World Bank Internship

The World Bank is hiring for a paid internship to start immediately to work with the team at HOMER Energy by UL developing tools to help inform decision-makers regarding the energy needs and solutions for displacement settings.

The successful candidate should have knowledge and experience with developing countries, some knowledge of distributed power, and a serious interest in humanitarian relief.

Over 80 million people are currently displaced by some combination of conflict and climate change, and this number is expected to continue to increase. These displaced people live in very diverse settings, but one commonality of these settings is the lack of adequate access to energy. Tens of thousands of diesel generators are operated in these settings, which presents substantial logistical challenges associated with fuel delivery and maintenance in addition to the cost, noise, and carbon emissions and other pollutants.

The ultimate goal of this project is to modify HOMER Energy by UL’s (www.homerenergy.com) simplified web-based interface (www.poweringhealth.homerenergy.com) for designing clean power systems for health care facilities in developing countries into a new tool for more general energy needs in displacement settings. The initial goal and focus of the internship is to develop a framework for understanding the diversity of displacement settings. The successful candidate would be responsible for identifying previous work describing these settings, summarizing them, and synthesizing that information into a framework that can inform the development of tools to help bring sustainable power to these settings.

The intern will work closely with and be supervised by Dr. Peter Lilienthal (see below bio), Founder of HOMER Energy and Global Microgrid Lead for UL. Although Dr. Lilienthal is based in Boulder, Colorado, the successful candidate can work remotely wherever they are located. This position will be a Short-Term Consultant (initially mid-November 2021 – mid-March 2022),
contracting directly with the World Bank and will interact with a large international community of professionals in humanitarian relief.

Interested candidates should send an email to peter.lilienthal@ul.com and include their resume and a short note why they are interested in this position. Applications will be accepted through November 8, 2021.

A note about the definition of internally displaced people, refugees, and displacement settings.

We use the term “internally displaced persons” because the term “refugee” is reserved for people who cross an international boundary. About 2/3 of displaced people are still in their country of origin, so internally displaced people are not technically refugees. This distinction is important to the World Bank, but the output of this project will be valuable to the larger humanitarian community working in all of these settings to improve access to sustainable energy.

Dr. Peter Lilienthal

Dr. Peter Lilienthal is Global Microgrid Lead for UL, LLC. Previously, he was the CEO of HOMER Energy. Since 1992, he has been the developer of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s HOMER® hybrid power optimization software, which has been used by over 250,000 energy practitioners in 193 countries. NREL licensed HOMER Energy to be the sole world-wide commercialization licensee to distribute and enhance the HOMER model.

Dr. Lilienthal was the Senior Economist with International Programs at NREL from 1990 – 2007. He was one of the creators of NREL’s Village Power Program. He has a Ph.D. in Management Science and Engineering from Stanford University. He has been active in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency since 1978. This has included designing and teaching courses at the university level, project development of independent power projects, and consulting to industry and regulators. His expertise is in the economic and financial analysis of renewable and micro-grid projects.