

SAGES Innovation Programme

Placement Title: Towards a Circular Economy: Scotland's Materials and Resource Flows

Organisation: Scottish Science Advisory Council / SAGES

Duration: 3 months, part-time (flexible to fit around academic commitments)

Start date: as soon as possible, project must finish by December 2022

Remuneration: University of Edinburgh Grade 06. Travel and subsistence costs covered.

Summary

Applying a cross-sectoral lens to support prioritisation of investments in the Circular Economy to help accelerate progress towards Net Zero in Scotland

SAGES is offering an opportunity for a short-term policy placement with the Scottish Science Advisory Council (SSAC) for three months, part-time. SSAC has previously completed a study on the Environmental Impacts of Scotland's Manufacturing Industries and a Briefing Note on the Opportunities for Sustainable Chemicals <https://www.scottishscience.org.uk/Publications>. These both highlighted potential opportunities and competition between sectors with respect to a circular economy. It is essential that the project is completed by December 2022.

Aims and objectives:

The policy placement researcher will work with the SSAC Circular Economy sub-group (Prof Mark Inall lead) and Zero Waste Scotland (Iain Gulland and team) to build on their Materials Flow Account with respect to opportunities from alternative sources of materials, to identify which supply flows could be substituted with local resources (including the 25M tonnes per year of bio-waste and waste heat) for both environmental and economic gain. They will also work with IBioIC (Scotland's Innovation Centre for Industrial Biotechnology) to understand Scotland's skill base in industrial biotechnology with respect to the range of opportunities identified.

Methodology:

SSAC member Mark Inall will lead the project with input from the SSAC Circular Economy sub-group, Zero Waste Scotland, industry representatives, stakeholders, and other contacts.

The project comprises; a review of Scotland's achievements and plans for a circular economy including Identifying uncertainties and gaps. "Stress-test" the emerging picture from Phase 1 against the views of key stakeholders, and finally compile a draft report and recommendations.

The final report is refined with particular attention to what measures and interventions are recommended to create a step change in economic circularity for Scotland on the timescale of the Net Zero by 2045 target.

Person specifications:

We are looking for an Early Career Researcher or Graduate student:

- Either working towards, or with a recently completed a PhD
- With knowledge and/or experience of working in a policy environment

- Has familiarity with circular economy concepts.
- With strong research data collection and synthesis skills.
- With strong communications skills (written and verbal), as post holder will be working with various Stakeholder organisations.
- An independent worker who can plan their own workload and is confident in their ability to deliver a well-written report.

How to apply

To apply, please provide a one-page cover letter detailing why you are the right person for this Policy Internship as well as a CV (2 pages maximum) to Kristin Hopfe at the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, kristin.hopfe@ed.ac.uk. Please include one reference that you are happy for us to contact, should you be successful.

Deadline for applications is Wednesday 31st August 2022, 17.00hrs.

By applying you are confirming that you are available for an interview on Friday 9th September 2022