



Linking local priorities and global challenges

Senior Researcher

Job details

Group	Shaping Sustainable Markets
Reports to	Senior Researcher
Responsible for	N/A
Purpose of job	The post holder will apply their knowledge and experience on energy access and stakeholder engagement to undertake research, dialogue and learning activities which support the transition to sustainable, equitable energy for all. The post holder will work closely with the IIED team, global and local partners, and other stakeholders to use evidence-based research to inform and influence policy and practice, and communicate research findings through publications. The post holder will be responsible for leading on existing action-research and stakeholder dialogue projects. Ongoing fundraising for the energy access programme is also a key responsibility.
Main contacts	Internal: Shaping Sustainable Markets Group, Natural Resources Group, Human Settlements Group, Climate Change Group, Communications Group; Business Development colleagues External: local partners and researchers; national, local and municipal governments; energy access businesses; citizen organisations and global networks.
Contract type	Fixed Term
Duration	12 Months
Hours	Full time
Location	Central London
Grade and salary	Grade 3, Starting from £44,040

Context

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world's most vulnerable people. We work with them to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions.

The [Shaping Sustainable Markets Group](#) works to ensure that markets – big and small – are fair and enable poor people and nature to thrive. Our research focuses on the mechanisms, structures and policies that bring about more inclusive and green economies. We are researchers, convenors and thought leaders. Our strength is in finding locally appropriate solutions to complex global and national problems.

The Energy team and area of work

Our goal is to transform energy systems so they deliver equitable access to affordable, sustainable and productive energy services for all. We work with NGOs, energy providers and governments. Through a mixture of research and dialogue, policy engagement and on-the-ground experimenting, we work to:

- **Build people-centred and resilient energy services.** Promoting energy delivery models informed from the ‘bottom-up’ and tailored to local contexts and end-user needs will create more responsive energy systems that are relevant, resilient and sustainable over the long term
- **Encourage innovative financing for decentralised energy** and for reaching the poorest. Identifying the priorities, mechanisms and models by which public and private finance can be channelled toward many small-scale, decentralized projects and providers is vital for achieving energy access goals
- **Promote productive uses of energy to improve local livelihoods.** Energy services need to ‘go beyond the household’, providing power for irrigation, food processing and building local businesses, particularly in rural areas. We are working out the types of collaboration, policy and business models to address this challenge.
- **Ensure more inclusive policymaking on energy.** Achieving change at scale requires joined up, holistic approaches. We create new spaces for collaboration, co-creation and innovation among organisations and individuals currently stuck in ‘silos’, excluded from decision making or facing competing incentives. Involving civil society organisations (CSOs), small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and non-energy sector stakeholders — such as agriculture, water, gender — is a priority

Additional sub-topics we are interested in including: energy and economic development; designing energy services for impact; gender, marginalised groups and inclusion; market-based approaches to off-grid energy; policy and regulatory reform; climate change and energy access in Least Developed Countries, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa.

IIED’s energy work is led from the Shaping Sustainable Markets Research Group. We also work with IIED’s climate team to promote holistic approaches to the challenges of climate change and energy access. For an overview see <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/G04083.pdf>.

The post holder is likely to lead or contribute to the following projects, as well as help develop the energy team strategy for new areas of work.

1. Financing energy access.

IIED is conducting in-depth primary research on the performance of innovative finance mechanisms, such as aggregators, in channelling funds to decentralised, green energy access projects which maximise social impact in low-income countries. This builds on our earlier research tracking energy finance flows and a review on the role of “aggregators” in overcoming barriers to channelling finance to small-scale projects¹.

2. Energy Change Lab

Jointly initiated by IIED and Hivos, and working with local partners, the Energy Change Lab (<https://www.energychangelab.org/>) works with pioneers and change-makers in Tanzania to build an energy system that is sustainable and people-centred. We do this by developing leaders, incubating prototypes for sector change, building evidence, connecting people and sharing ideas. We focus on: the productive uses of energy and mini-grids²; youth leadership; accountability; and decentralised energy. The work has a strong focus on social innovation processes, on-the-ground testing, and peer-to-peer learning, as well as fundraising.

¹ For example, see <http://pubs.iied.org/16621IIED/>; and <http://pubs.iied.org/16623IIED> and <http://pubs.iied.org/16636IIED>

² For example, see <http://pubs.iied.org/16627IIED/>; and <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17389IIED.pdf>

3. Energy Delivery Models

IIED's Energy Delivery Models (EDM) work, developed in collaboration with CAFOD, involves ground testing of an inclusive energy service design and planning approach and adapting it to local contexts³. It has been piloted in Indonesia and used to review solar projects in Kenya. Our next phase of work will focus adapting the EDM approach to support local government energy planning, as well as on-going fundraising to develop the programme.

4. The Green and Inclusive Energy partnership

This is a collaboration of Hivos, ENERGIA and IIED, supported by the Dutch government, and working with national civil society organisations in Indonesia, Nepal, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The partnership focuses on lobby and advocacy that will influence the public and political debate on energy, with the ultimate aim of transitioning toward greener and more inclusive energy systems. IIED leads global research on topics such as finance and citizen agency, and supports Hivos country programmes and their local civil society partners as they conduct advocacy-oriented research on a range of energy topics.

Main responsibilities

Research and intellectual leadership (25%)

- Identify innovative research themes related to the group / team's core interests. Key themes: people-centred and resilient energy services; innovative financing for decentralised energy; productive uses of energy to improve local livelihoods; more inclusive policymaking on energy
- With little support from colleagues, develop and coordinate two or more medium-sized action research and dialogue programmes,
 - Develop and apply concepts and strategic thinking, theoretical frameworks, appropriate methodologies and techniques.
 - Manage research and technical contributions from team members, including partners and consultants, through to the production and dissemination of final outputs.
 - Write, co-write, edit and publish a diversity of outputs (working papers, blogs, policy briefings, case studies) as IIED publications or jointly authored with partners
- Contribute to the energy team's ongoing programmes of work and the development and implementation of new research agendas.

Management and coordination (25%)

- This includes Work across multiple countries, partner organisations and cultural contexts to coordinate collaborative work, including to organise and implement project planning and delivery.
- Supervise the work of colleagues, partners, consultants and other collaborators and provide mentoring and coaching to research colleagues and others as appropriate. This includes supervising work of a more junior researcher in the energy team.
- Lead on the preparation of technical documents for donor reporting for own work.
- Establish and implement project management and M&E systems for own work within established institutional frameworks and working closely with group managers and coordinators.
- Set out requirements for project budgets' creation / maintenance and for donor financial reporting working collaboratively with managers and coordinators.
- Manage personal administrative tasks related to own work.

³ For example, see <http://pubs.iied.org/16637IIED/>; <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/16551IIED.pdf>; and <http://pubs.iied.org/16638IIED/>

- Participate in group, cross-cutting and institute activities and processes as required.

Business development and fundraising (25%)

- Work with colleagues to develop strategies and plans for the energy access programme work under own responsibility, liaising with group and business development colleagues.
- Develop ideas and lead in writing full concepts and proposals to win funding.
- Seek inputs from other researchers and managing their contributions to finalise proposals.
- Liaise with managers, coordinators and Finance colleagues to prepare relevant budgets and other financial information to finalise proposals.
- Build and maintain relationships with existing and prospective donors and funders.

Communications, outreach and influence (15%)

- Set directions for communications plans for own work and contribute to their delivery.
- Actively disseminate key findings and messages through formal presentations, informal dialogues, event organisation and participation, social media/media etc . Includes events in-country (Tanzania, Kenya) with government, private sector and civil society among the energy and related sectors. Also international events to engage global actors working on energy access and/or sustainable finance for energy.
- Engage with partners to develop appropriate tools and guidance material for lesson sharing, learning processes, capacity building, policy advocacy and other advisory activities.
- Participate in, organise or contribute to organising meetings and events.
- Use innovative deliberative tools and mechanisms to engage and influence stakeholders

Liaison and networking (10%)

- Scope out, build and sustain relationships and strategic partnerships with partners, donors and other stakeholders to foster collaboration, generate and share learning, mutually build capacity, influence agendas and debates, raise profile and attract new potential funding.
- Participate in and contribute to developing relevant networks and networking processes.
- Participate in international bodies and communities of practice, such as Sustainable Energy for All and the ACCESS⁴ network

⁴ The Alliance of CSOs for Clean Energy Access (ACCESS) is a coalition of CSOs working on energy access policy and practice issues, co-founded by IIED.

Person specification

Skills and experience

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	Postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline	PhD in relevant subject
Knowledge	<p>Substantial knowledge of decentralised/off-grid renewable energy; financing decentralised energy access; productive uses of energy; designing local energy services for impact and inclusion.</p> <p>Good understanding of the debates, policy, processes, actors and institutions linked to the energy access energy agenda</p>	<p>Knowledge of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy access in Kenya/Tanzania - energy and economic development; - gender, marginalised groups and inclusion; - market-based approaches to off-grid energy; - policy and regulatory reform; - citizen agency and energy
Experience	<p>Substantial research background and experience evidenced by a track record of publications of different nature and by roles in international research processes and debates.</p> <p>Significant experience of coordinating and sustaining diverse teams or collaborative networks, including by managing projects/people from a distance.</p> <p>In-country programme or research experience</p>	<p>Experience working with on-the-ground energy access projects e.g. providing technical advice M&E</p> <p>East Africa experience</p>
Skills	<p>Track record of securing funding for own projects from a diversity of donors.</p> <p>Fluency in English to convey complex messages in a clear, concise and effective manner to different audiences orally and in writing</p> <p>Proven capacity to engage with debates, processes, actors and institutions in the sustainable development arena, to influence them and achieve impact.</p> <p>Interest and ability in facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings</p> <p>High level of technical, analytical and conceptual skills.</p> <p>Very good oral and written communication skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in English to convey complex messages in a clear, concise and effective manner to different audiences. <p>Organisational skills for self and others.</p> <p>Management skills:</p>	<p>Experience of multi-stakeholder, social innovation processes</p> <p>Working knowledge of another relevant international language, e.g. French, Portuguese, Kiswahili</p>

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- Projects: hands-on experience of managing and implementing the project cycle.
 - People: ability to coordinate, support and develop team members and individuals. Commitment to mentoring and team working.
 - Budget: experience of complex budgets' creation, maintenance, monitoring and reporting.
 - M&E: experience of establishing M&E systems and quality control for own projects.

Advanced knowledge of office software (word processing, spreadsheets, presentation software, databases and communications).

Behavioural competences

Competency	Description	Level required
Communicating with impact	The ability to influence, negotiate, build awareness and create credibility with others through the use of clear and effective communication	2
Delivering excellence	A concern for delivering high quality work and improving performance. Consistently looks for ways to add value to colleagues, partners and stakeholders	2
Flexible thinking	The ability to understand and appreciate issues from a wide range of perspectives and adapt one's thinking and approach based on this understanding	2
Information seeking	A curiosity to find out more about people, concepts and issues. Asks questions to clarify understanding, conducts research or scans the environment for information that may be of future use	2
Initiative	Thinks ahead and takes decisive action to make the most of opportunities and avoid future issues	2
Working collaboratively	A desire to work cooperatively with others to maximise the effectiveness of IIED, build knowledge and understanding and minimise duplication of effort	2