

Stockholm Environment Institute

U.S. Center Director

Somerville, MA; Davis, CA; or Seattle, WA Preferred

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About the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

A thriving hub of dedicated scientists, researchers, and staff, SEI consistently [ranks among the top think tanks in the world](#) working on environment policy and practice. Globally renowned for its innovative research, policy analysis, and capacity-building efforts in over 15 program areas—including water, climate change, energy, water resources, biodiversity, and sustainable consumption and production—SEI’s diverse team of experts and global partners are dedicated to shaping policies and addressing urgent environmental challenges worldwide.

An independent and nonpartisan research organization, SEI tackles some of the world’s most pressing environment and development challenges. With Centers in seven countries and headquarters in Sweden, SEI’s focus on the connections between sustainability science and policy continues to advance the evidence base of sustainability-enhancing strategies. SEI’s current [“Knowledge for Action” 2020-2024 strategy](#) pushes the frontiers of sustainability research. With over 600 active projects in 50+ countries, SEI plays a central and pivotal role in supporting and delivering real change.

About SEI US

A collaborative community of 35 researchers and support staff, the US Center of SEI is deeply committed to sustainable development. With offices in Somerville, MA; Davis, CA; and Seattle, WA, and a USD 6 million annual budget, SEI US engages with key policy and decision-makers on energy, water, and climate policy around the world. SEI US conducts rigorous research, engages in close partnership with key constituents, translates knowledge into action, and conducts capacity building efforts across five core areas:

- Water for ecosystems and livelihoods
- Energy modeling
- Climate policy
- Equitable transitions
- Sustainable bioenergy and development

Through research findings, tool development, training, and workshops, SEI US strives to support communities and partners in tackling environmental challenges and fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach to solving them.

For more information on SEI US, please visit <https://www.sei.org/centres/us/>. To read SEI's 2022 Annual Report, please visit <https://www.sei.org/publications/annual-report-2022/>.

About Our Next Center Director

SEI US seeks a Center Director who is enthusiastic about joining an organization that values diversity in disciplines, background, and lived experience. We welcome candidates from a range of experiences that would complement the team. US-based candidates and international candidates authorized to work in the US are equally encouraged.

The Center Director of SEI US will possess the following attributes and competencies:

Commitment to the Mission

A trusted expert in their own field of knowledge, the next Center Director is passionate about interdisciplinary research and analysis focused on pressing environmental and global development challenges. They are keen to join a team of critical thinkers who question and evaluate assumptions, methods, and conclusions—including their own. A deep thinker and reflective listener, the Center Director brings a broad understanding of SEI's program areas and possesses a commitment to SEI's mission. Attracted to SEI's science-policy interface, they are excited to lead a team of interdisciplinary researchers dedicated to achieving sustainable development goals.

Strategic Resource Development

In close partnership with programs, the Center Director secures the financial and human resources necessary to advance the organization's vision, mission, and impact. They work closely with program leaders to cultivate relationships with government agencies, multilateral institutions, foundations, and the wider research community. Through thought leadership, strategic partnerships, and fundraising, they position their organization for long-term impact and sustainability. They lead SEI US programs to develop compelling, cross-program, and SEI US-wide narratives to attract new funding and seek new, more unrestricted funding streams to contribute to the next stage of SEI US development.

Research and Policy Engagement

A participative leader, the Center Director brings a track record of integrating research and policy engagement. They are comfortable representing their organization—and empowering their teams – to engage with high-level policymakers, businesses, and civil society organizations to translate research findings into actionable policy recommendations. They possess strong technical and project management skills with a demonstrated commitment to ensuring high-quality research and real-world applications.

Global Engagement

Attracted to working at a global scale, our next Center Director is skilled at navigating matrixed, highly collaborative environments. They understand the US Center's role as a part of the SEI community, and they enjoy engaging with colleagues around the world. They navigate change with equity-forward decision-making; and possess global understanding and cultural competence. They demonstrate diplomacy and sound judgment, collaborate with other centers, and align SEI US priorities with overarching SEI goals and objectives.

Leadership and Career Development

An inclusive leader, the Center Director cares deeply about research and researchers, leads with emotional intelligence, fosters a collegial workplace, celebrates diverse perspectives, and engages in collaborative decision-making. They emphasize intellectual curiosity, trust their team's talents, and prioritize transparent communication. By balancing empowerment and support, they lead with integrity and a sense of humor to create working environments where professional development is prioritized and valued.

In addition, strong candidates offer:

- Research and/or policy experience (preferably with an international reputation and engagement in scientific/professional networks) in at least one area of research central to SEI's strategy.
- Dedicated commitment to advancing SEI's longstanding diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) policies and efforts.

Core Responsibilities

The Center Director reports to the SEI Executive Director and the SEI US Board and serves as the key leader linking SEI US and SEI Headquarters (HQ). Working in close collaboration with SEI and SEI US leadership and staff, they shape the direction of the Center, drive innovation and high-quality research, and support SEI and SEI US's overall mission, strategy, policies, and objectives.

The Center Director leads a team of 35, with direct reports including five program directors, a director of finance and operations, and a communications officer. Their portfolio includes center leadership and management, fundraising and development, as well as their own research and/or policy engagement portfolio. The share of time spent on each of these three roles will depend in part on the candidate's strengths and interests.

Summary of Responsibilities:

- **SEI-wide management:** As a member of the SEI Global Management Committee, effectively collaborate with the other center directors, global functions, and thematic leaders to support the SEI mission and strategy and ensure cross-center collaboration and mission alignment.

- **Center leadership:** Act as the face of the US Center; ensure efficient and delegated program leadership and management; align Center research and activities with overall SEI priorities and goals. Develop and implement plans and policies in alignment with SEI-wide strategies and, in coordination with program leadership and the Policy and Strategy Committee (PSC) and Cross-program Management Committee (CMC); ensure administrative efficiency, strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation.
- **Fundraising and fiscal stewardship:** Cultivate and maintain relationships with existing and new funders. Develop cross-program and partner-specific strategies, and proposals for broad, programmatic, and unrestricted funds and for long-term research grants and programs. Coordinate with the finance, operations, program leadership, and the PSC to oversee budgeting and resource mobilization activities that ensure sound fiscal health.
- **Program development, delivery, and quality control:** Ensure high-quality research process and outputs, including timely response to funders' and relevant stakeholders' needs and SEI policies and priorities. Interpret and present results and put them into new and broader perspectives.
- **Communication and partner relations:** In collaboration with Communications, ensure effective internal and external communications; build and steward relationships with partners and clients; facilitate contacts between employees and clients/partners; and ensure that SEI's research insights consistently promote, support, and direct engagement with policy and decision-makers.
- **Professional development:** Foster a professional ecosystem that attracts, recruits, develops, and retains top-tier talent. Lead a safe, professional, and creative work environment that promotes diversity, equitable professional development, and overall career growth and professional well-being.
- **Board engagement:** In close coordination with the Board Chair, recruit and motivate an effective board of directors that provides strategic, fiduciary, and governance oversight and communication.

Compensation & Benefits

SEI US offers a work environment with flexible schedules, a collegial workplace, and an emphasis on well-being. The Somerville office is near Boston, just off the campus of Tufts University, with access to campus activities and resources. The Seattle office is in the heart of downtown, near Pike Place Market, in a restored 1930s office building filled with other non-profit organizations. The Davis office is in a haven for bicyclists close to the University of California campus. SEI US currently works in a hybrid fashion, with staff having the option to work at the office, at home, or a mix of both.

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. The salary range for this role is \$175,000-\$230,000 with a generous benefit package. The exact salary that will be offered to

the US Center Director will be determined based on a consideration of the successful candidate's skills and experience and aligned with SEI US's compensation policies.

The US Center Director (Center Director) is appointed by the Chair of the US Board of Directors who is also the Executive Director (ED) of SEI. The appointment is for a period of 4 years with potential for renewal by mutual agreement following a performance evaluation by the Board.

Contact

Koya Partners, the executive search firm that specializes in mission-driven search, has been exclusively retained for this engagement. Malissa Brennan, Maureen Alphonse-Charles, and Molly Brennan of Koya Partners are leading this search. Please submit a compelling cover letter and resume by [filling out our Talent Profile](#).

Koya Partners is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to individuals living with disabilities. If you are a qualified individual living with a disability and need assistance expressing interest online, please email NonprofitSearchOps@divsearch.com. If you are selected for an interview, you will receive additional information regarding how to request an accommodation for the interview process.

SEI US is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, persons with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ+ applicants.

About Koya Partners

Koya Partners, a part of Diversified Search Group, is a leading executive search and strategic advising firm dedicated to connecting exceptionally talented people with mission-driven clients. Our founding philosophy—**The Right Person in the Right Place Can Change the World**—guides our work as we partner with nonprofits & NGOs, institutions of higher education, responsible businesses, and social enterprises in local communities and around the world.

For more information about Koya Partners, visit <https://diversifiedsearchgroup.com/koya-partners/>.