



Open Road (Local Food Logistics) Coordinator

- Full time position
- 6 month role minimum
- \$29.20 per hour + super
- 38 hours per week
- Flexible working conditions
- Work remotely in Victoria

About the Open Food Network

Founded in 2012, we're a not-for-profit organisation focused on building a new food system that is fair, local, and transparent.

We believe a sustainable and resilient food system needs to reconnect producers and consumers. We aim to empower people and communities and give them the tools and knowledge to develop the food systems they need for their community.

Our flagship project is an open source software platform that makes it easy for farmers, producers, farmers markets, and other values-aligned enterprises to sell their products online. We also run place-based projects that seek to strengthen local food systems by supporting community food enterprises and by creating connections and sharing knowledge amongst producers, eaters and other food sector stakeholders.

We are part of a global network of people and organisations working together to develop open and shared resources, knowledge, and tools to support local food enterprises all over the world.

The Open Food Network community has decades of experience in running innovative food enterprises with social and ecological aims. We know that good food can transform our planet and our society. We also know that making values-driven food enterprise work takes commitment, perseverance, partnerships and support.

About the opportunity

Open Food Network has secured funding through Working for Victoria to help create stronger and fairer food systems across regional and metro Victoria.

A critical challenge for producers, food hubs and community food enterprises selling through short supply chains (such as those using on the Open Food Network) is how to move their produce in an efficient and affordable way. Working closely with these partners for over 10 years we have identified

significant opportunities for producers and food hubs to collaborate on logistics, opening up market and food access across the regions.

In this project, Open Food Network is coordinating a network of hubs and food social enterprises across Victoria to launch a new collaborative logistics solution that moves food through regional loops and into Melbourne based food hubs. We are calling this Open Road.

We will be launching four weekly loops across Victoria - Hume, Gippsland, Central and South West. We have identified clear opportunities to activate underutilized resources; pool resources into a shared solution; and develop and utilise IT solutions. This service is a collaboration of existing food hubs to reduce the cost of logistics for small/medium producers and hubs in short supply chains and therefore improve their viability.

This is an early-stage project with a lot of room to shape how it rolls out and how successful it is - but the information systems are all set up and with WfV funds, there will be trucks on the ground very quickly. We need someone who is enthusiastic, collaborative, driven to make a transformative difference in local and regional food systems, preferably with experience operating food hubs and/or logistics and up for a challenge!

This role is critical to the success of this project. We need someone who can put the pieces together and drive fast learning cycles as we narrow in on a viable model that can service producers and community food enterprises into the future. There will be a small team of staff working on this project. You will be responsible for coordinating Logistics Officers and Drivers funded by WfV, working closely with the Regional Food Activation Officers designing effective solutions in their regions. You will be well supported by core Open Food Network staff and our diverse partners.

This is an opportunity to apply your logistics brain and problem-solving abilities to a critical need in food systems. Through this role you will get to know the people in food hubs across Victoria and a deep understanding of the real challenges of short supply chains. You will be part of a great team working to develop shared and innovative solutions to a critical challenge experienced by producers and community food enterprises all over the world. Open Food Network partners globally are also working on logistics as the next big 'game-changer' and you will have the opportunity to collaborate and learn alongside similar experimentation happening in the UK, France and Canada.

This full-time role is fully funded for 6 months, with the intention to extend this for another 6 months and beyond if/as we establish a viable new solution..

You can be anywhere in Victoria - this role is flexible and remote. We've always worked remotely so we have the tools and practices set up to ensure we are working well as a team. Ideally you have your own computer, phone, a good solid internet connection and access to a car to enable face to face catch ups where possible. If not, still apply - if you're the best candidate we'll help you get set up.

In this role, you'll be well supported by a dedicated team of Open Food Network staff who are scattered around Victoria (and the world) who can help and mentor you to build connections, learn our software platform and tools! We are farmers, software developers, house builders, gardeners, herbal lore novices, climbers, bakers, partners, parents, carers, and most importantly, we're good people. We are definitely a workplace where you bring your whole self to work.



Role:

At the Open Food Network, we operate as a holocracy. We are decentralised in terms of management and operate in self-organising teams who are empowered to make decisions. We recognise that staff have multiple roles within an organisation and that they may move between roles depending on their skill development, interest and capacity. Sounds different right?!

What it means is that as the Open Road Coordinator, you might play a role in project management, human resources, logistics management, technology integration and business modelling. It also means that we listen and respond to what is working and not working for people - happy, fulfilled and fully applied people can bring their creativity and focus to get the work done.

Responsibilities:

- Establish project management processes and tools for Open Road to enable agile planning, implementation and adaptation over the next 6 months
- Continue to foster relationships with key partners in the project, including government, community food enterprises and logistics providers
- Engage and operate the strategic committee of partners overseeing Open Road as a key sounding board and guide.
- Implement and operate systems for logistics coordination of weekly regional loops including troubleshooting and issues management (development is well underway, you will be a part of design, but then leading operations));
- Participate in exploration and integration of additional technology solutions for efficient coordination and optimisation of Open Road
- Support staff who are working on Open Road and ensure they are working to meet project outcomes
- Develop and implement systems for clear financial modelling and data gathering to inform business model development for Open Road
- Manage a flexible work week through effective time management and organisation
- Contribute to a positive and supportive team culture both within Open Food Network and within any partners with whom you may be working

You should be: values-driven, proactive, entrepreneurial, creative, adaptable and technically savvy. Well connected with experiences working in logistics services, project and people management. A confident communicator who believes in our mission of building a better food system.

You may also: have used the Open Food Network software platform previously and have experience with a range of technologies that are used in logistics and warehousing.

Interested?

Great! If you're shortlisted for the role through Working for Victoria, we will be in touch to request a CV with references. We will then conduct an online interview for the position.