

Job description

Position:	Government and Institution Lead, Plastics Circular Economy	Supervisor:	Managing Director
Salary:	Competitive package	Contract:	Full-time, permanent
Location:	UK or Athens		

About Common Seas

Common Seas is a not-for-profit enterprise on a mission to quickly and significantly reduce the amount of plastic produced and stop it polluting our rivers and seas. Our global team works across government, business and society to leverage change by driving new policy, investing in the circular economy and catalysing a cultural shift in how we make, use and dispose of plastic.

How you will support our mission

To tackle plastic pollution, we need more government policies that reduce the volume of plastic made and stop it from polluting rivers and seas. You will lead on engagement with national, local and institutional policy makers to support the design, effective implementation and evaluation of these policies.

You will be able to draw on a deep understanding of how policy helps nations transition towards a plastics circular economy, as well as familiarity with stakeholder engagement for policy making, and insights into supporting financial and technological mechanisms. As our Government and Institution Lead, you will be responsible for:

Providing technical policy advice to Governments and Common Seas' staff in Greece, Maldives and Indonesia.

You will advise our in-country teams, and work directly with governments and policy decision makers to design, implement and evaluate effective responses to end plastic pollution. This includes:

- **Indonesia:** Working with our team based in East Java to support the development of Extended Producer Responsibility mechanisms, targeting single-use diapers.
- **Maldives:** Helping to deliver the President's ambitious phase-out plan, with a focus on single-use plastic bottles. Your work will help to incentivise plastic waste free alternative delivery systems for beverage bottles, personal care and household cleaning products, and optimise waste management of the plastic that remains (e.g., through Deposit Return Systems).

- **Greece:** Demonstrate to the Greek Government that the Common Seas' toolkit, developed through our demonstration project on the island of Paros, can be scaled to help the country deliver an ambitious response to the EU Single-Use Plastic Directive.

Developing Plastic Drawdown V2.0

Plastic Drawdown is a model and toolkit that helps governments and policy makers rapidly understand their countries' plastic waste flows and identify and prioritise the most effective policy interventions to tackle ocean pollution.

We have prototyped Plastic Drawdown with governments and policy makers in Greece, the UK, Indonesia and Maldives. Having gathered user feedback, we are ready to invest in the delivery of Plastic Drawdown 2.0. This new version of Plastic Drawdown will improve the model functionality, user interface and data management system, and provide a policy toolkit that supports users to translate model findings into national strategies for their specific situation.

This role will lead a team of Common Seas staff, contracted individuals and university researchers, including modellers, policy advisors and software engineers. You will be responsible for delivering Plastic Drawdown 2.0 and ensuring it meets the needs of our primary end users – who are mostly in low- or middle-income Commonwealth Countries – are met.

Scaling our partnerships and impact

Drawing on your experience, technical knowledge and network (as well as Common Seas' existing relationships), you will test and deliver Plastic Drawdown 2.0, prioritising our work within countries that have a strong proven desire to meaningfully address plastic pollution, but that are time poor and under-resourced. You will lead the relationships with the relevant government staff and decision makers across each country's plastics circular network.

Tasks will include:

- Working with local partners and researchers to gather data and produce a country's Plastic Drawdown model.
- Supporting stakeholder engagement to develop model outputs into policy clear recommendations.
- Commissioning and delivering country-specific technical research, for example concerning economic mechanisms, supporting technology infrastructure and primary research to test the feasibility of model recommendations.
- Preparing and presenting evidence and recommendations through technical and non-technical reports and engaging presentations.
- Providing ongoing technical advice to ensure policy implementation and evaluation.

What we're looking for:

Essential

- Technical understanding and practical experience designing and implementing the policies and systems that enable a country to transition to a plastics circular economy and eradicate plastic pollution. You should have knowledge of critical mitigation strategies including EPR, DRS and waste collection, aggregation, re-use and recycling.
- At least five years professional experience, and ideally an associated MSc or professional qualification, in a related field, e.g., circular economy, waste and resource management, engineering or environmental management.
- Portfolio of work that demonstrates ability to deeply understand a country's waste generation and leakage problems, and facilitate the development and implementation of plastic pollution mitigation plans.
- A demonstrable knack for stakeholder engagement. You won't just be able to identify partners from across municipal and national governments, industry, commercial and community sectors, you'll know how to understand, convene and empower them to act on plastic pollution mitigation.
- Exceptional project manager, a critical thinker with a systematic approach to research, who is articulate and engaging when communicating complex data verbally and through technical reports.
- Understanding of how to work in low- and middle- income countries.
- A strong commitment to our core mission and a desire to support all stakeholders to join this voyage - from in-house researchers to government ministers.

Desirable

- Literate in research methodologies and modelling (e.g. Excel, Python) and/or demonstrable experience coordinating the delivery of projects that involve research and modelling.
- Analysis of financial information and market data to support a business case for investment.
- Experience working in a cross-cultural context.

Working environment

You can either work remotely, or from one of our offices in Bristol, London or Athens. If working remotely, you will need to spend time with the team at least twice a month. You will report to our Managing Director and work closely with our Programme Director and our Head of Plastics Circular Economy.

How to apply:

If you think this sounds like the perfect role for you, please send a copy of your CV and a one-page cover letter outlining your suitability for the job to jasmine@commonseas.com. In your cover letter, please let us know how you heard about the job and whether you have right to work in your preferred location (UK or Greece).

Timing:

Please submit your applications by Sunday 10 January 2021