

**ORGANIZATION:** Scenic Hudson  
**POSITION:** Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Science  
**REPORTS TO:** President  
**LOCATION:** Poughkeepsie, New York  
**WEBSITE:** [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org)  
**TO APPLY:** Please send resume and cover letter to [ScenicHudsonEDPAS@pbrsearch.com](mailto:ScenicHudsonEDPAS@pbrsearch.com).

### **MISSION OF THE POSITION**

As Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Science, the Executive Director leads the organization's programs and initiatives to preserve and restore the riverfront and critical landscapes of the Hudson Valley as a public and natural resource. This leader proactively manages the efforts of the Public Policy, Advocacy, Land Use and Science and Climate teams and participates as a member of the executive team of Scenic Hudson, Inc., to achieve the mission and specific goals of the organization. They will support and initiate public and private fundraising efforts on behalf of the organization.

Scenic Hudson has recently committed to a three-year surge in expenditures and outcomes in climate mitigation and adaptation and environmental justice. The Board has authorized the dedication of a significant increase in capital and operating support to the Climate-Justice Surge. In parallel, and as part of this initiative, Scenic Hudson has raised funds from multiple foundations to advance a regional initiative in the Northeast to shape state, regional, and federal policies and actions relating to natural solutions to climate change. The Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Science will play a pivotal leadership role in shaping and implementing this strategy.

### **BACKGROUND**

Scenic Hudson preserves land and farms and creates parks that connect people with the inspirational power of the Hudson River, while fighting threats to the river and natural resources that are the foundation of the valley's prosperity. Scenic Hudson's work is guided by its vision for the region: The Hudson Valley is a community of informed and engaged citizens working to make the region a model of vibrant riverfront cities and towns linked by inviting parks and trails, beautiful and resilient landscapes, and productive farms.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- 10 to 15 years of relevant work experience with a minimum five years' experience managing and directing a sophisticated and highly impactful conservation, advocacy, public policy, and science program; experience as state agency deputy or comparable leadership role in an NGO preferred.
- Advanced degree in law, public policy, planning, conservation, or business/management preferred.
- Demonstrated success in managing and directing conservation, advocacy, public policy and community engagement that protect the environment by working with government officials, partner organizations and communities to effect change;
- Ability to work at the Northeast regional level and to influence federal policy;
- Knowledge of the New York environmental community, state, regional and local agencies preferred;
- Strong public speaking and presentation skills;
- Demonstrated ability to raise operating and capital funds to help support the organization and advance its projects;
- Ability to oversee campaigns leading to tangible end results – such as passage of legislation, advancing major conservation projects, opposing polluting projects or gaining approval of renewable energy projects;
- Ability to set goals for and oversee science team in its role supporting Scenic Hudson programs and serving as a regional thought leader;
- Knowledge of, and demonstrated success in, working with all levels of government and related public process, and engaging with community groups and peer organizations;

- Demonstrated ability to be creative and at the leading edge of engaging the public and stakeholders through all means of communication, including social media, to advance the organization's mission;
- Innovative problem solver with ability to effectively navigate complex, multi-layered situations;
- Action-oriented, get the job done leader.

#### **SUPERVISES**

- Director of Environmental Advocacy
- Director of Land Use Advocacy
- Director of Public Policy
- Director of Science and Climate Change

#### **PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Direct and manage all operational aspects of the Advocacy, Policy and Science programs, including:**
  - Develop the vision and strategy for the programs and direct their implementation;
  - Cooperate and collaborate with the Executive Director of the Land Trust and Land Program in integrating and managing all Scenic Hudson programs;
  - Work with the CFO to develop and implement budgets and to ensure compliance with all lobbying rules and to meet commitments to funders;
  - Oversee the legal preparation for public process, litigation, and contracts for programs;
  - In close collaboration with the development team and President, secure funding from public and private sources, including individuals and foundations, to support the work of the organization, program teams, and capital projects.
- **Develop the program teams' vision and strategy and direct their implementation through staff development and staff management:**
  - Develop staff capabilities through training, coaching, managing, and delegation;
  - Direct staff assignments;
  - Through annual and periodic performance planning and review, set clear and measurable goals conveying specific expectations within timetables;
  - Ensure that all legal, political, financial, and strategic issues are properly administered and covered for all program activities;
  - Serve as primary interface between program teams and executive team.
- **Serve as primary interface with the President:**
  - Work closely with the President and as a member of the Executive Team on the direction of the program, board relationships, and related funding matters;
  - Stand in for the President at events and business meetings as needed;
- **Serve as primary liaison with the Board Committee Chairs of the related programs of the Scenic Hudson Board:**
  - Convey program vision, formulate positions, and secure Scenic Hudson board committee support for same;
  - Oversee the timely preparation of materials for board and board committee meetings and follow-up;
  - Oversee the organization of events and activities to proactively engage board members in the organization's work.
- **Develop and manage relationships with representatives of foundations, public funding sources, and private donors in coordination with the President and development team.**

- **Serve as Scenic Hudson's key spokesperson on initiatives as appropriate:**
  - Forge coalitions with other partners and stakeholders;
  - Interact with legislative and community leaders in the Hudson Valley, New York State, region, and nation;
  - Represent Scenic Hudson on boards and committees of advocacy, planning and environmental organizations at the regional, state, and national levels.

***Scenic Hudson is an Equal Opportunity Employer promoting cultural diversity and excellence. We are committed to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion, and strive to serve all of the people of the Hudson Valley by evaluating our projects, strategic initiatives and outcomes through that lens.***