**RESEARCHER (ENVIRONMENT & NET ZERO)**

Researchers at NEF play a central role in shaping and delivering high-quality research and policy proposals. Researchers are responsible for managing and delivering small to medium-sized projects, contributing to fundraising and consultancy, and representing NEF externally – in the media and with policymakers. This role is focused on environmental and net zero policy – including energy, climate, transport and related areas – but will also involve supporting cross-cutting projects as required.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**1. Research & policy development**

* Lead the design and delivery of high-quality research projects with policy relevance in areas such as energy, climate, transport, and wider decarbonisation.
* Manage small to medium-sized projects from inception to completion, including planning, delivery, and ensuring outputs are on time, on budget, and high quality.
* Develop policy proposals that are creative, evidence-based, and workable.
* Create and manage datasets, undertake quantitative and qualitative analysis, and draft research reports, policy briefings, literature reviews, blogs, and media-friendly outputs.
* Contribute to wider programme development by scoping new areas of work and collaborating with senior researchers and programme heads.

**2. Profile & external relations**

* Represent NEF in external meetings, calls, and events across politics, business, academia, and civil society.
* Build and maintain a network of relevant contacts in environmental and economic policy fields.
* Disseminate research through events, newsletters, articles, blogs, press releases and social media, with an emphasis on rapid-turnaround outputs when relevant.
* Support NEF’s media profile by providing rapid analysis and accessible commentary when required.
* Take a proactive role in developing NEF’s reputation as a thought leader in environmental economics and decarbonisation.

**3. Administration & project management**

* Manage and deliver projects using tools such as Monday.com, ensuring effective planning, scheduling, and budget management.
* Provide high-level project and administrative support, including organising events, coordinating meetings, and managing project documentation.
* Support colleagues by developing and applying in-house productivity tools (e.g. code for data cleaning, chart production, or AI-assisted literature scans) to improve workflow efficiency.

**4. Consultancy work**

* Contribute 15–20% of time to consultancy work, developing and delivering research commissions for local authorities, civil society organisations, and other clients.
* Support consultancy bid development, working closely with programme heads and NEF Consulting staff to scope and prepare proposals.

**5. Fundraising**

* Support senior researchers and programme heads in developing funding bids, including contributing to scoping, drafting, and data analysis.
* Help build relationships with funders and partners to sustain and grow NEF’s environmental and decarbonisation work.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**Essential aspects are shown in bold**. Aspects not in bold are desirable but not essential

**Education & qualifications**

* **A degree (or equivalent qualification/training) in environmental economics, climate change and sustainability, public policy or a related subject, with strong quantitative and analytical components.**
* Postgraduate study desirable but not essential.

**Knowledge & experience**

* **At least 3–5 years of relevant work experience.**
  + **3 years is a baseline for applicants with particularly strong research outputs and quantitative skills.**
  + **5 years is preferred, as it allows sufficient time for demonstrated project management, external engagement, and independent research delivery.**
* **Strong quantitative research skills, including proficiency in Excel and experience with at least one statistical or programming language (e.g. Stata, R, Python).**
* Experience of working with large datasets and/or environmental and economic data sources is desirable.
* Demonstrable interest in environmental and decarbonisation policy, with awareness of current debates in energy, climate, and transport in the UK or European context.
* Experience of project management, including planning, delivery, and coordination across teams.
* Experience contributing to funding bids and/or consultancy projects is desirable.
* Comfortable using large language models (LLMs) and AI tools for productivity, research, and project management.

**Skills & attributes**

* **Demonstrably excellent writing skills across a range of formats, from detailed research reports to concise blogs and media-friendly outputs. Comfortable and willing to present analysis across multiple media platforms, such as videos, podcasts, and other public-facing formats.**
* **Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a team, managing competing demands in a high-pressure environment.**
* **Strong organisational and administrative skills, with attention to detail.**
* Creative thinker with the ability to generate new ideas and solutions.
* Strong interpersonal skills and confidence in external representation.

**Motivation**

* **Commitment to building a fairer, more sustainable economy, with decarbonisation and redistribution of power and resources at its core.**