



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Climate Scaling Collaborative (CSC) Regional Climate Innovation Hub Manager,  
University of Leeds



**Salary: Grade 8 (£47,874 – £56,921 p.a.)**

**Available on a full time fixed term basis for up to 3 years to complete specific time limited work.**

**Reference: ENVEE1799**

**Closing date: 28 February 2025**

**Location: Main Campus (with scope for hybrid working)**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**



## **Climate Scaling Collaborative (CSC) Regional Climate Innovation Hub Manager, University of Leeds, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures**

**Are you an experienced leader in Climate Innovation? Are you passionate about supporting Climate Tech entrepreneurs to reach their potential? Do you want the opportunity to lead a high profile, collaborative regional hub focused on accelerating the commercialisation of Climate Tech innovators?**

The Research England Development funded Climate Scaling Collaborative is an Imperial College London led consortium comprising of Cranfield University, University of Exeter, University of Leeds and University of Nottingham, to accelerate the commercial deployment of climate innovations. Unlike many programmes that focus on the startup stage, this activity will tackle the barriers of the 'scaling' stages of venture development. In order for this to be effective, place-based climate tech clusters are critical. The programme will create a number of regional, localised hubs that drive innovation, entrepreneurship, and the commercialisation of new technologies. (See additional information section for further details or [the press release](#).)

We are looking to appoint a Regional Climate Innovation Hub Manager, to lead the Climate Scaling Collaborative's regional development strategy. The role will play an important part in defining the growth roadmap for the Climate Tech cluster in the region, mapping the cluster's stakeholders (start-ups, corporates, investors, local government and universities), assets, challenges, opportunities and current/planned interventions. Determining priorities, developing relationships and devising and implementing an action plan to attract the programme's target audience, the role will develop the support infrastructure, informing and aligning with the national climate tech ecosystem being developed through the project.

The role will report to the Deputy Director of Innovation for the Priestley Centre and work closely with Innovation Capability and Delivery in the Business Engagement and Enterprise (BE&E team). You will be part of a team of regional hub managers across the partner institutions and work closely with your counterparts and the leadership team at Imperial College to drive the success and future legacy of the programme.

The Innovation hub manager role comes at an exciting time for the University of Leeds and the region as we work to accelerate the cluster development of climate tech. The role will leverage a rich set of expertise and resources from the Priestley



Centre for Climate Futures, Business Engagement and Enterprise, the wider University, and regional ecosystem to help set the strategic vision for the cluster.

As Regional Climate Innovation Hub Manager, you will take responsibility for ensuring that the Climate Scaling Collaborative achieves its aims and is effectively managed and delivered. You will lead the activities in the regional hub, reporting to the Deputy Director of Innovation for the Priestley Centre and work closely with Innovation Capability and Delivery in the Business Engagement and Enterprise (BE&E team). You will be part of a team of regional hub managers across the partner institutions and work closely with your counterparts and the leadership team at Imperial College to drive the success and future legacy of the programme.

You will have an excellent track record of leadership, partnership working, cluster development work, a good knowledge of the Climate Tech sector and an enthusiasm for working closely with academics, entrepreneurs and place-based organisations.

You will have significant experience of planning and delivering innovation projects, programmes or initiatives involving multiple partners/stakeholders combined with excellent organisational and prioritisation skills. You will also be a strong communicator and have proven ability to influence and negotiate with a range of people at all levels and have a strong understanding of the climate innovation landscape and an enthusiasm for fostering entrepreneurship.

Based in the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures at the University of Leeds and working closely with the UK wide Climate Scaling Collaborative, this is an exciting opportunity to take a leading role in growing a regional climate cluster.

## **Main duties and responsibilities**

- Working collaboratively with the Climate Scaling Collaborative consortium, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures and University of Leeds Business Engagement and Enterprise team to lead the development and implementation of a strategic vision for the climate tech cluster, aligning with regional and national priorities for sustainable economic development;
- Working with academia, local government and businesses to develop and drive innovation and deliver knowledge exchange from academia into businesses, driving climate tech cluster development in the region.
- Mapping regional specialities, with a specific focus on the university as anchor institution, source of research and talent;



- Mapping organisations and investors who have the potential to support the scaling up of cleantech companies including identifying companies who can be clients, manufacturers, and supply chain partners;
- Leading the application of the University's Innovation Cluster Action Framework, piloting its use with the climate tech cluster to validate and refine the approach;
- Working with stakeholders to develop a longer-term vision for a regional climate scale up support hub, identifying steps to strengthen the approach and identify potential future funding models;
- Working with the wider climate scaling collaborative and other regional hub development managers to create an effective network, and mechanisms to enable the movement of scale ups and related opportunities across parts of the UK;
- Reporting into the Climate Scaling Collaborative governance committees, along with other governance structures. Reporting progress against clearly defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) focussed on increasing the number and quality of businesses engaging with the cluster;
- Acting as the voice and champion for Climate Tech within the region, contributing to or hosting events and workshops to support local business needs and to promote the cluster nationally and internationally.

## Qualifications and skills

### Essential

- A strong understanding of the climate innovation landscape and an enthusiasm for fostering entrepreneurship;
- Cluster development experience: Stimulating and supporting new research and innovation ideas, as well as developing connections between academia and businesses through partnerships and product development;
- Experience of working with a multidisciplinary consortium with partners from the academic, private and public sectors;
- Excellent leadership skills, with experience of providing guidance and direction to a wide range of stakeholders, to achieve project milestones and outcomes;
- Strong relationship building skills including consultation, collaboration and influencing skills in order to engage effectively with a range of stakeholders;
- Strong verbal and written communication skills enabling you to summarise and share technical information from a variety of sources;
- The ability to solve complex problems and resolve difficult situations, using your own initiative and good judgement whilst following policy;





- Excellent project management skills with experience of facilitating stakeholder meetings, tracking and delivering progress on agreed objectives and managing the needs of multiple stakeholders;
- An innovative approach: Ability to work independently, be proactive, highly motivated, confident and to adapt to a dynamic working environment.

### **Desirable**

- Experience of engaging with academic researchers and HEIs;
- Experience in the development and operational delivery of knowledge exchange, accelerator or incubator programmes;
- Experience of supporting the translation and commercialisation of research.

## **How to apply**

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## **Contact information**

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Chelsea Boothroyd, Deputy Director of Innovation and Engagement, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures, [c.boothroyd@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.boothroyd@leeds.ac.uk)

## **Additional Information**

### **Climate Scaling Collaborative**

Scaling today's innovative climate innovations is going to be vital in winning the fight against climate change. The Climate Scaling Collaborative is a 3 year, £5m UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Research England Development (RED) fund programme. The programme focuses on IP-rich businesses with deep technology-based solutions in climate mitigation, adaptation, and greenhouse gas removal. Encompassing hardware, software and hybrid solutions, supporting businesses across a broad range of industrial verticals that have a climate focus. Businesses will be between the 'post-seed' and 'Series A' funding stages – often referred to as 'venture stage' companies in investment circles. Typically, 'post-seed' companies will



have moved up to TRL stages 5 or 6 and have raised between £500k to £3m investment.

The activity planned focuses on refining business models, demonstrating pilots in real world environments and transitioning into seeking series A investment of £5m+ and reaching TRL 9, entering markets and scaling their operations. It will tackle scaling barriers including accessing technical knowhow to progress innovations through technology, manufacturing and commercial readiness levels; a lack of patient capital; difficulties in accessing appropriate equipment and spaces for technical and production development; securing demonstration and deployment opportunities with incumbent actors; attracting and retaining diverse talent and navigating industry-specific regulation and certification.

### **Priestley Centre for Climate Futures**

The Priestley Centre for Climate Futures is a world-leading climate centre based at the University of Leeds. From local to global, we ensure that climate action is informed by the latest research, collaborating with organisations and individuals to transform our expertise into real-world impact. We bring together a community of experts from across disciplines including engineering, finance, health, economics, cultural studies, law, and atmospheric sciences. We connect these climate experts to businesses, policymakers, communities, and other researchers, working collaboratively in integrated networks to transform how we address climate change. Our experts have leading roles in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UK Climate Change Committee, and several city-level climate commissions.

Find out more about us on our website: [www.climate@leeds.ac.uk](http://www.climate@leeds.ac.uk)

### **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### **Our University**

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds and from across the world. Whatever role we recruit for we are



always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, those who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

### **Information for disabled candidates**

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

