

## **Prestigious Postdoctoral Fellowship: Overcoming Barriers to Building Decarbonization**

The Boston University Institute for Global Sustainability (BU-IGS) and the Schneider Electric Sustainability Research Institute (SE-SRI) are jointly recruiting for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship to accelerate decarbonization in the building sector. Working at the nexus of climate change research, energy policy, and industry solutions, you will have tremendous opportunities to publish cutting-edge research, engage with influencers, and position yourself as a foremost expert within this critical domain.

The overarching goal of this postdoctoral project is to systematically investigate and address the non-technical social, political, behavioral, and economic obstacles slowing low-carbon transitions across residential and commercial buildings globally. Leveraging mixed qualitative and quantitative methods, your research will spotlight actionable interventions to rapidly scale building upgrades, renewable heating systems, smart management solutions, and other key decarbonization strategies. As buildings account for nearly 40% of emissions in a country like the United States, this research alignment directly tackles a principal source of greenhouse gas releases.

We seek candidates with exceptional research skills and training in the social sciences, policy, economics, environmental studies, or related fields examining complex sociotechnical systems. You will have strong methodological expertise such as in analyzing large literature reviews, designing representative surveys, conducting interviews, facilitating focus groups, and critically examining quantitative and qualitative data. We welcome applicants from a variety of backgrounds that can speak to decarbonization from perspectives spanning political science, public policy, energy geography, sociology, anthropology, strategic management, environmental economics, energy economics, climate change governance and justice, science and technology studies, or related areas.

Mixed-methods expertise is a competitive advantage within this role to holistically probe the institutional dynamics, stakeholder perceptions, and behavioral contexts impeding low-carbon building transitions. A successful postdoctoral researcher will triangulate findings from across critical literature syntheses, expert elicitation, surveys, focus groups, and advanced statistical or coding analyses. You may also bring specialized skills in tools like NVivo, SPSS, Stata, R, or Python to rigorously evaluate evidence.

This highly interdisciplinary project also demands substantive topical literacy to contextualize findings and engage stakeholders. Applicants should demonstrate interest as well as competency in some combination of:

- Building sciences, engineering, architecture, design
- Decarbonization solutions and pathways
- Energy efficiency, electrification, renewables
- Heating technologies like heat pumps
- Building controls, automation, management
- Carbon accounting and life cycle assessment
- Environmental sustainability

- Climate change mitigation at scale
- Innovation adoption and diffusion

You will take the lead in day-to-day research activities from literature searches to final publications and policy engagements. An advisory committee will provide mentorship and oversight. You will be based full-time at Boston University's Institute for Global Sustainability located along the scenic Charles River with access to shared office space, meeting rooms, and research amenities.

This high-visibility postdoctoral position offers:

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience ranging from \$65,000-\$70,000 USD per year
- Generous benefits package including healthcare options
- Travel, equipment, and research funds
- Close guidance from leading sustainability scholars
- Visibility and networking with premier green building firms
- Opportunities for conference, workshop, and policy presentations
- An accelerated career trajectory in sustainability

Ideal candidates will already have work authorization in the United States. The postdoctoral researcher should start full-time work as soon as possible, ideally before July 2024.

To apply, please email the following materials bundled as PDF attachments to Prof. Benjamin Sovacool at [sovacool@bu.edu](mailto:sovacool@bu.edu):

1. Cover letter articulating qualifications and motivation
2. CV detailing academic background, relevant research methods expertise, publications, and presentations
3. *Optional at this time in the application:* sample of writing demonstrating research capabilities
4. *Optional at this time in the application:* letters of recommendation

Rolling review of applicants will occur on a monthly basis starting February 1, 2024 until the position is filled. Candidates with strong alignment to the technical scope and methodological approach may be invited for interviews or further discussion. We aim to extend an offer during February-June 2024 for an intended postdoctoral researcher start date before July 2024.

Boston University Institute for Global Sustainability and the Schneider Electric Sustainability Research Institute are equal opportunity employers dedicated to hiring underrepresented minorities, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community. We welcome and encourage applications from all qualified candidates.