



292 Main Street (E38)
Cambridge, MA 02142
environmentalsolutions.mit.edu

HIRING: Postdoctoral Associate
MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative

Founded in 2014, ESI is MIT's institute-wide and primary effort to enlist and mobilize the substantial scientific, engineering, policy, and design capacity of our community to contribute to addressing climate change and other environmental challenges. ESI pursues multidisciplinary research, education, events, and partnerships to help move society toward an environmentally and socially sustainable future.

ESI is hiring a postdoctoral associate to deepen the scholarship and sharpen the measurable positive consequences -- while understanding any unintended negative consequences -- of our evolving community engagement agenda. The approach we are taking is a unique coupling between historically separate fields of inquiry and interests; that of *just energy transitions* and *environmental justice*. While there have been instances when the priorities and affected communities engaged in these two efforts have overlapped, more often they have not and sometimes result in opposing positions. We seek to find ways in which just transitions work addresses both current and avoids future environmental injustice, while advances in real-world environmental justice facilitate a sustainable and carbon free future. We also seek to achieve these goals through creative combinations of technology development and innovation, community-based planning, citizen science and policy formulation and deployment at a variety of scales.

ESI works closely with communities in the United States and around the world on these goals through various projects, notably: the Here & Real project explores the intersections of an emerging low-carbon economy, rural economic opportunities, self-determination, and the social/environmental implications thereof in hydrocarbon-producing regions of the United States (<https://esi.mit.edu/here-and-real/>); the Natural Climate Solutions program works with communities, government institutions, and private sector partners in some of the most vulnerable areas, currently in the Amazon Piedmont to promote local economic development and preservation and in the near future in other regions (<https://esi.mit.edu/natural-climate-solutions-program/>); the Rapid Response Group responds to critical environmental issues in a timely manner with science-based analysis and assistance in the service of partners in communities, civil society, government and industry (<https://esi.mit.edu/rapid-response-group/>).

The Postdoctoral Associate will work with the ESI team, MIT students, and faculty advisors to create a pipeline of research/engagement projects and co-produce research with ESI's community partners and networks (and/or potentially the postdoc's existing community partners), resulting in peer reviewed publications and public-facing contributions to these communities experiencing disruptive change.

This position reports to the ESI Engagement Program Director and Natural Climate Solutions Program Research Associate, and the ESI Director upon request.

Qualifications

- A PhD in Environmental Studies, Anthropology, Geography, Planning, Economics, Policy, Sustainability, or a related field
- Deep knowledge of environmental challenges and equity/justice issues
- Demonstrated experience with qualitative and/or mixed research methods
- Demonstrated experience working with and cultivating community partners, including co-producing research with community partners.
- Strong self-motivation and strategic thinking while possessing excellent organizational and communication skills, thrives working both independently and collaboratively, can deliver high quality results while managing multiple priorities, and can manage research projects from start to publication on a deadline
- Excellent written, communication, and relationship management skills that promote collaboration and cooperation
- Published peer-reviewed research in a related field of study is highly desirable
- Ability to conduct some U.S. and/or international travel
- Resides in the United States

Review of applications will begin on December 9, 2021 and continue until filled.

Submit your application through MIT Careers:

https://careers.peopleclick.com/careerscp/client_mit/external/jobDetails/jobDetail.html?jobPostId=22519&localeCode=en-us

For questions, contact Laur Hesse Fisher at lfi@mit.edu.