

Business Director Delta Climate Center

"Do you want to join the scientific director of a new innovative knowledge center in taking responsibility for the content of research and education projects that generate social and economic impact? Do you live in Zeeland or would you like to move there? Then we would like to meet with you for the role of business director."

About the Delta Climate Center

On July 1, 2023, the Delta Climate Center (DCC) will be established as a new and innovative knowledge center in the field of climate adaptation. The DCC's mission is to develop and connect knowledge about Zeeland's delta to answer societal challenges around the transitions to a sustainable, climate-resilient and prosperous delta with a focus on water, energy and food. This takes shape through broad private-public cooperation in research, education and business development. The DCC aims to help realize innovative and impactful solutions for a future-proof delta. The institute is being established by six knowledge institutions, namely Utrecht University, Wageningen University, HZ/University of Applied Sciences, Scalda, University College Roosevelt and NIOZ.

The DCC will be funded over the next 10 years by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Province of Zeeland and has a budget of 88 million euros (excluding co-financing and in-kind contributions). This budget is used to subsidize activities in the areas of research, education and generating social and economic impact, in the context of the foundation's mission and goals. In doing so, the DCC is primarily a booster and connector of activities.

The knowledge program focuses on regional transitions toward a sustainable, climate-resistant and prosperous delta. Three themes are central to this: 1) water and coast, 2) food, energy and bio-resources, and 3) a circular approach to water, energy and bio-resources. The approach is transdisciplinary - from an alpha, STEM and gamma perspective.

A complementary educational agenda called Sustainable Delta Transitions provides Zeeland with a wide range of educational forms in a continuous learning line from mbo-hbo-wo and will strengthen the labor market around climate transitions, attracting and retaining young people to and for Zeeland. The DCC also encourages business development and startups in the areas of water, food and energy. Co-creation with businesses, organizations and governments is part of the DCC's regular working method.

The DCC strengthens Vlissingen, Zeeland and the world. Its location is the Kenniswerf Vlissingen, from where the center is managed, where the office is located and where colleagues form knowledge groups and work together. In addition, the entire Zeeland delta is the center's living lab and field of activity.

The management is formed by a scientific director and a business director. The management is accountable for the the DCC. For more information see: [Green light for Delta Climate Center in Vlissingen - News - Utrecht University \(uu.nl\)](#)



What will you do?

- As business director you will set up an effective and efficient support organization for the DCC. In this you have a good eye for quality and transparency of the business processes.
- You will maintain an extensive and functional network within and outside Zeeland and work with a wide variety of stakeholders on the development of the DCC.
- You will work with the scientific director to develop the strategy for the future and to expand and strengthen the knowledge position of the DCC.
- You work on additional funding for the DCC mission through partnerships with companies and organizations and national and international funds.
- Together with the scientific director, you lead the DCC office (where employees are employed by the participating organizations).
- You ensure good and timely communication and information to the Board of Directors, including clear accountability regarding the use of resources to (co)fundors.

What do you bring?

- You have completed an academic education in business economics /business administration and have extensive experience in financial and project management in large publicly and/or privately funded organizations.
- You have connecting qualities: inspiring, involved and approachable. You are an authority and serving at the same time: giving space or direction when needed.
- You have significant leadership experience.
- You have an affinity with education and research and find it challenging to set up complex projects and bring them to a good result. Familiarity with the control and funding of education is highly recommended.
- You know the importance of stakeholder management, you know how to move well in various environments and are able to work with many different parties.
- You preferably have experience in generating economic and social impact from research and the effective cooperation necessary for this with companies, governments and social organizations.
- You are entrepreneurial, results-oriented and meticulous.
- You are familiar with and involved in provincial developments (preferably in the province of Zeeland) and are able to find your way in the network of relevant parties.
- You are interested in climate change developments, delta management and the water-energy-food nexus.
- You have excellent social and communication skills: communicate the organizational message clearly and easily internally and externally.
- You have a good command of the Dutch and English languages.
- You live in Zeeland or are willing to relocate.

Our offer

You will work for the DCC and for the center's six founding institutions. You will be assigned to one of the founding institutions and will be seconded from there to the DCC office in Vlissingen. We offer 0.8 FTE employment and a position in which there is plenty of room to develop initiatives within a dynamic and stimulating environment. The salary - depending on education and experience - amounts to a minimum of € 6,272 and a maximum of € 8,087 gross per month (scale 15 of the collective labor agreement for Dutch universities) for full-time employment (38 hours). You will also receive 8% vacation allowance and 8.3% year-end bonus.



We offer a contract for 5 years. After those five years, the business leadership is likely to require a structurally different and more limited scope and a profile appropriate to the changed remit will be drawn up. Extension of the contract after 5 years is a possibility.

Want more information?

DCC is being supported by search agency Vanderkruijs in this procedure. Interested candidates can express their interest by sending a cover letter (including an up-to-date CV) to vdk@vanderkruijs.com with reference to DCC business director.

For more information about this position, please contact Michèle Polspoel, partner in executive search, at 020-7267272 or vdk@vanderkruijs.com.

Initial interviews will take place on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 in Vlissingen.

