

Organisation Description

About FILE:

Founded in 2018, the Stichting Foundation for International Law for the Environment (FILE) is the major philanthropic initiative working to tackle climate change by scaling up environmental legal action globally.

Driven by the urgent global transition to a zero-carbon society, FILE funds world-leading global partners to deliver pioneering legal and shareholder actions with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees. Our grant portfolio includes workstreams that cut across the natural systems including: Just Energy Transition; Land Use; Sustainable Finance; Future of Environmental Law; and Nature. FILE's Sustainable Finance Portfolio includes a range of partners committed to using shareholder advocacy to drive companies and financial institutions towards adopting credible 1.5 degree aligned climate transition plans.

FILE supports the development of a strong, diverse and empowered ecosystem of partners, enabling the co-development of strategy to collectively make a meaningful impact on climate change and the protection of biodiversity. We seek to grow the field, while increasing diversity, and facilitate successful outcomes through access to key research, capacity building, knowledge sharing, strategic communications and campaign alignment and learning.

The Position

Job Title: Senior Associate, Sustainable Finance

Reports to: Head of Sustainable Finance Portfolio

Location: Homebased/ London / Netherlands (regular presence in the London office required, when Covid restrictions allow).

Salary: £75k-85k

Full-time or part-time (min 3 days a week)

The exciting opportunity:

This is a very rare opportunity to use your private sector experience to drive significant impact in the real economy to achieve the Paris temperature goal. FILE's shareholder advocacy portfolio will aim to leverage significant resources to drive ambition and increase and align momentum across key investment, regulatory, and legislative agendas that can play a role in directing private financial flows towards a net-zero economy. The program is expected to draw on a range of strategies and tactics, including legal, political, campaign, and communications, to drive impact across the financial system.

The Senior Associate, Sustainable Finance is a new position that will report directly to the Head of Sustainable Finance Portfolio. As a recognised subject-matter expert, who is deeply passionate about averting climate change, the successful candidate will develop and implement cutting-edge, impactful, and evidence-based strategies and plans that ensure shareholder advocacy campaigns achieves transformational and lasting change to our financial system. They will be directly responsible for FILE's shareholder advocacy grant-making portfolio and will also support on finance related aspects across FILE's portfolios. They will work closely with the broader FILE team, and aligned foundations such as the Children's Investment Foundation Fund (CIFF) to deliver change.

Key Responsibilities:

Strategy:

- Working in collaboration with FILE's legal and grant management teams, aligned funders and current/prospective grantees, develop and implement the shareholder advocacy strategy, including defining strategic priorities and a strategic granting approach, ensuring their alignment with foundation-wide strategy.
- As a recognized subject-matter expert, provide up-to-date, professional advice to the Executive Team and Board to support the development of foundation strategies, policies, and initiatives.
- Stay connected to relevant financial, geopolitical and social trends developments that could impact the strategy and reflect these appropriately with other organisations, including philanthropies and bilateral donors.

Stakeholder and Partner Management:

- Identify, cultivate and maintain excellent external relationships with the community of practice and philanthropic sector(s), acting as an ambassador for FILE's shareholder advocacy portfolio.
- Collaborate widely across the community of practice to enable strategic alignment and ensure knowledge-sharing.
- Identify potential grantees for FILE to deliver key aspects of FILE's strategy, due diligence their ability to deliver and lead on the development of compelling motivations for their funding.
- Working with FILE's Field-Building team, support the expansion of the community of practitioners to reinforce legal capacity, generate innovation and learning, and proactively influence global legal action.

Program Development, Delivery & Performance:

- Together with FILE's Learning and Impact and Grant Management teams, develop and direct the delivery of an evidence-based grant making portfolio, including setting out clear goals, and applicable metrics related to the shareholder advocacy portfolio.
- As a recognized subject-matter expert, provide advice, specialist guidance, and support to colleagues (within and beyond the team) to deepen knowledge in relation to the financial sector across the foundation.

Sector Knowledge and Profile-Building:

- Proactively maintain and develop extensive external networks to ensure that shareholder strategies remain cutting edge, are shaped by the most up-to-date research and that knowledge is shared widely.
- Undertake or commission sector-relevant research and analysis to inform the effective development, delivery, and evaluation of programmes and initiatives.

The Talented Individual

The successful candidate will be an accomplished, seasoned RI, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Sustainability investment sector or NGO finance professional who is driven to accelerate the transition to 1.5 aligned financial system. FILE is seeking a strategic thinker who can consider the broad and complex geopolitical dimensions of the finance, energy and land use sectors and define a clear path to action that delivers impact and system-wide change. Ideally, this person will possess a deep

understanding of the issues driving the high-carbon economy, experience working with both public and private sector actors, and a working understanding of the non-profit eco-system. Key characteristics will include:

- The ideal candidate will have prior experience within the fields of RI, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Sustainability.
- Outstanding intellectual agility and the ability to analyse, think critically and understand emerging issues and opportunities in accelerating the transition to a 1.5 aligned financial system.
- An entrepreneurial and creative approach to developing new, innovative ideas that will stretch the organization and push the boundaries within the field
- Highly comfortable with ambiguity and uncertainty; the ability to adapt nimbly and collaborate with others through complex situations.
- Exceptional project management, prioritisation, and planning skills, with demonstrated success producing high-quality deliverables on time and within budget.
- Naturally connects and builds strong relationships with diverse internal and external audiences, demonstrating strong emotional intelligence and an ability to communicate clearly and persuasively.
- Highly collaborative with a partnership mindset. Encourages others to share the spotlight and visibly celebrates and supports the success of the team, external partners, and grantees.

Applications

Please send us your CV and covering letter explaining your interest in joining FILE and the contribution that you think you could make to the Foundation's overall mission in this space. Please clearly identify the role that you are applying for in the email title. All applications should be sent to careers@filefoundation.org.

This role is open for applications immediately, closing date Wednesday 21st July 2021. Should you have any questions, please email the careers mailbox for the attention of Keeley Hewitt.

Diversity and Inclusion

FILE is committed to challenging inequality, valuing diversity in all areas of life. We firmly believe that we are strengthened by the diversity of our staff. We actively work to ensure an inclusive culture where colleagues feel welcomed and supported to succeed and thrive. FILE strongly encourages applications from people of all cultures, backgrounds and experiences, particularly those from under-represented or historically disadvantaged communities.