

Code: 4536

Title: ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

SUMMARY: Performs professional work implementing and/or participating in environmental quality and health activities or programs, e.g., water, air, hazardous materials (including landfill and wastewater), biology as it relates to protection of resources, plants and animals in the region and the sustainability and livability of the greater Pima County community.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Implements and/or participates in environmental quality and health activities or programs, e.g., water, air, hazardous materials (including landfill and wastewater), biology as it relates to protection of resources, plants and animals in the region and the sustainability and livability of the greater Pima County community;

Provides information to department staff, the public and regulated industry, concerning environmental quality and health issues;

Performs inspections, research, analysis and reviews to ensure compliance with established rules, regulations and statutes and completes reports;

Prepares, reviews and approves plans and applications for applicable permits;

Oversees, monitors and coordinates assigned environmental, safety or health programs, e.g., pollution prevention and sustainability, to ensure compliance with environmental quality, health and safety regulations and criteria;

Designs environmental quality and health data collection systems;

Plans, organizes and implements environmental and health programs, e.g., pollution prevention and sustainability, for department, area of assignment, regulated industries and the general public;

Coordinates environmental quality and health and hazardous materials identification and remediation programs with other public, county, state and federal programs and agencies;

Advises and consults with management, public officials, professional, civic, industry and other groups, organizations and individuals regarding environmental quality and health activities;

Develops, analyzes, interprets and implements County ordinances and/or policies, state and federal laws regulating environmental quality and health;

Researches and interprets scientific data and trends in environmental quality and health technologies and topics;

Establishes and maintains liaison relationships and coordinates specific activities with other departments, public and private agencies, organizations and groups;

Trains, advises staff or other personnel on procedures, rules, regulations, etc.;

Conducts or coordinates meetings to resolve problems and address issues with the staff, the general public and outside private and/or public agencies;

Maintains, monitors, and coordinates creation and maintenance of appropriate records and data and ensures they are up to date and in compliance with regulations and policies;

Represents the department at various meetings;

Responds to citizen complaints/inquiries or conducts enforcement activities regarding environmental quality and health;

Supervises, evaluates and trains professional and support staff performing environmental quality and health activities and providing clerical/paraprofessional support.

IN A LANDFILL SETTING:

Provides quarterly landfill gas monitoring services at permitted landfills;
Assists in collection and analysis of leachate quality samples (air, environment, wastewater and groundwater quality);
Supervises the random landfill load inspection program that was mandated and established to exclude hazardous waste from the waste stream coming into landfills and transfer stations;
Tracks staff training requirements and coordinates with operations supervisors to schedule and notify staff of relevant training opportunities;
Coordinates with site supervisors to identify and correct potential safety concerns at facilities.

IN POLLUTION PREVENTION AND SUSTAINABILITY:

Develops and implements community engagement, communication, and educational outreach programs that support and promotes the sustainability and livability of the greater Pima County community;
Develops informational and educational materials, training programs, special events, incentive programs and outreach resources for Pima County Departments; including Eco Champions and Green Purchasing Representatives;
Researches and prepares grant applications to secure new funding sources for projects and programs.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- principles and practices of environmental quality and health inspection, education and enforcement;
- biological and physical sciences applicable to environmental quality and health inspection, education and enforcement;
- laws, rules, regulations, codes, and ordinances and their application to environmental and health issues;
- research and data analysis practices and procedures;
- principles and practices of environmental quality activities and public health administration;
- principles of supervising, assigning work, evaluating and training staff;
- techniques of locating funding sources and completing grant applications;
- community outreach techniques;
- locating and/or preparing educational materials.

Skill in:

- interpreting and applying environmental quality and health laws, rules, regulations, codes and ordinances;
- communicating effectively;
- planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing environmental and health programs and systems;
- inspection and reporting practices and procedures;
- research practices and interpretation of scientific data and trends;
- dealing with the public/media in an effective and timely manner;
- supervising, training, assigning work and evaluating employees;
- performing technical and mathematical analysis and calculations.
- locating funding sources and preparing grant applications.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

EITHER:

1) A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in environmental science, environmental health, sanitation, public health, engineering hydrology or a closely related field as defined by the Appointing Authority at the time of recruitment and three years of experience in the environmental or health fields.

OR:

(2) Five years of professional experience in implementing or participating in environmental quality/health activities.

OR:

(3) Three years of experience with Pima County as a Wastewater Laboratory Chemist, Wastewater Laboratory Chemist Specialist, Environmental Analyst or Sanitarian, or a combination of experience in two or more of the cited classes.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: All positions require possession of a valid Class D Arizona Driver's License at the time of appointment. Some positions may require possession of a current Certificate of Registration to practice as a Registered Sanitarian in the State of Arizona at the time of appointment or prior to completion of initial/promotional probation. Failure to obtain/maintain the required licensure/certification/registration shall be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items: Some positions may require work in remote or limited access areas and terrain exposed to dust and pollen; work for prolonged periods in extreme heat, cold, moisture and humidity; occasional use of protective equipment due to potential exposure to hazardous substances, i.e., asbestos. Some positions may require preventative immunizations such as Hepatitis and Tetanus. Some positions within this classification that are not covered by the requirements of OSHA's Blood Borne Pathogen program may be offered, at County expense, the Hepatitis B series of vaccinations due to potential exposure to raw sewage and sharps (discarded needles/syringes).

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Some positions may require standing or walking for extended periods of time (up to two hours); physical and sensory requirements consistent with the employees' need to routinely and safely operate a motor vehicle in all weather conditions and on different road surfaces.

This classification specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the classification and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the classification perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.