

Role Profile – Politically Restricted post

Job Title	Director of Energy and Environment	Job Ref	MCA0361 v3
Team	Growth Business and Skills	Grade	MCA 16
Reporting to	Executive Director GBS	Date last revised:	December 2024

Role Purpose

This is an exciting and high-impact leadership role at the heart of South Yorkshire's transition to a greener, fairer, and more resilient economy.

As Director of Energy and Environment, you will shape and lead a portfolio that is fundamental to the region's future – from driving net zero ambitions and energy innovation, to delivering nature recovery and climate adaptation.

You will join the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) at a pivotal moment. As a growing organisation with increasing powers, investment capacity and influence, SYMCA is being recognised by government as a national leader in clean growth, public sector decarbonisation, and community-led environmental action.

South Yorkshire is emerging as a national leader in the clean tech economy, with distinctive regional strengths across nuclear technologies, hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), and energy storage. This role will be central to driving region-wide growth in these industries—convening private and public partners, mobilising investment, and turning technical potential into economic opportunity.

The Director will work directly with the Mayor, senior regional and national leaders, and key stakeholders to turn ambition into action—ensuring South Yorkshire secures the full economic and social value of its clean growth opportunity.

Principal Accountabilities

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A. Strategic Leadership

- Lead the development and implementation of a comprehensive Net Zero, Energy and Environment Strategy for South Yorkshire.
- Lead the development of a pipeline of Net Zero, Energy and Environment projects for investment by Government, SYMCA, local stakeholders and the private sector.
- Develop and oversee the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, positioning nature recovery as a core regional economic and environmental objective.
- Provide strategic leadership for the delivery of SYMCA's role in Connected by Water and similar place-based resilience programmes.
- Lead the Secretariat function for SY Energy, a strategic partnership of public, private and academic sectors at the most senior level, to drive investment into key clean energy growth areas.
- Embed a systems-thinking approach across the organisation to decarbonise operations, investments, and place-based delivery.

B. Stakeholder Influence & Representation

- Serve as lead policy advisor to the Mayor, MCA Board, and senior regional partners on all matters relating to energy [and](#), environment, [including net zero](#) and climate resilience.
- Represent SYMCA in engagement with government departments (including DEFRA, DESNZ), industry, academia, communities, and national bodies
- Lead engagement with GB Energy, energy regulators, and the National Energy System Operator, National Grid including SYMCA representation on the Regional Energy Strategic Planner Board.
- Lead engagement with energy utility companies including National Grid, Northern Powergrid, Cadent Gas, and Northern Gas Networks
- Build trusted relationships with Council Leaders, Chief Executives, Directors, MPs, and community stakeholders, ensuring inclusive engagement and community voice.
- Lead engagement with the North East Yorkshire and Humber Net Zero Hub.

C. Programme Delivery

- Oversee the development and delivery of region-wide public sector decarbonisation programmes and Local Area Energy Plan(s).
- Deliver against government priorities including energy generation and carbon reduction.

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- Drive the implementation of region-wide environmental initiatives, ensuring tangible impact and demonstrable value for money.
- Lead the development of investable schemes and mobilise funding and partner delivery capacity to enable high-performing, multi-year programme pipelines.

D. Governance, Finance & Risk

- Ensure all activity complies with SYMCA governance standards and relevant regulatory frameworks.
- Provide advice on risk, assurance, and statutory responsibilities across energy and environmental workstreams.
- Lead financial planning and budget management for the service area, ensuring effective use of resources to meet strategic outcomes.
- Contribute to corporate governance, performance reporting, and audit activities as required.

E. Organisational Development & Culture

- Line-manage a multidisciplinary team (approx. 5–10 FTE), ensuring high performance and staff development.
- Support SYMCA in achieving and maintaining Carbon Literate Organisation status.
- Lead or contribute to corporate projects that promote a learning, inclusive and delivery-focused organisational culture.

F. Innovation, Insight & Impact

- Commission and apply research, behavioural insight and economic analysis to inform decision-making.
- Champion innovation and technology adoption in energy and environmental delivery, including through partnerships with universities and business.
- Ideate, appraise, and develop investible proposals and business cases that align with regional priorities and national funding opportunities.

Knowledge required for this role covering qualifications, experience, and skills

Key

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E = Essential / D = Desirable

	E/D
Significant expertise in government infrastructure and energy policy, including green finance and socio-economic transition	E
Senior-level experience in strategy, policy and programme leadership within a complex organisation	E
Proven ability to build and lead high-performing, multidisciplinary teams	E
Demonstrated experience influencing senior stakeholders, government departments, and community partners	E
Strong understanding of renewable technologies and decarbonisation pathways	E
Experience in business case development, investment planning and risk management	E
Understanding of regional governance and political landscape	E

About the Role – SYMCA's Behaviours

Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We nurture a supportive environment where new ideas are welcomed • We are stronger when we work together as one team • We actively engage with colleagues, stakeholders, and partners • We manage expectations and communicate our intentions and needs effectively
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are an ethical, transparent, and inclusive organisation • We endeavour to reduce inequalities in South Yorkshire • We strive to do the right thing • We have a respectful environment where unethical behaviour can be challenged
Ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We aim for innovation, adapting to changing circumstances • We work together towards common goals, overcoming barriers • We are passionate and strive for excellence, with a relentless focus on delivery • We shout about our successes internally and externally
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We take pride in our role and are publicly responsible for our results • We are a community and businesses-focused organisation • We listen to feedback, working to solve problems • We offer a safe space to own our successes, mistakes, and setbacks

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Approvals

Colleague name:		Signature:		Date:	
Line Manager name:		Signature:		Date:	