



ESRC Policy Fellowships 2021: Opportunity description

Fellowship Title: BEIS Net Zero Behavioural Science

Host department: [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\)](#)

Host team: Net Zero Green Choices & Public Engagement Policy Team; and the Energy Social Research & Analysis Team

Summary: Opportunity to use behavioural science skills to improve policy making on net zero across government.

Policy topic: Net Zero

Potentially relevant academic disciplines: Behavioural Science expertise (e.g. Behavioural Economics, Social/Behavioural Psychology), Human Geography, Environmental Planning or Demography.

Relevant research career stage: No preference – open to early or mid-career

Practical details

Start of 3-month inception phase: December 2021 - February 2022 (Please note that fellowship needs to commence before 14 February)

Length of core placement: 9 - 12 months

FTE for core placement (range): 0.5 - 1

Location requirements: Highly flexible – no specific requirements

Necessary level of security clearance: [Disclosure and barring security check](#). These can take up to 28 days.

Detailed description

This role will give the secondee exposure in working at the interface of net zero policy making, government behavioural science and academia. The role is purposefully kept open for the secondee to scope out clear tasks in conjunction with policy and behavioural scientists in government based on policy needs and the secondee's interests/skills, but ultimately the secondee will work to maximise the impact and influence of behavioural science on net zero policy. Examples of activities could include:

- Overseeing research or using behavioural science techniques to help identify and test cross-cutting low carbon behavioural interventions/policies that run across numerous policy teams.
- Helping the department to build better links between behavioural science academic community and policy making on net zero, such as through establishing a formal expert behavioural science steering group on net zero and identifying how this could best feed into policy.
- Identifying and/or testing opportunities for cross-cutting behavioural initiatives that run across several policy teams.
- Developing, guiding, or delivering behavioural science work to support the design or delivery of high-profile net zero policies.
- Providing a review of areas where behavioural science could best support the delivery of net zero and offering behavioural science advice to policy teams across government working on net zero.

The secondee will work at the interface between the Net Zero Green Choices & Public Engagement Policy Team and the Energy Social Research & Analysis Team. This will provide a unique opportunity to gain in-depth understanding around net zero policy making, learn how government works and the important role that evidence plays in shaping policy making. The secondee will also work closely with a wide range of analysts in the department and across government.

Opportunity-specific person specification

Applications will be assessed against the following opportunity-specific requirements in addition to the generic eligibility and call criteria.

Skills/ expertise:

- Experience of working on energy/climate change
- Academic background in Behavioural Science expertise (e.g. Behavioural Economics, Social/Behavioural Psychology, Climate Social Sciences)