



*Donella Meadows
Institute*

Director: Sustainable Economies Program

The Donella Meadows Institute is looking for a Program Director.

The Donella Meadows Institute (aka the Sustainability Institute) is a non-profit organization located in the Village of Norwich, Vermont. The Institute, founded in 1996 by the late Donella (Dana) Meadows, uses systems thinking to identify and implement solutions to environmental, social and economic challenges.

We are looking for a Director to develop and lead our new Sustainable Economies Program. The program will foster a more systemic approach to economic development at state, regional, and local levels as a means of achieving sustainable prosperity and community resilience.

The role of the Program Director is both highly visible and strategically significant. This position calls for a highly motivated leader with a “can-do” attitude, familiarity with economies and institutions of Vermont and New Hampshire and the capacity to strengthen networks of people and organizations that share the goals of this program.

In addition to health insurance coverage, compensation includes an annual salary that ranges between \$60K - \$80K, depending on the qualifications, skills and experience of the candidate. The position will be based in our Norwich office.

We hope to fill this position by the end of September 2012. If you are interested, please send a cover letter and your CV to info@donellameadows.org no later than August 13, 2012.

Overview of DMI's Sustainable Economies Program

Vermont is an innovation leader in the movement towards sustainable local economies. The state and many of its towns are developing strategies to reduce their carbon footprints and become more self-sufficient. What is missing is a level of understanding about how these efforts tie together in a larger strategy for systemic change. The Donella Meadows Institute is uniquely positioned to catalyze this movement by convening the various stakeholders and helping create a dialogue that will lead to replicable, integrated strategies for local, regional, and state action.

The initial focus of this position will be to:

1. Develop new regional stewardship models for a resource-based rural economy using systems analysis and new economy concepts

2. Organize, promote, and facilitate through dialogue a series of learning sessions that expose stakeholders, policy makers, and interested citizens to our new regional stewardship model
3. Work with regional and local entities to develop long range plans that incorporate sustainable economic principles and practices using systems framing and mapping.
4. Collaborate with DMI's Director of Education and Outreach to develop the Institute's "Global Citizens Guide to Sustainable Regional Economies," a strategic guide that shows readers how systems thinking and new economy concepts can be integrated to foster a sustainable resource-based rural economy.
5. Collaborate with members of the Board and staff to develop performance objectives and criteria for measuring the program's success. This process forms the basis of an annual program review that also draws on feedback from individuals and communities touched by the Director's work.

Position Responsibilities

The Program Director is responsible for the overall management of the Institute's Sustainable Economies Program. This includes:

- Fundraising to support the program through sponsorships, individual donations and foundation grants
- Designing, managing, and implementing program projects and events
- Working collaboratively with DMI staff, board, partners and colleagues to further understanding and integration of content and approaches among the Institute's programs
- Identifying and collaborating with partner organizations in the development of projects that will further DMI's mission and the goals of our Sustainable Economies Program.

Qualifications

- Master's degree in political economy, public policy, public administration, or related discipline at the intersection of the economy, society and the environment
- Solid background and in-depth experience in systems thinking / systems analysis and its application to sustainability and communities
- Expertise in regional economies and policies, green economic development, public-private collaborations, organizational theory and participatory decision-making
- Familiarity with Vermont and New Hampshire economies and institutions
- Excellent team-building and networking skills
- Well-developed management skills showing an ability to manage a complex

program, oversee multiple projects, and coordinate goals and activities with other Institute programs and services

- Ability to work independently while communicating clearly with project staff and Board members to ensure broad support and improve effectiveness of projects
- Knowledge and experience in developing procedures and guidelines to guide project staff
- Demonstrated ability to produce and communicate high-quality, well-documented work product for different audiences
- Proven success developing a respectful and collegial work environment.

Our Mission

To bring economic, social and environmental systems into closer harmony with the realities of a finite planet and a globally powerful human race by using the disciplines of systems thinking, system dynamics and organizational learning pioneered by our founder Donella Meadows.

About the Donella Meadows Institute

Formerly known as the Sustainability Institute, our organization recently decided to adopt the name of its founder, the late Donella (Dana) Meadows. With the name change, the Institute committed itself to the dissemination of Dana's work and the preservation of her legacy. In all other regards, our mission, vision and role in the world remain essentially unchanged.

True to the practice of our founder, the Institute uses systems thinking principles and system dynamics modeling to identify leverage points in human and natural systems and to design interventions that promote society's transition to sustainability. Because human interactions and relationships are critical for healthy systems, we apply principles of organizational learning to our work and our collaborations. Through writing, speaking and mentoring, we work to influence mindsets in a way that will promote meaningful and lasting change. Through consulting, coordination and collaboration, we build individual and organizational capacity to analyze, understand and respond to complex environmental, social and economic challenges.