

JOB POSTING

Job Title: Postdoctoral Fellow

Duration: 1-year contract, 37.5 hour work week

Compensation: \$31,500/year plus benefits (standard SSHRC rate)

Job Location: University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Start Date: As soon as possible on or after 1 September 2008

The Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo seeks a Postdoctoral Fellow in energy management and demand response research to support the Energy Hub Management System project. This is a full-time, benefitted position for a period of one year. The successful candidate will co-supervise a team of graduate students to manage the study participant recruitment process and associated research tasks for the project. This position is funded through a multi-year grant from the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) – Centre for Energy and project partners (identified below).

Energy Hub Management System – project overview

The purpose of this project is to develop and to implement an Energy Hub Management System that will allow static energy users to manage effectively their energy requirements. More specifically, this project will empower energy hubs – that is, individual locations that require energy (e.g., manufacturing facilities, farms, retail stores, detached houses) – so that they can contribute to the development of a sustainable society through the real-time management of their energy demand, production, storage and resulting import or export of energy. This project will undertake pilot projects – that is, develop energy hubs – in the Town of Milton (Ontario) and in the area surrounding the City of London, Ontario. This project brings together experienced energy researchers in the Engineering and Environment faculties at the University of Waterloo and engages industry and government partners (Energent Inc., Hydro One Inc., Milton Hydro and Ontario Centres of Excellence) to help to ensure effective execution of the project goals. For more information on the Energy Hub Management System project, please visit http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/research/greenpower/projects/energy_hub.html

Major responsibilities

The successful candidate will be responsible for contributing to the leadership of the ‘community stream’ aspect of the project. This will involve, among other tasks, co-supervising a team of graduate students to manage the study participant recruitment and engagement process. The successful candidate will also ensure that positive relationships are established and maintained with study participants. Within this role, specific duties include:

- Conduct stakeholder discussion by soliciting opinions of industry experts and focus groups of representatives from each of the sectors being examined (residential, commercial/institutional, industrial, agricultural).
- Using literature review and stakeholder discussion as a basis, identify ‘ideal participants’ (number, location, characteristics) for each of the sectors.
- Develop recruitment material and sampling strategies that would achieve this ideal participation.

- Monitor recruitment process, noting efficacy of different kinds of approaches. Included within this methodology of recruitment would be 'experiments' regarding what 'engages' potential participants – e.g., financial benefits, environmental benefits, etc.
- Finalize agreements with participants, and conduct baseline surveys and data collection among participants.
- Periodically report progress and results of stakeholder discussion and recruitment process back to the project team.
- Support other research tasks associated with the Energy Hub Management System project as required.
- The development of academic research papers is expected.

Qualifications

Ph.D. awarded within the last five years in a relevant field with at least two years' experience in social science research and evaluation, data collection and analysis. Strong communication and interpersonal relations skills; demonstrated skills in collaboration; experience working with diverse groups; and knowledge of the energy sector are valuable assets.

Application process

This appointment is scheduled to begin 1 September 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. The University of Waterloo encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including women, members of visible minorities, native peoples, and persons with disabilities. There are no citizenship restrictions.

Complete applications will include a detailed curriculum vitae with contact information for three referees who may be contacted, and a statement of research interests and experiences (maximum two pages). *Review of applications will begin on 11 August 2008, and will continue until the position is filled.* Applications should be submitted to:

Dr. Ian H. Rowlands, Professor
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Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Rowlands as noted above.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only short listed candidates will be contacted.