

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE ACTION

The State University of New York (SUNY) seeks a strategic, visionary, and collaborative leader to serve as The Executive Director of Climate Action (EDCA). The Office of the Chancellor will work to develop, coordinate, and support campus action on climate change throughout the system, including efforts to decarbonize our campuses, adapt and build resilience in our communities, and prepare students for success in the clean economy. It is an exciting time to join SUNY, and under the leadership of Chancellor John King, the EDCA will join a highly collaborative team working to advance the Chancellor's strategic priorities.

The work will be led by the EDCA and driven out of the SUNY Office of Sustainability (OS). The OS will identify best practices on one or more campuses and strategically turn them into standard business practice on all campuses. The OS will play a leadership and facilitation role by building consensus among all campuses for aggressive yet feasible systemwide goals to move all SUNY campus sustainability practices forward quickly and efficiently. The OS will coordinate the development and implementation of the SUNY Sustainable Practices Policy and track key metrics to analyze and report on progress towards SUNY's goals. Externally, the OS will work to reinforce SUNY's position as a national leader in campus sustainability.

The SUNY Office of Sustainability is committed to ensuring that SUNY's sustainability policy initiatives and programs are diverse in their staffing, and representative and inclusive of the communities who are engaged in these initiatives and programs. The OS recognizes that the environmental and sustainability fields have a legacy of systemic racism that impacts all of SUNY's sustainability work. The OS has a responsibility to learn about environmental racism and systemic racism and to address and dismantle it.

The Position:

The EDCA will be responsible for the overall management of major elements of the system-wide climate action program, including policy, project development, implementation to decarbonize our campuses, adapt and build resilience in our communities, and prepare students for success in the clean economy. These assignments are expected to evolve as the climate action program grows and develops. Climate action by its nature cuts across divisions, departments, and disciplines. Management responsibilities are complex, and variable depending on the topic and assignment and will range from having sole responsibility, to being the managing team leader, to being key support for departmental and division leadership.

The EDCA will develop and implement system-wide strategies to achieve the SUNY's system-wide climate action goals in collaboration with other SUNY Office of the Chancellor staff and campus stakeholders. Informing policy and practices directions, working with system-wide working groups focused on goals, policies, and practices, the EDCA will develop business cases for programs, conduct financial analysis, collaboratively coordinate strategic planning efforts, develop, and implement system-wide financing and grant programs, and develop strategic partnership with private, public, and nonprofit stakeholders.

The EDCA will monitor and analyze climate-related state and federal legislation and regulations to identify where SUNY may be able to take further action leveraging state and federal policies. The EDCA will be familiar with the Scoping Plan issued by the New York State Climate Action Council and identify opportunities for SUNY to participate in recommendations to meet the Climate Act's nation-leading goals and requirements.

The EDCA will communicate through research, reports, presentations, and technical assistance, the system-wide climate action goals, policies, and practices across SUNY campuses and to external stakeholders. The EDCA will also create and monitor climate action performance metrics and connect campus climate action efforts to the educational, professional, vocational, and research mission of SUNY.



The EDCA must have knowledge and experience in aspects of climate change, sustainability, and workforce development especially in renewable energy, electrification, and resilience. The EDCA must keep current on climate action trends, issues, and best practices.

The EDCA will create partnerships with state, local, and national environmental advocacy organizations.

Essential functions of the position:

At a high management level, the DCA is responsible for:

Program Management (60%)

- Providing expertise and strategic guidance to support campuses in their development of climate action plans for areas including decarbonizing campuses, adapting, and building resilience to climate impacts, and preparing students for the clean economy workforce.
- In coordination with campus stakeholders, develop and implement strategic climate action plans for systemwide activities that enable campuses to achieve goals for decarbonizing campuses, adapting, and building resilience to climate impacts, and preparing students for the clean economy workforce.
- Identify, develop, and facilitate implementation of complex system-wide initiatives and projects.
- Work with system-wide working groups and other stakeholders, conduct financial analysis and develop business cases for programs.
- Develop and implement system-wide financing and grant programs.
- Lead the development of applications for systemwide climate-related grants and advise individual campuses on climate-related grant applications.

Policy and Implementation (30%)

- Advise and collaboratively develop SUNY-wide policies to establish goals, policies, and practice for SUNY's climate action.
- Lead SUNY's efforts to support implementation of the NYS Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan.
- Keep current on climate action and sustainability trends, issues, and best practices.
- Provide strategic leadership and support for select climate working groups.
- Create and monitor climate performance metrics.

Outreach and Partnerships (10%)

- Lead System's responses (in conjunction with ESF and CALS) on the higher education responsibilities in the Climate Action Plan.
- Provide leadership and system support for emerging programs, credentials and training in green and clean energy jobs or related industries.
- Represent the SUNY system at conferences and gives presentations regarding efforts and achievements in climate action.
- Develop strategic partnerships with private, public, and nonprofit stakeholders to support climate initiatives.
- Prepare and present training sessions and workshops for campus staff on climate topics.
- Develop and maintain professional relationships with campus and administrative stakeholders.
- Connect campus climate efforts to the educational, professional, vocational, and research mission of SUNY.
- Create partnerships with state, local, and national environmental advocacy organizations.

Required Education and Experience:

A Bachelor's degree in related area. A Master's degree in business administration or sustainability management, or a closely related field is preferred.

The ideal candidate must have a minimum of 5-8 years of experience and demonstrated knowledge in environmental sustainability management and policy, specifically in the areas of greening healthcare



facilities, sustainable procurement, sustainable food services, water management, zero waste, and environmental health. In addition, candidates must possess the following:

- Demonstrated experience starting new sustainability initiatives.
- Demonstrated experience in developing business cases for sustainability programs.
- An understanding of organizational behavior and cultural transformation.
- Change management skills and experience.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in the area of anti-racism, social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Leadership Skills: Proven ability to foster collaborations across diverse constituencies in a large organization and inspire confidence and motivate groups to collectively meet common objectives. Strong experience in participatory leadership.
- Demonstrated ability to provide leadership and represent the University at all levels of the organization, systemwide, and to external organizations.
- Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain working relationships at all levels of the organization, across campuses and with external institutions and agencies.
- Superior communication skills - written, verbal and interpersonal.
- Demonstrated program and project management skills.
- Excellent leadership and facilitation skills.
- Motivated and able to work independently or under supervision.
- Ability to prioritize workload and identify resources to perform the responsibilities of this position.
- Demonstrated knowledge of general sustainability concepts and best practices, especially including greening healthcare facilities, sustainable procurement, sustainable food services, water management, zero waste, environmental health, greenhouse gas emissions reporting protocols, all LEED rating systems, etc.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, database programs and management.

Preferred Qualifications

- 10 years of experience and knowledge preferred in environmental sustainability management and policy, specifically in the areas of greening healthcare facilities, sustainable procurement, sustainable food services, water management, zero waste, and environmental health.
- Related experience in higher education.
- Related experience in healthcare organizations.
- LEED accredited professional.

Application:

Interested candidates should submit only a cover letter and resume/curriculum vitae to Zulaika.Rodriguez@suny.edu. The review of candidates will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

About the State University of New York (SUNY):

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the United States, and more than 95 percent of all New Yorkers live within 30 miles of any one of SUNY's 64 colleges and universities. Across the system, SUNY has four academic health centers, five hospitals, four medical schools, two dental schools, a law school, the state's only college of optometry, and manages one US Department of Energy National Laboratory. In total, SUNY serves about 1.3 million students amongst its entire portfolio of credit -and non-credit bearing courses and programs, continuing education, and community outreach programs. SUNY oversees nearly a quarter of academic research in New York. Research expenditures system-wide reached nearly \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2022, including significant contributions from students and faculty. There are more than three million SUNY alumni worldwide, and one in three New Yorkers with a college degree is a SUNY alum. To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunity, visit www.suny.edu.



The State University
of **New York**

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