



## **Chief Economist**

*With world attention on both the environment and the economy, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is where policymakers and business leaders turn for win-win solutions. By focusing on strong science, uncommon partnerships and market-based approaches, we tackle urgent threats with practical solutions. We are one of the world's largest environmental organizations, with more than two million members and a staff of approximately 630 scientists, economists, policy experts, and other professionals around the world. We operate in 22 geographies with unique projects running across five programs (Climate, Energy, Health, Ecosystems, Oceans). You will be part of a vibrant workplace that welcomes diverse perspectives, talents and contributions, where innovation and results are a way of life.*

## **Overall Function**

The Chief Economist provides intellectual leadership and direction to EDF's use of economics to develop innovative policies and analytics in order to effectively address the most pressing environmental issues facing humanity. He/she will directly supervise economists in the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), engage with economists in other EDF programs, as well as work with a diversity of experts from academia, the corporate sector and government. The position is focused on the development and application of transformative ideas and approaches in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team that includes scientists, lawyers and policy experts. The Chief Economist is a member of the organization's executive team and reports to the Executive Vice President.

## **Key Responsibilities**

- Direct the staff of the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), which provides thought leadership on and analytic support for environmental economic issues to advance key program work and EDF's overall advocacy goals. Current activities support efforts of the following programs: Energy, Climate, Ecosystems, Health, and Global Strategy
- Provide a high-level perspective on economics and markets to program staff. Work with senior program staff to incorporate economics and market-based principles into EDF advocacy
- Maintain and advance EDF's reputation for rigor in the quality of economics used in EDF's advocacy, and for its effectiveness in advancing the achievement of ambitious outcomes
- Represent EDF in international forums, conferences and networks so that its values and the importance it places on economics as a shaper of its advocacy are understood and appreciated
- Work with the Economics Advisory Council to advance the quality of what we do, and to garner insights as to new ideas and frontiers that are relevant to our mission
- Foster collaboration with leading scholars that helps ensure quality and depth, and maximizes the reach and impact of EDF's work

- Engage the Board of Trustees and funders to generate excitement about the economic analysis work of the Office of the Chief Economist and other EDF programs and inspire donors to support these efforts
- Work with the EDF Development team and other program leads on fundraising efforts.
- Help to shape and inform EDF policy positions and advocacy efforts in each of the major program areas
- Actively participate in decisions about overall strategy and direction of program efforts
- Work with program and OCE staff to develop and implement research plans to inform advocacy.
- Identify and direct new research projects, both internal and external, as the need and opportunity arises
- Coordinate internal (and, where appropriate, external) peer review of analyses by EDF program staff and of reports or studies done under contract with EDF
- With the support of OCE staff, work with other program staff and media/communications staff to ensure a sufficient degree of economic and analytical rigor in EDF publications and public communications, including press releases, blog posts, etc.
- Conduct publishable research on environmental and resource economics that can inform EDF's long-term advocacy or program areas
- Act as the head of OCE and foster a culture of respect, openness, collaboration, and integrity within the team
- Attract and help recruit outstanding talents to the team, and foster the conversion of talent into great achievement

## **Requirements**

The ideal candidate will be widely respected in the environmental economics research community while being able to relate easily to other audiences; will have a comprehensive and current understanding of the academic literature; and will have the agility and flexibility of mind to apply lessons of economic research (both theoretical and empirical) to the on-the-ground challenges facing program staff as they advocate for improved environmental protection.

## **Qualifications and Experience**

- PhD in economics or resource and environmental economics
- Belief in EDF's values and ways of working
- An enthusiasm for applying insights from economics to where things are done, and evidence of same
- A demonstrated interest in shaping public policy
- Deep familiarity with the field of environmental and resource economics, ideally including a strong publication record
- Strong ties to environmental economists in academia and research institutes
- Excellent economic intuition and an ability to explain economics to non-economists
- Excellent communication skills
- A record of successful team building and leading
- Experience with fund raising

- Close to 20 years experience (including research, applied policy work and related professional experience).

### **Location**

The Chief Economist would ideally be based in the EDF New York City office.

### **Applications**

To apply, please contact Cynthia Whitney, Director of Talent Acquisition, at [cwhitney@edf.org](mailto:cwhitney@edf.org)

**Environmental Defense Fund** is an equal opportunity employer where an applicant's qualifications are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other basis prohibited by law.