Environment reporter

We’re a rapidly growing nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization serving the 12th-largest city in the country. We need a smart, insightful reporter who can inform the critical decisions facing Fort Worth.

This data and records-driven reporter provides thoughtful, in-depth coverage of local environmental trends and issues, with a focus on helping readers understand complicated issues and stories through people’s personal stories about the environment. In all of our reporting, we seek to amplify the voices of Fort Worth and Tarrant County residents. Strong digital and social media skills required.

This position will report to the managing editor and the content editor in working to produce world-class journalism with the goal of expanding our relevance, impact and reach.

The environment reporter is a problem-solver with excellent writing and editing skills and a nose for news. The person loves the mix of local reporting we aspire to do at the Fort Worth Report, as outlined in our reader research. Fort Worth and Tarrant County are rich with high-impact environmental issues. This reporter will write about topics such as air and water quality, urban flooding, natural gas drilling, debates over industrial pollution, the impact of development on open space, the intersection of environmental issues with local government and more.

All Fort Worth Report journalism initiatives investigate the intersections of people and policy. The Fort Worth Report offers deep coverage of civic issues, including local government, education, health, economic development and culture in an all-digital platform.

Our environmental reporter must be comfortable working in four key areas:

- Solutions journalism
- Accountability/investigative reporting
- Community outreach/civic engagement
- Explainers

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Digital storytelling with clear, concise writing that makes complicated issues accessible and informs our audience why a story is important to them. Must be comfortable with photography, videography, data visualization and related tools. We’re an all-digital platform so our focus is on making our content shine online.
- Produces daily news and longer-term environment enterprise stories for multiple platforms,
including the website, email newsletters and social media. Works to become subject expert across the metroplex.

- Cultivates expertise in local environmental trends and issues to generate ideas for high-impact stories, including meeting with sources, background research, submitting public records requests and other investigative functions.
- Produces occasional audio stories for public radio partner KERA and contributes to email newsletters, including a monthly Green Report newsletter.
- Integrates audience interaction with reporting by working with the editors and other staff members. This reporter will also respond daily to and gather ideas from readers’ comments in person, on the phone and online. Represents the Fort Worth Report in the community, at community events and at our public events.
- Schedule flexibility (some evening, weekend and holiday work).
- Uses digital analytics to inform coverage that reaches audiences, wins subscribers and builds reader loyalty.
- Embraces diversity in the workplace and in our coverage, thinking inclusively about everything from story framing and sourcing to word choice and presentation.
- Contributes to a healthy, positive and welcoming workplace culture.
- Understands and upholds the standards, ethics and mission of journalism at the Fort Worth Report.

**Preferred Qualifications**

- A minimum of 2-4 years’ experience.
- Demonstrated record of successfully reporting on the environment, including complex enterprise story packages, and/or the North Texas region.
- Strong news judgment, with impeccable standards of accuracy, honesty and fairness, and knowledge of libel laws.
- Varied multimedia experience, including video, audio and web storytelling. Photography is a must.
- Cultural competence and familiarity with inclusive journalism practices.
- Sophisticated communication skills; ability to negotiate, collaborate and engage in sometimes challenging conversations with staff, leadership and readers.
- Adaptability to new routines, policies and technology in an ever-changing startup environment. Looks for solutions and new ways to connect with our audience.
- Experience with WordPress and other online publishing systems and spreadsheet software such as Excel.
- Excellent grammar and language skills; reliable math skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with an ability to work cross-functionally with different departments and work styles. Proficiency in a foreign language is a plus but not required.
- Must be willing to relocate to Tarrant County in a reasonable time frame.
- Handle other duties as may be assigned by senior editors.
Along with ample opportunity for growth in the country’s 12th-largest city, we offer a competitive salary, plus health insurance (medical, dental, vision), generous PTO policy, and flexible work hours. This is a full-time position with benefits.

There are great candidates who might not check all these boxes or who hold important skills we haven’t listed. Don’t hesitate to apply and tell us about yourself. FWR is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to hiring employees from diverse backgrounds. People of color, women, LGBTQ+, and differently-abled people are strongly encouraged to apply.

As a start-up, we’re often called to wear many hats and jump in to help each other when the situation calls for it. We’re committed to maintaining a healthy work-life balance and providing a place for staff to feel supported in their professional growth and achieve ambitious goals.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- Driver’s license, reliable transportation and current automobile insurance.

**Application details:** All applications should include a cover letter, resume, references and work samples to hello@fortworthreport.org; please include “Environment Reporter” in the email subject line. Please send a resume, cover letter, work samples and references. Deadline for receiving applications is Aug. 15.