OEDP 2027 Climate Reserve Senior Fellow

Terms: Full-time (32 hours/week) for 1 year
Location: Remote within the U.S.
Start Date: January 11, 2027 / February 1, 2027 (negotiable)

About the Open Environmental Data Project

The Open Environmental Data Project (OEDP) envisions a future where data is transparent, contextualized, and (re-)usable, as well as collected and shared responsibly, to support stronger systems of participatory environmental governance. To accomplish this, we build systems for people to share and contribute scientific, environmental, and contextual information within and between their communities, as well as to increase curated and usable information shared between communities, researchers, lawmakers, and other supporters. To learn more about our work, please visit openenvironmentaldata.org.

OEDP is a founding member of the Public Environmental Data Partners (PEDP), a coalition dedicated to protecting and improving access to public environmental data. In 2025, foundational federal datasets were defunded or removed and long-standing tools were dismantled, undermining access to information essential for EJ, climate, and health decisions. PEDP was formed to maintain continuous access to these resources, equip communities to use them effectively, and advocate for durable, justice-centered data infrastructure.

About this position and role in the Climate Reserve and PEDP

OEDP seeks a Senior Fellow to advance standards for community-generated environmental justice (EJ) data, with the goal of co-creating a roadmap for federated data systems that enable states and federal agencies to use that data in environmental governance and decisionmaking, and contribute to PEDP coalition's work to preserve and improve access to data.

This Senior Fellow will be part of the Aspen Global Change Institute's Climate Reserve Fellowship Program. Climate Reserve places experts in climate and environment whose work was disrupted by cuts to federal programs within organizations outside of the federal government to support near-term opportunities to understand and respond to climate change in the United States.

The Senior Fellow will co-lead the development of a shared standard-setting methodology for EJ data, a series of workshops to develop the standards in a specific data domain (air quality), and a pilot of the standards in a live tool. They will act as a bridge between frontline community members and collaborative researchers on the one hand, and policymakers, regulators, and technologists on the other. They will facilitate collaborative design processes, conduct discovery sessions and workshops, and articulate how community and other non-federal datasets can be

integrated in public data systems to answer EJ questions, particularly around air quality. Embedded in PEDP's Advocacy and/or Tools Development working group, the Fellow will also help shape sustainable stewardship models that anticipate shifting political contexts, and ensure resilience whether federal administrations are supportive or oppositional.

The Senior Fellow will report to the Deputy Director, and work closely with other OEDP team members and PEDP partners. We are looking for someone who is excited about the opportunity to work on a small team in an emerging environment, and to think creatively and strategically about achieving our goals.

In particular, the Fellow will be responsible for:

- ***Establishing and applying a replicable methodology for setting EJ data standards*** that builds on existing methodologies and frameworks. In collaboration with a Climate Reserve Fellow based at the Data Foundation, this work will begin by researching how different domains have successfully developed methodologies for setting data standards. This will include completing a landscape review and discovery interviews with city, state, and local air quality officials and other non-governmental air quality data practitioners to understand and document the existing standards ecosystem this work might enter **and how air quality data is currently used in policy and regulatory decisions**. Working in collaboration with The Impact Project, the Fellow will also harmonize interview findings with legal research on existing federal air quality data and evidentiary standards. Building on this research, the Fellow will be responsible for co-organizing workshops to further set the methodology, and then apply it in practice to develop standards that can serve communities working in the air quality space.
- ***Demonstrating a working model for how community-generated data can be meaningfully integrated into environmental decision-making.*** This will include publishing a draft standards and governance framework and accompanying metadata schema for air quality data that addresses provenance, fitness-for-use, and decision rights for communities generating data; integrating the draft standards into a working pilot with one of PEDP's existing EJ tools (e.g., EJScreen) to produce a concrete proof of concept for federated air quality data; and documenting lessons on what made this integration possible.
- ***Mapping pathways for policy uptake.*** This will include identifying the decision points where community-generated air quality data could be used (e.g., permitting, enforcement targeting, state screening tools, grant allocation), documenting state programs already integrating community or non-regulatory data (e.g., California's AB 617 Community Air Monitoring program), and bringing those findings into the standards workshops as they develop.
- ***Participating in regular virtual meetings*** with our team and partners to coordinate work, learn together, and support OEDP's and PEDP's broader strategies.
- ***Keeping abreast of developments*** in environmental data policy, data infrastructure, and collaborative EJ research.

Preferred Qualities and Abilities:

- **General background:** We are seeking candidates whose work has been disrupted by federal disinvestment in climate and environmental research, prioritizing applicants who have been terminated or who left public service since January 20, 2025. Background and 6+ years experience in EJ policy, research, organizing, community engagement, or governance, ideally with work in or with a state or federal environmental agency (e.g., an EJ office or community liaison role). Experience in air quality or environmental data quality and standards is especially valued.
- **Policy and regulatory experience:** Understanding of how environmental data is used in policy and regulatory decisions, such as data quality requirements, monitoring programs, permitting, enforcement, or EJ screening tools.
- **Community-generated data:** Experience collaborating with people who collect and use environmental datasets and tools, including EJ organizations and communities, researchers, environmental agency staff, and/or environmental attorneys.
- **Environmental data:** Practical experience with environmental data standards and formats, including metadata standards or schemas, ideally for monitoring or regulatory data. Hands-on programming experience is a plus, but not required.
- **Research & discovery:** Experience with landscape assessment, user research methods, policy analysis, participatory design, or translating community needs into frameworks or roadmaps. Comfort with conducting interviews or focus groups, facilitating feedback sessions, and synthesizing insights.
- **Facilitation & listening:** Experience facilitating workshops or other convenings with environmental advocates, organizers, researchers, or public servants. Commitment to deep listening and integrating input from community members and potential users of tools into roadmaps and designs where possible and appropriate.
- **Communication:** Excellent verbal and written communication skills to clearly explain a vision and support working together toward a unified goal. Ability to communicate about technical topics with both technical and non-technical audiences.
- **Open and just data:** A commitment to recognizing, valuing, and working to integrate a diversity of datasets, types, and experiences in environmental governance and decision-making, as well as to open data, data accessibility, open source development, and interoperability where possible and appropriate. Alignment with OEDP's values and PEDP's Working Agreements.
- **Workstyle:** Proactive, self-directed, and comfortable with both independent and collaborative work. Comfortable working as part of small and/or remote teams. Detail-oriented and well-organized, with strong project management skills.
- **Tools:** Ability to use or learn collaborative communication and project management tools such as Google Office Suite, Slack, Zoom, GitHub Projects, or AirTable.

We encourage you to apply even if you don't believe you meet all qualifications described above. The best candidate for this role will possess a combination of skills, experience, and interests.

Salary and Benefits: *This role will have an annual salary of $100,000. Benefits include employer provided health insurance, a Work From Home (WFH) budget, 401k for your contribution, and generous and flexible paid time off (including a four-day work week, 2-4 weeks of office closure in winter and summer, and unlimited paid time off).*

How we work: *OEDP is a fully distributed organization, and this position is fully remote. You must be legally allowed to work in the United States and generally be available during U.S. business hours. You should have access to high-speed Internet given the nature of our work. OEDP uses video calls, Slack, and other remote team management tools to facilitate our work. You should be able to travel for an annual staff retreat and other in-person meetings, totaling 4-7 trips per year depending on project needs and your interests.*

Diversity and inclusion: *Open Environmental Data Project is committed to a diverse, inclusive, and multicultural work environment. We encourage BIPOC, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, and people from EJ communities to apply. If you need reasonable accommodation during the application or interview process, please email Megan Zimroth at megan@openenvironmentaldata.org.*

Instructions: *To apply for this position please send a cover letter no longer than 1 page and resume no longer than 2 pages to info@openenvironmentaldata.org.*