

Carbon Cycle Institute

245 Kentucky Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 | www.carboncycle.org

Job Announcement:

Title: Carbon Farm Planner, San Joaquin Valley

Supervisor: Carbon Cycle Institute

Location: San Joaquin Valley, Remote office + Work-From-Home

Who We Are

The [Carbon Cycle Institute](#) (CCI) works at the intersection of climate science and agriculture, working with a diverse group of partners, including farmers and ranchers, public agencies, local government, university researchers, and mission-aligned organizations and businesses. CCI's staff of five provides scientific and technical expertise, planning assistance, training and educational services, policy development, and advocacy work on behalf of its mission and partners. CCI is working to establish seven (7) Regional Carbon Farming Hubs through fund development, regional planning, and capacity building efforts in partnership with [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#) (CARCD) and Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) across California.

The San Joaquin Valley (SVJ) Carbon Farm Planner is funded through a [USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#): Climate Beneficial Fiber Partnership (CBFP) grant awarded to CCI, [Fibershed](#), [Seed 2 Shirt](#), [NY Textile Lab](#) and the [National Center for Appropriate Technology](#) (NCAT), with a focus on climate-beneficial fiber production and market development. The Carbon Farm Planner will work in close partnership with a SVJ Carbon Farming Hub Coordinator, CCI, CBFP Carbon Farm Planning Cohort, Fibershed Climate Beneficial Verifier, Brand Coordinator and the local RCDs, to expand carbon farm planning and implementation activities on fiber producing farms in the San Joaquin Valley.

Position Summary

The Carbon Farm Planner will work closely with SVJ producers with a focus on planning, design, implementation and monitoring of carbon farming conservation projects tied to the CBFP grant. The position will also work with the SVJ Regional Coordinator to accelerate the adoption of carbon farming practices in the region through stakeholder engagement and coordination, education and outreach, and assistance with regional needs assessments. The Carbon Farm Planner will play a vital role in supporting efforts to meet carbon sequestration targets identified in the CBFP grant by accelerating adoption of climate smart conservation practices by cotton growers in the SVJ. The Carbon Farm Planner will be responsible for completing Carbon Farm Plans, and assist participating cotton growers in the implementation of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices identified in their Carbon Farm Plans.

Principal Responsibilities

1. Provide planning and implementation technical assistance to SVJ cotton producers:
 - Manage carbon farming planning program with SVJ Hub Coordinator.
 - Arrange and coordinate with land managers, RCD staff partner organization, and consultants in the development of both planning and implementation of projects. Resolve complex conservation issues.

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- Work with land managers, partners and consultants to develop technical Carbon Farming Plans (CFPs), including meeting relevant NRCS-conservation practice standards, improving water quality, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity, and increasing carbon capture and storage and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for participating cotton farms.
 - Prescribe and evaluate practices with the use of GHG quantification models, such as COMET-Planner/Farm and relevant peer-reviewed research.
 - Assist farms in identifying and accessing other funding streams and recommend incentive payments through the CBFP Incentive funding pool, where possible, to support practice adoption in the SJV.
 - Provide implementation technical assistance resulting in the adoption of practices.
2. Conduct verification, monitoring and reporting of implemented practices:
- Quantify GHG benefits of implemented CSA practices using modeling and direct measurement approaches.
 - Verify and monitor practice implementation outcomes based on NRCS-conservation practice specifications and standards.
 - Coordinate with Fibershed and CBFP program partners on data collection, recording and reporting.
3. Co-manage CBFP projects in the SJV with the Regional Coordinator with guidance from CCI and Fibershed:
- Develop and monitor adherence to program budgets; track budget and match contributions.
 - Work with farmers to collect all relevant invoicing and reporting data and documentation.
 - Monitor progress of projects, ensure timelines are followed, and work closely with grant partners and consultants.
 - Support the Regional Coordinator with grant proposal coordination, writing, and execution.
4. Co-manage education & outreach activities in the SJV with the Regional Coordinator:
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and resource sharing among program partners to support the CBFP Grant and mission of the Hub.
 - Represent and promote the local Resource Conservation District within the community at all times.
 - Participate in on-farm textile brand education and producer networking events on Cotton Farms.
 - Organize and/or support education and outreach activities, including workshops, field days, and webinars, for farmers, ranchers, agricultural conservation partners, and other stakeholders, with a particular focus on underserved agricultural communities.
 - Prepare and present educational materials (pamphlets, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) at meetings, conferences and other appropriate forums.
 - Assist with written and visual content for annual reports, publications, social media, and presentations.

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Skills and Qualifications

This position requires the following skills. If you do not meet the job requirements listed, please tell us why you might be a good fit anyway:

- Commitment to the organization's mission, purpose, and values
- B.S., B.A., and/or M.S. degree in Environmental Planning or Natural or Applied Sciences preferably agroecology, agronomy, range, soil science, hydrology, animal science, wildlife biology or forest ecology OR equivalent education and experience (please elaborate in your cover letter).
- At least five (5) years' experience working in agriculture and/or the natural resources conservation field, with a minimum of three (3) years' experience working closely with agricultural communities.
- At least three (3) years of on-farm conservation planning and implementation work experience; Carbon Farm Planning, and/or NRCS Conservation Planning experience. NRCS Conservation Planner certification highly desirable.
- ArcGIS, mapping and data management, COMET Tools, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, project management platforms, etc.
- Knowledge of SJV agriculture, ecology, native woody and grassland plants and wildlife.
- Demonstrated experience working with land managers and agricultural producers in implementation and monitoring adherence to NRCS Standards and Specifications, preferably in cropping systems.
- Knowledge of agricultural fiber production, particularly cotton, is highly desirable
- Strong analytical, writing, research, and public speaking skills.
- Self-directed and organized with ability to work independently to meet multiple deadlines.
- Proven track record developing successful partnerships and productive working relationships with partners.
- Willingness and ability to travel extensively within the region and occasionally to other areas of the state for conferences, workshops, quarterly meetings, etc. and work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, and overnight travel.
- Bilingual, English-Spanish speaker a plus.
- Ability to communicate technical information to technical and non-technical clients and partners, especially agricultural constituents.
- Ability to manage time effectively on multiple projects. Ability to communicate and work with a diverse range of people including private landowners and land managers, private contractors, government agencies, tribal staff and citizens, general public, news media, and partner resource professionals.
- Exceptional attention to detail and problem-solving skills. Motivation to gain and develop new technical skills.
- Valid California driver's license.

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Physical Requirements

- Physical demands include: sitting, walking, and listening for up to 6-10 hours per day; considerable amount of field work on-farm required, sometimes in challenging weather and climate conditions.
- Ability to work effectively as a part of a virtual team and to sit for prolonged periods at a computer.
- Work environment and travel demands include: frequent travel within the San Joaquin Valley, and quarterly travel to Sacramento and/or the San Francisco Bay Area, which may include overnight stays.

Salary and Benefits

Salary Range: \$70,000–\$80,000 per year depending on experience; Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave and health insurance.

Application Information

Please submit a cover letter, resume and contact information for two professional References to Lynette Niebrugge at lniebrugge@carboncycle.org with “Carbon Farming Planner” in the subject line. If you do not meet all of the qualifications above, we encourage you to still apply, and explain pertinent personal or professional experience in your cover letter. Be prepared to provide a writing samples upon request.

This position will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. We will be accepting applications through July 9, 2023 and anticipate hiring and begin training by early-mid August.

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