

# Island Marine Litter Network Development Officer

## Job Description

### About SIF

SIF is a dynamic and growing federation of island communities working together to have a stronger voice on common challenges, and to share ideas and innovation to accelerate change. We provide a conduit to island policy, decision-making, and research as well as a wide range of networking and learning exchange activities for island communities. We are a key stakeholder of the Scottish Government's Island Communities Team and through our membership of the European Small Islands Federation, are closely involved in pan European Smart Island strategies, including the Clean Energy EU islands.

SIF is run by a voluntary board of directors and our members include island-based community organisations as well individuals, businesses, and other bodies concerned with the sustainability of island communities. Our work is currently funded through the Scottish Government Island Communities Team and member subscriptions.

### SIF Marine Litter Working Group

Marine litter is a massive issue for island communities and earlier this year we held a learning exchange event to find out more about the situation and what could be done about it. Developing from this, a SIF Marine Litter Working Group (MLWG) has been set up to enable island groups to work together to share experience and expertise, pool resources, raise awareness of the unique situation in islands, and to look for solutions to the key challenges. The MLWG has 9 representatives from across the islands including, Orkney, Shetland, Outer Hebrides, Arran, Islay, Tiree, Raasay, Bute, Gigha and Eigg, and a key part of this exciting new post will be working with the group to take forward its marine litter strategy.

### About the post

**Location** – Scottish Islands (working from home with some travel)

**Hours** – 36hrs per week (job share welcomed)

**Salary** – £30,000

**Pension** – pension contribution scheme included

**Contract** – 12 months initially, with a view to extend subject to funding

Marine litter is a massive, global issue and for the island communities directly in its path, it can be a relentless task. The impacts of marine litter on our environment and on our communities cannot be underestimated. The negative visual impact is only the surface of the issue, with many species of birds, mammals and marine species impacted through entanglement and poisoning.

The enormous contribution of the community groups and volunteers that work so hard to keep our beaches clean, often goes unnoticed and the need for long-term investment, overlooked. Island communities find it difficult to dispose of the huge quantities of material collected as there is little provision for disposal other than sending it to landfill. Most islands lack data collected using established protocols such as those of OSPAR and the Marine Conservation Society. Hence the nature and scale of the reported island-specific problems cannot currently be accurately determined.

These common island challenges have been identified through the work of the SIF Marine Litter Working Group (MLWG) and we are delighted to have been awarded funds through Marine Scotland and the Scottish Government Island Communities Team for this new post to help build our capacity and develop this area of work.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated development officer(s) that will work directly with the MLWG and grassroots island groups to:

- Raise awareness of the unique situation of island marine litter and establish links with a wide network of key organisations at a local, regional, and national level as well as relevant international networks.
- Facilitate the sharing of good working examples, resources and expertise among island groups.
- Identify sources and models of funding and resources to build capacity and opportunities for island beach cleaning activity as well as enabling long-term paid beach ranger posts to become the norm across the islands.
- Work with Marine Scotland and the Marine Conservation Society to provide a conduit with island communities, helping to fill gaps in data and knowledge. This may also include working with the Carbon Neutral Islands Programme.
- Work with Local Authorities, industry, NGOs and others to identify and explore solutions around collection and onward processing of material, in particular options to support a more circular economy through island job creation and alternatives to landfill.
- Support Marine litter education and research and work with bodies and organisations to that effect. This may include research into alternatives to the plastics currently used in the marine environment, models to track and trace sources of marine litter, and analysis of its safety for onward reuse.
- Represent SIF and the MLWG at events and in provision of relevant policy or research input.
- Administer the MLWG and organise at least one wider networking event.
- Pro-actively engage island communities in the project, disseminate information and raise the profile via the SIF website, newsletter, google drive and social media platforms.
- Produce a report (by month 11) to map out the situation on the ground, current activity, alternatives to landfill, the needs and opportunities and the next steps for the project.
- Other relevant activities identified by the SIF Board and MLWG as the role develops.

#### **The qualifications and experience required**

- Degree/Diploma in Ecology or other related discipline and or able to demonstrate equivalent knowledge, skills, and competencies
- Knowledge of marine/coastal conservation and environmental issues. Previous experience in environmental interpretation/education desirable.

- Effective verbal and written communication skills – experience of zoom/teams meetings, IT systems and social media essential.
- Effective project management, organisational and time management skills essential. Research and evaluation skills including the ability to analyse and interpret data desirable.
- Ability to work flexibly as part of a team.
- Ability to use own initiative.
- Ability to develop effective relationships
- Driving licence and access to a vehicle

The postholder will work with and report to the MLWG, with line management provided by the SIF Board. To apply please send a covering letter and CV to [kirsty@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk) by 5pm Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Interviews are expected to be held w/c 28<sup>th</sup> February, via Zoom, with a view to the post holder being in place by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

N.b This role may require PVG clearance for regulated work with children and/or protected adults during interacting with volunteers. Should this be required, SIF will submit a PVG application on behalf of the preferred candidate and receipt of the subsequent PVG certificate will be required prior to commencement.