

## **Secondment Opportunity: Environment Agency Chief Scientist's Group.**

### **1. Purpose of the intended secondment**

The Environment Agency (EA) is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Its overall objective is to create better places for people and the environment, particularly through its regulation of major industry, waste management practices, water quality and water resources. The Chief Scientist's Group (CSG) leads the EA's research, including a 3-year programme on net zero, running to March 2025. This programme will look at the environmental impacts of the net zero transition, providing underpinning evidence to support the EA's regulatory and advisory roles. Some of this research is specific to a given decarbonisation technology, such as assessing how to monitor hydrogen leakage. Other research is more strategic, trying to understand the impacts of different decarbonisation pathways on the environment or the cumulative environmental impacts of multiple Net Zero technologies in one place (such as the industrial clusters).

The EA is looking for a researcher to contribute to this strategic analysis, working closely with researchers in the Chief Scientist's Group and with operational colleagues in the EA. The secondee will have the opportunity to use their research expertise to deliver new knowledge to inform our strategic planning for net zero and to build relationships with a diverse range of policymakers and regulators who are at the forefront of implementing net zero plans.

### **2. Role specification**

The secondee will be able to help shape the project with the wider team, and the project can be tailored to some extent based on the secondee's experience level and subject of expertise. It is anticipated that the project would include some of the following:

- Anticipatory spatial mapping of locations where Net Zero technologies may be located in future. Ideally this would be through a GIS approach, although other methods may be suitable too.
- Systems mapping of the environmental impacts of Net Zero technologies (e.g. CCS, hydrogen production and onshore storage) which fall within the EA's regulatory remit.
- Understanding and communicating potential deployment trajectories of different Net Zero technologies, including what these might mean for the environment (air quality, water quality, land quality and water resources).
- Contributing to knowledge exchange and roundtable events to help identify research findings relevant to regulators and to provide underpinning evidence for regulatory colleagues, while also increasing the impact of academic research.
- Deep dives into industrial decarbonisation solutions and their environmental impacts. This could include identification of maximum potential deployment, technological readiness levels and existing research gaps.
- Production of short state-of-the-evidence summaries that can be used by permitting colleagues and others working on Net Zero to identify potential considerations for emerging techniques guidance.

### **3. Details of preferred secondee**

The preferred secondee would have strong research experience in the field of industrial decarbonisation (including access to a wide network), particularly in the areas highlighted above. We are particularly interested in candidates with expertise in systems thinking or GIS-based mapping skills. This role would be suitable for someone with strong analytical skills, an ability to communicate (both written and verbal) complex information to a range of audiences, excellent time management and a willingness to work as part of a diverse team. Ideally, the candidate would have some knowledge of the regulatory role played by, and challenges faced by, the EA, although this could be learned during the secondment.

The EA is committed to ensuring that our workforce reflects the diverse communities with which we work, in order to create a culture where everyone can reach their potential. We put EDI at the centre of what we do ([see EDI commitments](#)) and we ensure that the workplace can cater for different backgrounds and personal circumstances. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds to apply. Please note that this secondment is subject to securing funding through the [IDRIC secondment fund](#). Further details on eligibility are available [here](#).

### **4. Further details**

Duration: Ideally six months, but there is flexibility depending on the candidate.

Estimated start date: Exact start date is flexible, but the secondment would ideally commence before late August 2023.

Working arrangements: The candidate would have flexibility to work from home, hybrid or in an [EA office](#).

How to apply:

- To apply, please send a CV and a one-page cover letter detailing your suitability for the role and why you are interested to Helen Brooks ([helen.brooks@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:helen.brooks@environment-agency.gov.uk)), or contact to ask any further questions regarding the secondment or project content. The deadline for applications is 7<sup>th</sup> June.
- Selection will be based on the CV and cover letter. If several suitable candidates apply, a short discussion will also take place.