

Job description

Position:	Head of Insight	Supervisor:	Managing Director
Location:	Bristol	Salary:	Competitive package
Contract:	Full-time, permanent	Reports:	Strategic analyst. Research manager. Researcher.

Common Seas is a not-for-profit enterprise that researches, designs and implements practical project-based solutions to our global plastic pollution crisis. Our mission is to quickly and significantly reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and stop it polluting rivers and seas.

We are a cross-disciplinary team who is looking for an outstanding Head of Insight with a recognised track record in enabling policies and or enterprises to tackle plastic pollution. Your primary role will be to lead the development of a world-recognised Insights Hub informing governments, policymakers and enterprises globally how to best reduce and substitute plastics, and optimise their waste management.

About Common Seas

We believe in healthy seas for everyone. Driven by a deep love of the ocean, we're working hard to bring about the big changes we need to protect the greatest life support system on Earth.

We're a smart, dynamic, pragmatic, professional and supportive team. Our small (but quickly growing) international crew brings together a wide range of skills and expertise, together with an adventurous spirit and a hands-on-can-do attitude. We're proud to be part of an incredible network of thinkers and doers, and we're looking for someone who shares the same kind of energy, passion and dedication.

We love people who take the initiative and learn by doing. Who punch above their weight and make things happen. We hire for the long-term and will give you as much responsibility as you can handle.

Core project focus:

The Common Seas insights team provides research and technical knowledge across all our projects and communications. The two projects that will require most of your attention are:

Clean Blue Alliance

With a vision of a global network of plastic waste-free islands, this project involves working with governments, councils, businesses and local changemakers to identify and accelerate policy and business solutions. The project currently operates in Greece, Maldives and Indonesia. The role will present opportunities to invest in systems to reduce or substitute plastic, enable a plastics circular economy, and optimise waste management.

Plastic Drawdown

Plastic Drawdown, our policy analysis modelling framework, is the most comprehensive approach for governments to understand plastic waste flows and optimise policies to tackle ocean pollution. It includes a wedges methodology to support decision-makers to rapidly identify key plastic flows and make effective policy interventions to reduce or 'drawdown' the flow of ocean plastic pollution. It is currently being used to advise the Greek, UK and Maldives Governments and is central to our current work in rolling out plastic mitigation investments across a dozen Commonwealth countries.

We are seeking someone who has:

- Deep technical understanding of plastic production, consumption, circular economy and waste management systems, with experience of turning theory into practical on-the-ground action.
- Strong technical expertise and capacity to support and influence governments to develop new strategies, action plans and policies, including: alternative systems to significantly reduce single-use plastics, Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and improvements in waste management.
- Recognised experience in engaging national government and private sector decisionmakers.
- Ability to research, comprehend and translate technical policy issues into a variety of written styles (e.g. briefings, consultations, reports).
- Dynamic and confident communications skills to engage senior government and business officials in our evidence and insights.
- An inspiring leader particularly when it comes to supporting colleagues to flourish in their job and become confident in understanding and working with the outputs of the Insights Hub.
- Active networks with the key actors across the plastics value chain to identify international stakeholders and opportunities for Common Seas.
- Proven capacity as a leader with at least five years' related work experience.
- MSc level education in a related topic, such as Economics, Engineering, Material Science, Waste Management.
- Excellent organisational and management skills.
- A real doer with demonstrated capacity and confidence to take the initiative and be a proactive problem solver.
- A commitment to our mission and an understanding that when working in a small team you will from time to time, have to 'muck in', and work beyond your role responsibilities.

Travel

The role will involve travel, providing the technical support for all international meetings.

Working environment

The job is based out of our head office in Bristol. Your team will initially comprise of three people, to include an analyst who will support you with policy impact and business financial modelling – as well as two researchers. You will be supported by our Director of Programmes and will report to the Managing Director.

How to apply

Please apply via the Ellwood Atfield website, or contact James Green at james@ellwoodatfield.com.

