



CENTER *for* PLANNING EXCELLENCE

Position: Vice President of Grid Sustainability

Status: Full-time

Reports to: Executive Vice President

About the Organization

The Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) is a unique non-profit planning organization that provides planning and policy services, drives cross-agency and collaborative statewide planning initiatives and guides urban, rural, and regional planning implementation in Louisiana. We provide best-practice planning models, innovative policy ideas, and technical assistance at all scales to secure an equally prosperous future for Louisiana communities, environments, and economies. CPEX brings together community members and leaders from across the state and provides guidance as they work toward a shared vision for future smart growth and sustainable development. CPEX continues to be on the cutting edge of climate, resilience, and healthy community design in Louisiana. In this capacity, CPEX is developing a program aimed to address insufficient and misdirected system planning, inefficient siting and permitting processes, antiquated transmission infrastructure, and biased market structures of offshore wind, land-based wind, community solar, and other innovative projects in Louisiana.

Position Overview

The Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) is seeking a visionary **Vice President of Grid Sustainability** to lead the development of policies, programs, plans and relationships that drive renewable energy adoption and grid modernization. The position offers the opportunity to grow and work with a team engaged with policymakers, regulators, utilities, and community partners to shape and advance practical, forward-looking energy policies that positively impact communities across Louisiana. **Join us and be at the forefront of powering a clean, resilient, and sustainable energy future for our state.**

The Vice President of Grid Sustainability will set CPEX's vision, strategy and budget for the grid sustainability portfolio and lead CPEX's energy policy and regulatory strategy, working closely with state agencies, regional entities, and federal partners to advance development of a modern, resilient electric grid to serve the people and communities of Louisiana. This role requires deep expertise in energy policy, government relations, and coalition-building, with the ability to translate technical issues into actionable policy recommendations.

Key Responsibilities

Policy Expertise & Education

- Develop and implement strategies to influence state and federal energy policy, focusing on renewable energy adoption and grid modernization.

- Monitor and analyze legislative and regulatory developments related to energy and grid modernization, and guide the development of policy briefs, bill analyses, and talking points for internal and external audiences.
- Lead the development of briefs, white papers, and other external facing materials for advocating for relevant priorities with various Louisiana audiences for educational purposes.
- Represent CPEX in legislative sessions, hearings, and regulatory proceedings.
- Understand the legal policymaking process requirements in Louisiana and ensure that communication and engagement account for these processes.

Government Relations

- Build and maintain strong relationships with elected officials, regulatory agency officials, and key decision-makers across political parties.
- Coordinate with national partners and coalitions to develop and advance shared policy objectives and amplify advocacy and education efforts.

Strategy & Execution

- Collaborate with the CEO to provide thought leadership on renewable energy and grid sustainability.
- Collaborate closely with the VP of Resilience and Adaptation and VP of Planning to develop complementary, mutually-reinforcing portfolios of work.
- Lead the development and execution of renewable energy strategies and grid sustainability, including strategies to cultivate leadership committed to developing renewable energy and investing in grid sustainability.
- Provide guidance to support local governments with permitting, procurement, and compliance processes to advance grid sustainability.
- Guide the strategic design and inform the positioning of a 501(c)(4) affiliate organization to support CPEX's key policy and advocacy objectives.
- Build a team of professionals to execute the work.

Coalition Building & Stakeholder Engagement

- Convene and organize diverse stakeholder coalitions, including nonprofits, industry partners, utilities, and community leaders to advance shared energy and resilience goals.
- Develop and oversee key outreach programs and events, such as organizing study tours, peer learning exchanges, and engagement events to educate policymakers and foster bipartisan support.

Communications & Public Engagement

- Work closely with CPEX's communications team to develop clear, credible messaging on energy and grid issues—helping policymakers and the public understand the benefits, tradeoffs, and community impacts of proposed solutions.
- Serve as a spokesperson for the organization on energy policy issues.

Other CPEX Functions

- Assist in overall CPEX development, administrative functions, and CPEX outreach when requested by the CEO/President.
- Mentor junior and peer employees to increase CPEX's capacity.
- Oversee and manage a growing CPEX team and consultants as needed.

Qualifications

Experience

- At least 10 years of relevant experience in government relations, public policy, or regulatory affairs, with a focus on energy or environmental issues.
- Proven track record of influencing legislation and regulatory outcomes in complex political environments.
- Experience working with bipartisan coalitions and engaging stakeholders at local, state, and federal levels.
- Experience managing and growing a team of diverse professionals.

Skills

- Strong understanding of energy policies, including technologies, grid infrastructure, and the relevant actors.
- Exceptional communication, negotiation, and relationship-building skills.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and lead cross-functional teams.

Preferred Attributes

- Familiarity with Gulf South energy markets and political landscape.
- Experience in strategic education campaigns and coalition management.
- Ability to translate technical energy concepts into accessible language for policymakers and the public.

Education

Bachelor's degree in Environmental Law, Public Policy, Political Science, or related field; advanced degree preferred.

Location: This is a full-time, salaried position with benefits in a flexible in-office work environment located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and New Orleans, Louisiana. The successful candidate will be expected to regularly attend CPEX events and meetings in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and around Louisiana, including some evening and weekend events when necessary.

Salary: The salary range is \$125,000 - \$150,000 and will be commensurate with the candidate's level of experience.

Application Requirements: Applicants must be authorized to work in the U.S. Eligible applicants must **submit a resume and cover letter to Kierra McHenry at kmchenry@cpex.org with the subject line, "Vice President of Grid Sustainability."**

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Qualified candidates will be invited for virtual or in-person interviews on an ongoing basis.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at CPEX

CPEX is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion and we aspire to do so intentionally, in every aspect of our work. We recognize that sustainable prosperity and community resilience cannot be realized in the absence of equity and inclusion for all Louisiana residents, and we strive to lift all voices in our efforts to ensure that all Louisianans are included in the decisions that impact their communities, region, and state.