

## **Research Associate supporting Cambridge Zero Policy Forum (part-time)**

This is an exciting opportunity for an economist researcher looking to work across academic disciplines to improve climate mitigation policy and be involved in writing a report.

The Cambridge Zero Policy Forum is hiring a part-term temporary researcher to support work on a report on the costs, risks and opportunities of the UK's potential pathways to net zero.

The report will be led by leading economist [Dimitri Zenghelis](#) in collaboration with academics and policy specialists from other disciplines. It is intended for policy makers involved in climate mitigation in the UK over the coming decade.

### **Scope of Work**

The Researcher will work with the Cambridge Zero Policy Forum team on the development of the report under the direction of Dimitri Zenghelis.

The report will be multidisciplinary to deal with managing structural change and building a resilient economy and going beyond cost-benefit analysis in decision making. The report will highlight that the potential costs and benefits of achieving net zero are a strong and complex function of policy choices, investments and how various actors respond to policies. The systemic nature of these physical, intangible and behavioural changes will affect investment, innovation and productivity growth. It will impact UK global competitiveness and generate fiscal consequences. Fundamental structural and systemic change will cover cities, land, energy, transport, industry and water. How these change and interact over the next two decades will be crucial to the whole shape of the UK economy, and of course to productivity and growth. See below for relevant background reading.

### **Tasks**

- Draft and assist with editing the final policy orientated report.
- Support report development workshops with materials, briefings and output notes and summaries.
- Perform literature review and analysis involving different academic fields and other relevant sources.
- Compile and map key strategic players in delivering net zero in the UK, and identify which institutions need to adjust their capabilities – governance, skills, data and data collection methods.
- Support work on modelling for policy appraisal of the risks and opportunities of the net zero transition.
- Utilise data and economic models.
- Present and explain environmental economic concepts to those working outside the field if required.
- Perform other ad hoc tasks that may arise.
- Drafting report sections involving text, data and visuals delivered within schedule. Provide notes and meeting materials.

### **Person specification**

- Good planning and project management skills (Essential)
- Ability to manage own workload and prioritise competing tasks (Essential)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills (Essential)
- Strong stakeholder management skills (Essential)

- Some expertise in environmental economic theory and/or sustainable public and private finance (essential)
- The ability to incorporate multidisciplinary input (essential)

### **Assignment Details**

Up to 40 days between April 2024 – July 2024

Grade 7 RA (£18.81/hour)

As this is a temporary assignment with limited funding, it will be administered through the University of Cambridge's Temporary Employment Service. Cambridge Zero will advertise the assignment and interview candidates and the successful candidate will be asked to register with the Temporary Employment Service.

There is the possibility of further work through to December 2024 but this is wholly dependent upon funding, which has not been secured.

The appointee will need to be resident in the UK for duration of this assignment.

The University has a legal responsibility to ensure that all its employees have the legal right to live and work in the UK. Therefore, if you are made an offer of employment, this will be subject to the University verifying that you are eligible to work in the UK before you start work.

Please complete the form and email a CV and covering letter to [info@zero.cam.ac.uk](mailto:info@zero.cam.ac.uk) setting out how your skills and experience meet the requirements in the role profile. Applicants will be assessed as to how well their skills and experience meet the requirements.

**The closing date for submissions is midnight on the 10th April 2024.**

Interviews will take place virtually in the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Suggested readings for context**

An introductory article from Dimitri, which reviews Simon Sharpe's book [Five Times Faster: The Economy Is a Flexible Ecosystem, Not A Rigid Machine. We Must Shape It.](#) ([forbes.com](https://forbes.com))

Ekins, P. and Zenghelis, D. 2022, "[The costs and benefits of environmental sustainability' paper wins Outstanding Article Award](#)". University College, London

Geels et al. 2021. 'Productivity opportunities and risks in a transformative, low-carbon and digital age'. The productivity Institute. <https://www.productivity.ac.uk/publications/productivityopportunities-and-risks-in-a-transformative-low-carbon-and-digital-age/>