



Linking local priorities and global challenges

Researcher – Access to Energy

Job details

Group	Shaping Sustainable Markets
Reports to	Ben Garside, Senior Researcher
Responsible for	N/A
Purpose of job	To support the delivery of a range of partnerships and research projects on energy access. This will cover a range of sub-topics such as: 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.
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; stakeholders; donors; national, local and municipal governments; citizen organisations and global networks.
Contract type	Permanent
Hours	Full time
Location	Central London or Edinburgh
Grade and salary	Grade 4 Starting from £36,317 per annum

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.

Section about 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 or 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

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>

Main responsibilities

1. Research (25%)

- Plan, identify and manage appropriate, feasible and innovative methods to generate qualitative and quantitative evidence. Key themes (sub-topic examples listed above): people-centred and resilient energy services; innovative financing for decentralised energy; productive uses of energy to improve local livelihoods; more inclusive policymaking on energy
- Design, adapt and apply appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks to research.
- Undertake analysis of evidence and use this to create a new body of knowledge or enhance existing intellectual understanding of the subject.
- Write up research in styles (working papers, blogs, policy briefings, case studies) appropriate for publication and dissemination to identified audiences

2. Management and coordination (30%)

- Work across multiple countries, partner organisations and cultural contexts to coordinate collaborative work. Includes working collaboratively to organise and implement project planning, delivery and reporting.
- Deal with partners and subcontractors and procure other inputs for complex projects as necessary.
- Provide inputs to create and maintain project budgets and finances and to donor financial reporting.
- Manage personal administrative tasks related to own work.
- Contribute to institutional life by participating in group, cross-cutting and institute activities and processes as required.

3. Communications, outreach and influence (15%)

- Work collaboratively with other researchers and communications colleagues to disseminate knowledge and communication products and promote subject knowledge in international forums, debates and social media.
- Use innovative deliberative tools and mechanisms to engage and influence stakeholders.
- Participate in, organise or contribute to organising, meetings and events.

4. Business development and fundraising (20%)

- Under supervision, develop and coordinate the preparation of funding concepts and proposals within the thematic area of focus.
 - Design strategy
 - Collect and analyse background documentation.
 - Identify and follow up partnerships.
 - Help develop proposals' rationales and conceptual frameworks.
 - Write or co-write technical sections of relevant application forms.
 - Collaborate with managers, coordinators and Finance colleagues to prepare budgets and other financial information to finalise proposals.
- Sustain long-term relationships with funders of projects under own responsibility.

- Raise funding towards covering own salary with support from the organisation and senior members of staff.
- Contribute to group / team strategies, plans and proposals.

5. Liaison and networking (10%)

- Participate in and contribute to developing relevant networks and networking processes.
- Nurture partnerships in own area of work. In particular, develop research partnerships and capacities of local partners in developing countries.
- Sustain relationships with donors, key actors and other stakeholders to foster collaboration, generate and share learning, influence agendas, raise profile and attract potential funding.

Person specification

Skills and experience

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	Postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline	PhD in relevant subject
Knowledge	Understanding of the debates, processes, actors and institutions linked to the energy access energy agenda. Particular interest and knowledge of decentralised/off-grid energy, financing energy access, policy reform and market approaches.	<p>Knowledge of gender and energy</p> <p>Knowledge of energy access and climate change</p> <p>Productive uses of energy / energy and economic development</p> <p>designing energy services for impact</p> <p>gender, marginalised groups and inclusion</p>
Experience	<p>Solid research background, skills and experience evidenced by a track record of growing publications in own field.</p> <p>In-country programme or research experience</p> <p>Evidence of a growing a network of contacts in own field.</p> <p>Experience of research team coordination including from a distance.</p>	<p>East Africa experience</p> <p>Experience in policy analysis and influencing policy debates</p> <p>Experience in organising and running workshops/events at the community level and multi-stakeholder national/international events</p> <p>Experience working in cross-country or multi-partner projects, particularly with CSOs</p>
Skills	<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 orally and in writing <p>Keen interest in and ability to provide analysis and advice on policy and practice, including toward small and large-scale private sector/social enterprises</p> <p>Ability to translate research ideas into fundraising concepts, proposals and applications.</p> <p>Excellent technical, analytical and conceptual skills.</p> <p>Organisational skills for self and others.</p> <p>Management skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects: some direct experience of applying project management approaches. 	<p>Working knowledge of another relevant international language (e.g. French, Portuguese or Kiswahili)</p> <p>Interest and ability in facilitation and multi-stakeholder social innovation processes</p>

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- People: ability to coordinate, support and motivate colleagues, partners and other collaborators in multicultural settings. Commitment to mentoring and team working.
 - Budget: ability to manage and monitor budgets.
 - M&E: experience of M&E and quality control for own projects.

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

Behavioural competencies

Competency	Description	Level required
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	3/2
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	3/2
Initiative	Thinks ahead and takes decisive action to make the most of opportunities and avoid future issues	3/2
Working collaboratively	A desire to work cooperatively with others to maximise the effectiveness of IIED, build knowledge and understanding and minimise duplication of effort	3/2