build equitable clean energy. We work with nonprofits, local governments and utilities to design and implement clean energy projects, with an emphasis on projects that benefit marginalized communities. We advocate for policy changes to remove barriers and increase resources for clean energy that prioritizes BIPOC and people with low wealth. We are a team of eight and have an office in Seattle, although most people work from home during the pandemic. Please visit sparknorthwest.org to learn more.

Because Spark Northwest's mission is to advance clean energy that builds power and wealth for marginalized communities, we especially value candidates who have lived or professional experience in BIPOC, immigrant, rural and low-wealth communities. We encourage people with that knowledge and experience to apply.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy Development

- Develop a policy work plan that implements Spark Northwest's short and long-term policy priorities. Ensure that the plan is aligned with Spark Northwest's unique competitive advantages and advances clean energy projects that shift power and wealth to marginalized communities. (Synopsis of our general policy strategy is attached.)
- Monitor Oregon and Washington policy landscape and identify points of intervention and collaboration with allies. This may be at the legislature, in regulatory proceedings or with local governmental entities.
- Build beneficial relationships with lawmakers and regulators, nonprofit and industry clean energy advocates, and, importantly, our community partners.
- Convene community energy policy advocates and facilitate discussions, and support for, policies that remove barriers to project implementation. This could be done through in-person meetings, conference/video calls, policy papers, email lists, etc.



- Participate in existing policy and advocacy forums to build Spark Northwest’s profile as a community energy advocate. Attendance at committee, commission, work group and other public involvement opportunities are an essential part of the position.
- Coordinate with program staff to ensure on-the-ground expertise is applied to policy making. Where appropriate, engage project partners and other stakeholders as advocates.

Organizational Support

- Participate in regular team meetings, where we deepen Spark Northwest’s equity mission, chart strategic direction and build community.
- Assist with developing grant and contract proposals to support policy funding.
- Occasionally represent Spark Northwest as a spokesperson at events and conferences.



Spark Northwest community building happening at a solar-powered blueberry farm

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND ABILITIES

Our ideal candidate will have a passion for creating solutions for our most pressing energy, environmental, and social justice challenges. They will be a team player, a motivated self-starter, and will thrive in a fast-paced and lively organization.

We are seeking candidates who have many of the following attributes:

- Have at three years’ or more experience in political organizing/advocacy/lobbying
- Are knowledgeable about clean energy and social justice issues
- Have strong communication skills in writing and presenting
- Enjoy collaboration with multiple stakeholders
- Demonstrate initiative and can self-manage and work remotely
- Are willing to travel throughout the region
- Are experienced at using MS Office – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

The salary range at .8 FTE is \$53,000-\$56,000 annually, (the equivalent of \$66,250-\$70,000 full-time). Generous benefits including health and dental insurance, paid leave, retirement plan, professional development allowance, and public transit subsidy.



LOCATION

We have an office in downtown Seattle. During the COVID-19 pandemic our work is almost entirely remote. When social distancing is no longer necessary, we expect a mix of remote and in-person office collaboration and some travel for in-person meetings with clients/stakeholders across Oregon and Washington. For remote work, employees need access to internet, phone, and personal computer. If this is a barrier, we can make accommodations.

TO APPLY

Position will remain open until filled, but applications received by February 12th will receive priority consideration. Expected start date in early April.

Please submit the following to jobs@sparknorthwest.org with the subject line: “Your Full Name, Policy Manager”:

- A cover letter explaining how this position aligns with your previous experience and career goals
- A current resume with specific dates of employment (month/year)
- A writing sample reflecting your original work

No phone inquiries please.

Spark Northwest is an equal opportunity employer who does not discriminate against any employee or job applicant due to gender, race, color, religion, national origin, political ideology, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, or any other legally protected status. //Posted January 21, 2022.



Spark Northwest Policy Strategy

Our Approach

We believe that clean energy programs must go hand-in-hand with sound policy at all levels of government in order to reach our goal of equitable deployment of clean energy. Therefore advocacy is an important part of our mission.

We recognize that the policy ecosystem is complex, and advocacy is a crowded space. Accordingly, we are selective and specific about how we engage in policy work. Spark Northwest prioritizes policy issues that: (1) are most closely related to Spark Northwest's area of expertise—locally-generated and community-owned clean energy—and (2) address needs of BIPOC and low-wealth communities.

Our advocacy activities center on consulting and coordinating across sectors to drive support for these priorities, partnering closely with other clean energy policy groups. We also generate content to build the case for specific policies, submit written comments and provide testimony in legislative and regulatory proceedings, and issue and respond to calls for action via email and social media.

Spark Northwest General Policy Goals

- Equitable and abundant funding and financing is available for clean energy projects in, with and for low-wealth communities.
- Marginalized communities direct how clean energy rules and programs are designed to meet their needs.
- Shared energy resources are community-owned and/or community-controlled
- Energy burdens are meaningfully reduced for low-wealth and BIPOC communities
- Rural, tribal and low-wealth communities are resilient to power outages, natural disasters and socioeconomic/political crises.

Specific Policy Advocacy Examples in 2022

- Include energy efficiency funds for people with low wealth through weatherization funding in the Washington State Budget.
- Support \$20M in incentives for community solar for low-income subscribers (WA).
- Negotiate guidelines for use of funds earmarked for vulnerable populations to advocate in utility proceedings, ensuring a diversity of perspectives are heard. (WA).
- Generate support from local governments for energy heat pump campaigns subsidized for low-wealth households (OR & WA)