

Friends of the Earth – Job Description

Job title	Lawyer
Reporting to	Head of Legal
Team	Legal
Career stage	Grade D
Contract	Fixed Term (6 month contract)
Location	London
Line management	n/a

Purpose of the role

To provide Friends of the Earth with legal advice and representation in support of our overall aims and objectives, including to inform campaign strategy and tactics, and to help win campaigns.

To provide briefings and guidance for our network and the wider movement to advance Friends of the Earth's aims and objectives, and to help win campaigns.

Key responsibilities and tasks

- Provide legal services, advice and representation to Friends of the Earth, with a focus on planning and environmental law
- Work with the Head of Legal, Senior Lawyer and Senior Planner on legal challenges and planning cases, as required
- Educate and brief colleagues, campaigners and activists on key legal issues.
- Build and maintain relationships to further Friends of the Earth's aims and objectives.
- Represent Friends of the Earth externally to a variety of audiences including lawyers, campaigners, local communities, politicians and in the media.
- Defend, promote and strengthen access to environmental justice.
- Be aware of and follow Friend of the Earth policies and procedures, with particular attention to: Risk Management; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Friends of the Earth's AI policy; and our values.
- Attend training as necessary and update own Continuing Professional Development record.

You will also need to be aware of and follow Friends of the Earth policies and procedures, with particular attention to safeguarding, equality, diversity & inclusion, and our values.

Person specification

Essential:

- Qualified solicitor or barrister.
- Current knowledge of UK public, environmental and planning law
- Currently (or recently) working in UK planning and environmental law
- Direct experience of taking cases to court, tribunal or public inquiry.

- Demonstrable experience of having presented legal information in various forms to non-lawyers, or to a range of public audiences and events.
- Has dealt with a wide range of people including technical experts, local campaigners, general public, politicians, government and other officials.
- Proven research and/or policy formation, lobbying and/or representation skills.

Desirable:

- Demonstrable experience of planning inquiries and appeals
- Understanding of human rights law
- Knowledge of law relating to international climate change agreements.
- Knowledge of defamation law.
- In house experience of providing legal advice.
- Experience of campaigning.

Personal attributes:

- Ability to manage competing priorities under pressure.
- Ability to work with people from a range of professional and demographic backgrounds – including local campaigners.
- Commitment to Friends of the Earth's aims and values.
- Results driven.
- A strong team orientated work ethic.

Our Values

Ability to demonstrate understanding and apply our values.

Integrity – We demonstrate integrity throughout everything we do, internally and externally.

Impact – We make the biggest impact we can through good analysis and judgement, insight, feedback and focus.

Leadership – We motivate others through our individual and collective actions, our compelling vision, and our clarity on what work needs to be done.

Focus on Friends – To build our influence we put new and existing 'friends; at the heart of our work.

Accountability – We hold ourselves and others to account for our work and how we work.

Learning and Enquiring Mindset – We learn continuously, challenging our own assumptions and habits while expanding our horizons to enable us to improve the impact of our work.

Date approved
Date reviewed

September 2026

Friends of the Earth staff are not permitted to hold office for political parties or stand as candidates for political parties. Staff should also seek permission from the Senior Management Team if they wish to hold a non-public facing official role in a political party. If this is an issue, please do raise this with us as soon as possible.

This job description is current as at the date shown above. In consultation with the post-holder it is liable to variation by the Director to reflect or anticipate changes, in, or to, the post and the organisation.

The job description gives an overview of the main responsibilities of the role. The day to day role will also involve any other duties and responsibilities, express and implied, which arise from the nature and character of the post.