

## Associate

**Location:** hybrid – remote / occasional travel to London

**Start date:** April 2024

**Contract:** 1 year fixed-term contract with opportunity to extend

## About the Green Finance Institute (GFI)

Founded in 2019 to accelerate the deployment of finance towards a net zero and resilient economy, the GFI is an independent, commercially focused and philanthropically-financed organisation, seed funded by the UK Government and the City of London Corporation.

The GFI has already established a leading and differentiated position based on a distinct strategy of identifying impactful interventions to unlock barriers to deploying capital at pace and scale towards sector specific, real-economy outcomes such as the energy efficiency of buildings, decarbonisation of road transport, nature-based financial solutions, international carbon markets and developing markets' climate smart infrastructure.

Through both creating and managing networks of dynamic decision makers across financial services, policy, business, academia and civil society, the GFI is renowned for its practical financial expertise, efficient project execution and generous collaboration, increasingly positioning the organisation as a partner of choice for both policy-makers and market participants to connect political ambition and industry objectives with well-designed solutions for the financial sector both in the UK and overseas.

## What's the role?

The GFI's Built Environment team is partnering with the Ashden Climate Solutions Let's Go Zero campaign to convene public sector and private finance decision makers to drive forward school decarbonisation and retrofit. The partnership aims to identify and catalyse innovative financial solutions that have the potential to mobilise capital towards the retrofit of existing school estates. We are seeking an enthusiastic individual, with a keen interest in green finance, to play a pivotal role in delivering this important work.

The UK education sector accounts for over a third of the total UK public sector building emissions and the sector must rapidly decarbonise to meet net-zero

targets. This requires a joined-up approach that empowers schools, mobilises public and private finance, policymakers, and supply chain delivery partners.

The position offers a unique opportunity to proactively contribute to and steer the development of innovative financial solutions that will break down the barriers to schools engaging in decarbonisation. You will play a pivotal role in delivering on the partnership objectives and driving forward sectoral change. Alongside this primary function, the candidate will have the opportunity to be actively involved in the GFI's wider local green investment programmes, such as the institute's pioneering Local Climate Bond campaign. The position is initially offered as a 1-year fixed contract, with the opportunity to extend pending performance of the school retrofit partnership.

## Responsibilities

- Drive forward the delivery of the GFI-Ashden partnership – leveraging best practice from other GFI programmatic work, identifying impactful opportunities and effectively executing on ideas.
- Conduct an initial phase of market research and analysis to identify the barriers to schools engaging with existing funding options and feed this into the design and delivery of a sector wide solutions and piloting programme.
- Collaborate with finance and education leaders to design, develop, pilot and scale innovative financial solutions that will support the decarbonisation of schools.
- Work closely with the GFI Local Green Investment Lead and Ashden Let's Go Zero project team to convene industry stakeholders (public sector and private finance decision makers).
- Host workshops and roundtable events with project stakeholders to enable information gathering and knowledge sharing.
- Represent the GFI at industry events and produce compelling written content, in collaboration with the Communications team, as required.
- Provide frequent progress updates to the project team, communicate the challenges and associated solutions to keep the project on track.
- Identify risks that could jeopardise the delivery of the project and proactively seek to mitigate them.

## Role requirements

- A keen interest in green/innovative finance to catalyse place-based climate action and a dedication to making a tangible positive impact.
- Prior experience in the finance sector, ideally in designing and developing innovative financing mechanisms, blended finance transactions or risk sharing mechanisms.

- Significant prior experience of leading multi-stakeholder programmes or campaigns, including setting direction and working collaboratively with cross-sector partners.
- Exceptional influencing and communication skills with an ability to build relationships with a wide range of partners, anticipating and understanding their needs and perspectives.
- Strong project management skills - capable of handling multiple project streams / tasks and ability to meet deadlines, logically tackle problems and set priorities.
- Experience of developing creative approaches to engaging with and influencing public sector actors and market participants.
- Experience of identifying market opportunities, creating strategies to target and engage with prospective partners across the public and private sector.
- Excellent stakeholder management skills.
- Good judgement – ability to collaborate, make decisions and solve problems with well-considered, sensitive and efficient solutions.
- Experience of delivering a programme of events / webinars to a professional audience.
- Self-motivated and brings a strong positivity/energy to the team.
- Adaptable, must be comfortable working in a small team and part of a fast-paced, agile, start-up environment.

**If this sounds like you:**

To apply - please submit your CV and a short cover letter (of no more than two sides). Your cover letter should include details of:

- your relevant work / educational experience.
- your skills and in particular your experience that is relevant to this role.
- how you meet the broader requirements of the role.

CVs without a cover letter will not be considered.

The closing date for applications is **9am on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. Please submit your application to [recruitment@gfi.green](mailto:recruitment@gfi.green)

*Please note:*

- *If you do not already hold the right to work in the UK and/or require sponsorship in order to continue working here, you should think carefully before applying.*

- *The Green Finance Institute is an equal opportunity employer, and we value diversity. If you are invited to interview and need any reasonable adjustments during the interview process, please let us know.*