

Position Description

Sustainable Housing Advocate



The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to enable, represent and inspire people to live sustainably in their homes and communities.

Established in 1980, the ATA provides expert, independent advice on sustainable solutions for the home to households, government and industry. ATA has 6000 members across Australia walking the talk in their own homes. ATA also conducts research on sustainable technologies and practices and advocates to government to make it easier for other Australians to live sustainably.

ATA are the publishers of two leading magazines on sustainable living *Sanctuary: modern green homes* and *ReNew: technology for a sustainable future*.

Further information can be found at www.ata.org.au.

Position Name:	Sustainable Housing Advocate
Employment Basis:	12-month Contract
Number of Hours per Week:	30 hours (4 days per week)
Remuneration:	ATA Classification 6 (\$57,312 to \$70,048 per annum)
Reports to:	Policy & Research Manager
Staff supervision:	No direct reports

Role Description

A move to better designed, zero carbon housing has overwhelmingly positive benefits for Australian households with improved health and comfort levels, lower running costs, reduced emissions and homes more resilient to a changing climate.

You will take a leading role in advocating for Climate Resilient Homes by conducting policy analysis, industry and partner engagement and advocacy.

Firstly, the role must articulate, through a series of publicly facing documents and communications, ATA's position with regards to Climate Resilient Homes. This includes what changes to existing policy frameworks, and new policies, are required to achieve ATA's longer term goals and what the transition would look like – including benefits to consumers and government and industry requirements. This work will draw on existing information and research contained both within ATA and our partners and will also require further analyses.

Secondly, the role incorporates industry/consumer engagement and advocacy. ATA is seeking to achieve long-term change regarding the efficiency, quality and sustainability of Australian housing.

This will require the role to:

- strengthen relationships with consumer and environment advocacy organisations to build and lead a coalition to influence housing policy at national and state levels;
- build relationships with industry groups and parts of the building industry supply chain, to understand industry concerns, barriers and potential to improving Australian homes;
- engage with consumers to both seek feedback and support on aspects of ATA's policy approach; and
- advocate directly to Australian governments (Federal, State and Local as relevant) and housing industry authorities to implement ATA's broader vision regarding Climate Resilient Homes.

Finally, the role will be responsible for exploring future partnerships and funding opportunities to extend the life of the Climate Resilient Homes campaign in collaboration with other ATA staff.

The role will require the analysis and understanding of complex residential building policy, interrelationships with energy, economic and sustainability policy and issues.

The Sustainable Housing Advocate will report to the Policy & Research Manager, who has overall responsibility for ATA's Policy and Projects portfolio, its energy, water and related policy positions and associated media/public activity.

Specific Duties

- Development of an initial ATA policy statement regarding Climate Resilient Homes, that draws on existing internal ATA work and external literature, that sets out a strategy for this sector over the next decade.
- Engagement in the lead up to the 2022 Review of the National Construction Code, starting with COAG Energy Council's consideration of the process, and the Federal Department of Environment & Energy's Low Energy Homes Trajectory, in the latter part of 2018.
- Engagement in other relevant government and industry processes, including participation on relevant working groups and reference committees, representing ATA's policy objectives.
- The research and preparation of submissions and review of government and industry policy documents of relevance.
- Identification of potential project partners, funding sources, relevant research and other project topics in the areas of sustainable housing generally.
- The preparation of high quality funding proposals that articulate clear methodologies, timeframes, project budgets and other relevant information to potential program funders.
- Engagement with ATA members and stakeholders to inform and achieve advocacy goals and project learnings and identify future project opportunities.
- Contribution to the Policy & Research Team's responsibilities; and its strategic direction with respect to growing its projects portfolio in line with ATA Strategic and Business Plan objectives.
- Assist with environmental, economic and related analysis for other ATA policy areas.

Required Skills & Qualifications

The role requires a mix of technical analysis, advocacy, stakeholder engagement and business development skills. The following specific skills and qualifications are required for the role:

Essential:

- Highly-developed communication, presentation and report writing skills.
- Detailed knowledge of issues related to residential energy efficiency in Australia.
- Experience in the economic and regulatory aspects of markets.
- Experience in engagement with politicians, senior bureaucrats and senior industry personnel.
- Excellent strategy, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work well in a team and manage tasks and projects to deliver results.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills.
- Business development/fund raising experience.

Desirable:

- An in-depth knowledge of the National Construction Code or related housing energy efficiency policies would be an advantage.
- Experience in member engagement.