

Programme Director – Green Taxonomy

Location: Homeworking - anywhere in the UK (some travel to London)

Start date: As soon as possible

Role: Fixed Term contract: 2 years, with the possibility of a permanent role (subject to funding)

The Green Finance Institute was established in 2019 as a direct response to a key policy recommendation made by the industry-led Green Finance Taskforce to the UK Government in March 2018. To achieve the transition to an inclusive, net-zero carbon and climate-resilient economy, both public and private finance is needed.

Sitting at the nexus of the public and private sectors, the Green Finance Institute convenes and leads sectoral coalitions of global experts, that identify and unlock barriers to investment towards impactful, real-economy outcomes, to benefit our environment, society, and business.

We are an independent, commercially focused organisation backed by government and led by bankers. We are fuelled by science and data and propelled by the creativity and ingenuity of the finance sector. We design, develop and launch portfolios of scalable financial solutions that accelerate sector-specific transitions to a low-carbon future.

The UK Green Taxonomy has the potential to transform UK green policy making as well as investing, lending and underwriting in the UK. For the first time the economic activities that will characterise the UK's future green economy will be defined. We are looking to hire a Programme Director to lead this area of work for the Institute, playing an important role driving forward the agenda in a complex area.

The Green Finance Institute is scaling its efforts to transform the financial system and the wider economy at pace. With the decade of action upon us, there has never been a better time to engage in the climate finance agenda.

What's the role?

You will work with a wide range of stakeholders to provide analysis to and convene the GTAG who will, in turn, provide expert advice to Government on how to implement a UK taxonomy and related disclosures regime.

The GTAG will be made up of key market stakeholders and subject matter experts and be tasked with providing expert advice to Government. Members will be drawn from users of the taxonomy (from financial services and industry), taxonomy and data experts, academia and NGOs. It will advise on any issues with applying the taxonomy in the current regulatory, policy strategy and market context as well as set out options for resolving any issues arising with the operation.

As Programme Director you will lead work and support the GTAG, likely focusing on four key areas:

- Advising on market and/or regulatory considerations for operationalising a UK-specific taxonomy;
- Advising on how international taxonomies and standards can apply in the UK context;
- Advising on how the taxonomy could be used to align and accelerate the delivery of multiple relevant HMG policy initiatives, including its Net Zero Strategy, Green Finance Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan; and
- Advising on the role the taxonomy could play in tracking green financial flows.

This role will provide significant exposure to a range of senior stakeholders and provide an opportunity to get involved in the development of the taxonomy in the UK, working closely with Government officials.

You will initially focus on helping establish the expert group, developing analysis for discussion and a clear programme of work for the group. This will involve development of a number of initial briefing papers and statement pieces and setting out a roadmap for the group's engagement in providing advice on the development of a Green Taxonomy. An overarching objective of this work is to help position the UK as a leading light in green finance and create clarity in the market around how the UK could align and potentially go beyond sustainable finance developments in the EU and elsewhere.

You will be responsible for developing papers for consideration by the GTAG and driving forward stakeholder discussion and consensus to feed into and inform consultation and legislative processes. We expect the GTAG to convene for two years and to meet at least quarterly (as well as additional ad hoc meetings on specific subjects).

This role offers the opportunity for you to collaborate and drive forward significant policy and market reform and work with major financial institutions and service providers to design and deliver new financial products and services that have the potential to decarbonise an entire sector. This will create significant opportunities for economic transformation and job creation.

We're looking for someone who is very organised and analytical but also politically savvy and comfortable with running effective meetings of a diverse group of senior stakeholders. You must be an excellent communicator as collaboration with industry, government, civil society and academia domestically and internationally is a key element of this role. You will be accomplished at working in a dynamic environment where influencing, networking and good programme management is key. In this role it is essential that you are delivery focussed and outcome driven in all that you do.

We'll trust you to:

- Alongside the Executive Director, lead and establish the Institute's work on Green Taxonomy and take ownership and responsibility for the success of the programme.
- Initiate and develop relationships with a wide range of stakeholders to establish a clear position on the UK Green Taxonomy.
- Lead and undertake research and analysis to support the work of the GTAG and wider green finance agenda.

- Stay current on the topic of green finance topics and areas of focus, and contribute to supportive policy formation to accelerate the adoption of new products and services.
- Coordinate with the marketing and communications function on newsworthy announcements and events.
- Represent the Institute at relevant industry events.

You need to have:

- Graduated with a relevant degree or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience gained in a corporate setting.
- Detailed understanding of international taxonomy developments, including the EU taxonomy, and UK green finance policy.
- A proven track record of leading complex multi-disciplinary programmes to successful outcomes.
- A strong commercial focus and financial acumen combined with extensive experience in programme management and negotiation.
- Outstanding interpersonal and relationships building skills with senior-level officials, partners and influencers across private and public sectors.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills with a proven capacity to translate information and big ideas into actionable plans.
- A strong independent work ethic in addition to an ability to work as part of an agile and fast-moving team.
- Willingness to adopt multiple responsibilities (e.g. strategy, stakeholder engagement, public speaking, fundraising, report writing, on-ground delivery)
- A genuine interest in environmental sustainability.
- An ability to meet deadlines, logically tackle problems and set priorities.

If this sounds like you:

Apply if you think we're a good match and we'll get in touch to let you know the next steps.

Please submit your CV and a short cover letter (no more than two sides of A4) describing how you meet the specific requirements for the post.

The closing date for applications is **9am on Tuesday 25th May 2021**. Please submit your application to recruitment@gfi.green

Please note:

- *If you do not already hold the right to work in the UK and/or require sponsorship in order to continue working here, you should think carefully before applying.*
- *The Green Finance Institute is an equal opportunity employer and we value diversity.*