



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

### Research Fellow in Energy Network Policy for a Just Net Zero Transition, Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£39,355 – £46,735 p.a. depending on experience)**

**Reporting to: Dr Sheridan Few**

**Reference: ENVEE1804**

**Fixed term for 18 months**

**Location: Leeds (with scope for hybrid working)**

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

# Research Fellow in Energy Network Policy for a Just Net Zero Transition, Faculty of Environment

## Overview of the Role

**Can your research expertise help shape how energy networks will evolve to meet net zero targets in a way that fair to all? Do you want to be at the heart of energy networks research in the UK? Would you enjoy being part of a major UK interdisciplinary research centre, undertaking policy-relevant energy research?**

If so, then this role working as part of the Supergen Energy Networks Hub (SEN Hub) could be the job for you. The SEN Hub is a £9m research project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council that brings together collaborative teams from academia, industry, government and civil society to carry out highly impactful, interdisciplinary research, to enable energy networks to become a driving force towards a rapid, safe and just transition to net zero.

You will be based in the Sustainability Research Institute of the School of Earth and Environment, working with Dr Sheridan Few and Professor Peter Taylor, as well as other members of the SEN Hub. The University of Leeds directs the Hub's research on Policy, Society and Place. Specifically, you will be contributing to work that engages with a diverse range of stakeholders, using various participatory processes to explore place-based approaches to shape the evolution of energy networks and support decision making by local and national actors. The focus will be on action that needs to be taken now in the face of uncertainty about a range of technical, economic and social factors, including how best to support the most vulnerable members of society.

## Main duties and responsibilities

- Working with other researchers and a broad range of stakeholders to develop and implement impactful projects related to policy, society and place and so realise the strategic aims of the SEN Hub to support development of energy networks capable of delivering a just transition to net zero. This will include analysis to support key energy policy decisions, and explore how justice and vulnerability could evolve in the net zero transition;





- Undertaking desk-based reviews to critically evaluate the policy regime governing energy networks in the UK and abroad and its impacts on a range of issues;
- Organising, running and writing-up workshops using a range of participatory approaches with a wide range of stakeholders to co-create new evidence and insights to inform energy network policy;
- Conducting, transcribing, coding and analysing qualitative research including from interviews and deliberative workshops;
- Applying quantitative and qualitative approaches to understand the impacts of potential alternative future network developments on a range of factors such as technology uptake, energy costs, distributional impacts and public acceptance;
- Working closely with researchers from other disciplines in the SEN Hub to undertake and publish interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research on energy networks;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for new funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.



## Qualifications and skills

### Essential

- A PhD or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application - in a relevant discipline with a track record of demonstrating an interdisciplinary approach to problem-orientated research;
- Familiarity with the policy environment relevant to a range of different energy networks;
- Experience of conducting interviews and/or running deliberative workshops with a range of stakeholders;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

### Desirable

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Good knowledge of the energy sector;
- Experience of working on aspects of energy vulnerability;
- Experience of using energy justice frameworks in a research context;
- Experience of using techniques for decision-making under deep uncertainty.

## Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route, but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: [www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa](https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa).



For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>.

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about our [School of Earth and Environment](#).

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#).

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#).

### **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.

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.





### **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.

