

POSITION:
***Natural Resources Portfolio Manager,
Center for Neighborhood Technology***

Reports to: CNT Chief Executive Officer

Position Description

GOAL: To develop and implement policies, research projects and innovative programs that promote the widespread efficient use of natural systems for improved water resource management and enhanced community livability resulting in better economic performance and reduced regional and local costs, especially through methods that use economic incentives to promote green infrastructure as an alternative to conventional stormwater systems.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology

The Center for Neighborhood Technology is an award-winning innovations laboratory for urban sustainability. Founded in 1978, CNT's promotes the better and more efficient use of the undervalued resources and inherent advantages of the built and natural systems that comprise the urban environment. CNT's eclectic and dynamic staff works across a range of disciplines and issues-including energy, transportation, natural resources, infrastructure, housing, and health. CNT, together with its two non-profit affiliates, the Community Energy Cooperative and I-GO Car Sharing, engages in four primary activities:

- Researching & analyzing urban problems;
- Advocating for public policies that could help solve those problems;
- Developing web-based information tools to change how people – residents, policymakers and market actors – understand and act in response to those problems; and
- Designing and launching economic development social ventures to address those problems in innovative ways.

The organization's long-term goals are to:

- Increase household wealth and regional productivity;
- Improve environmental quality; and
- Build stronger and more equitable local economies.

CNT and Green Infrastructure

Cities and regions have become dependent upon expensive stormwater systems that do not make sense because they don't use nature. There is an alternative: stormwater strategies that cost less, take full advantage of natural systems, and provide recreation and open space as well.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology has been a proponent of this approach to stormwater

management since its founding in 1978. One of CNT's first three programs was the TARP (Tunnel and Reservoir Project) Impact Study, a policy and advocacy initiative to stop the Deep Tunnel. CNT advocated for "capturing raindrops where they fall" rather than bottling them up in a massive stormwater system which then requires that they be processed as sewage. This early effort resulted in the cutback of a \$12 Billion system to \$3 Billion. It also set the stage locally and nationally for serious consideration of responsible use of urban ecological resources.

The context of CNT's work in this area has always been that water resource management is expensive and every effort needs to be made to improve performance of stormwater and water supply infrastructure and to achieve multiple benefits at the same time.

CNT anticipates that over the next 20 years, the United States will spend an estimated \$300 Billion to \$1 Trillion on water resource management. It is essential that these funds be well spent. Past and current experience with conventional infrastructure – sewers detention basins, flood control structures – indicates that they tend to manage stormwater as a waste and move the problem downstream, but not solve it. At the same time, community sustainability in the Chicago region requires management of stormwater to maximize its availability for potable water supply. CNT intends to build and diffuse knowledge about natural alternatives, substituting permeable for impermeable surfaces and native plants for turf grasses, and infiltration and groundwater recharge for discharge structures and stream bank stabilization.

Over the past few years, CNT has become a leader in demonstrating the effectiveness of this "green infrastructure", in solving stormwater management problems, as well as the valuation of these applications. The development of our website <http://greenvalues.cnt.org>, and the green infrastructure calculator contained within the website, has put CNT in a position of national leadership. The end goal of this work is to divert billions of built infrastructure dollars into natural habitats and open space to achieve stormwater goals more cost effectively and with broader benefits.

CNT pursues such goals through five strategies for change:

- (1) Changing policy;
- (2) Changing power relationships;
- (3) Changing market practices;
- (4) Promoting rapid social learning; and
- (5) Creating communities of practice among cutting-edge professionals.

Currently, CNT is continuing to improve the greenvalues website and introduce it to high priority users, such as regulators, watershed activists, and municipalities. Improvements are being made in readiness for a formal launching of the website. A second version is being developed in cooperation with City of Chicago staff so that it will be a tool that developers can use as they respond to the requirements of the innovative Stormwater Ordinance under development by the City. Work is also nearing completion, in cooperation with the office of Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, on a Green Solutions Action Guide to motivate activists to succeed with small-scale improvements while they plan big projects.

In partnership with the Illinois State Water Survey and the City of Chicago, CNT has secured funding for two 2-year projects that will provide improved engineering data for the design of green infrastructure components. These grants supplement core funding from a major foundation. CNT will continue to assist community volunteers to construct demonstration

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raingardens and other native landscape. CNT will compile a database of places where these and other features are in place and where residents can learn more about them.

CNT also has funding to begin building a dynamic policy agenda to promote green infrastructure over the next decade. We are confident that this work is beginning to take off. Urban greening is an essential part of a climate change agenda. Our research demonstrates that green infrastructure is cost effective and will lead to reduced public outlays, and, if done properly, will support smarter growth and reinvestment patterns.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Natural Resources Portfolio Manager will be responsible for all programs related to natural resources. His or her responsibilities include:

- ▣ Develops and plans program initiatives to advance organizational goals
- ▣ Develops annual and long-range plans and policy initiatives for Natural Resource Division
- ▣ Helps create organizational knowledge and knowledge assets that address critical demands articulated by our users, constituents, customers and investors
- ▣ Develops program plans and budgets that make a winning case to philanthropy and investors
- ▣ Works with the CEO and the Director of Development and Communications to develop and implement a funding strategy for the natural resource programs
- ▣ Works with the Director of Development and Communications to develop and implement a communication program which shares what CNT is learning and positions CNT in the natural resources field.
- ▣ Develops and manages relationships with external partners
- ▣ Creates and implements a plan for continuous learning and improvement
- ▣ Develops and oversees research agenda
- ▣ Implements the natural resources strategic communications plan
- ▣ Works with CNT senior management and managers of other CNT portfolios to coordinate strategies and integrate programs where appropriate
- ▣ Cultivates relationships with potential funders
- ▣ Manages budget and senior staff for Natural Resources Division

Qualifications

- ▣ Solid understanding of the macro and micro economics of water resource management
- ▣ Experience with and understanding of the public policy context of stormwater and water resource issues
- ▣ Experience in designing, developing and/or managing programs at a significant scale
- ▣ Exceptional ability to organize people and resources to get things done
- ▣ Ability to create and manage effective internal teams
- ▣ Demonstrated ability to build effective external partnerships
- ▣ Exemplary written and verbal communications skills.
- ▣ Demonstrated success in resource development and fundraising
- ▣ Commitment to development of initiatives which result in more effective use water resources

- ▣ Ability to manage complex relationships with units of government and regulatory bodies
- ▣ Experience in managing research projects desirable
- ▣ Graduate degree in economics, public policy, engineering, management, or other related field, or equivalent experience

Salary

Commensurate with experience

Contact CNT

Please send a resume to:

hr@cnt.org or

Human Resources

Center for Neighborhood Technology

2125 W. North Ave.

Chicago, IL 60647

Anti-Discrimination Policy

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The Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Community Energy Cooperative are Equal Opportunity Employers.