
Job Vacancy Announcement
Research Associate

The Material Cycles Division invites applications for the position of Research Associate as detailed below.

1. Position and workplace

- Position: Contract Research Employee (Research Associate)
- Open Position: 1 candidate
- Affiliation: Global Resource Sustainability Research Section, Material Cycles Division, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)
- Workplace: 16-2 Onogawa, City of Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture 305-8506, Japan
- Scope of changes in work location: None
- Vacancy Announcement No. R08-R-035

2. Research Topic

Industrial Ecology Research on Pro-environmental Behavior

3. Description of Research and work duties

The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) engages in research that supports the transformation towards sustainable societies, with a particular emphasis on achieving decarbonization (carbon neutrality), resource circulation (circular economy), and biodiversity recovery (nature positive). As environmental impacts associated with everyday lifestyles and consumption patterns — such as mobility, food, and housing — continue to intensify, there is an increasing need to identify effective pro-environmental behavioral change options, quantify their environmental benefits, and explore policy interventions and pathways for their large-scale adoption.

The successful candidate will develop and apply industrial ecology approaches, such as Environmentally Extended Input-Output Analysis (EEIOA) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), to assess the environmental implications of behavioral change and sustainable consumption strategies.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Reviewing and synthesizing evidence on pro-environmental and circular behaviors to identify high-priority and effective behavioral change options, and developing conceptual frameworks for analyzing behavioral contributions to sustainability transitions across products, indicators, and circular strategies.**
- **Quantifying the environmental impacts and potential benefits associated with behavioral change strategies that contribute to decarbonization, circular economy, and biodiversity recovery, using methods such as EEIOA and LCA.**
- **Developing regional- and national-scale environmental footprint assessments and behavioral change scenarios aimed at achieving sustainability targets related to decarbonization, circular economy, and biodiversity recovery.**

This research will be conducted within an interdisciplinary team that brings together expertise in industrial ecology, behavioral science, and social simulation. The successful candidate will work closely with researchers across these fields to advance understanding of the role of behavioral change in sustainability transitions. The position offers opportunities to advance interdisciplinary research and contribute to the translation of research findings into policy and practice.

- **Scope of changes in work duties: Research and general administrative work related to research**

4. Qualifications

- (1) A Ph.D. degree or equivalent**
- (2) Academic background in environmental engineering, industrial ecology, systems engineering, economics, policy studies, technology management, behavioral science, or a related discipline**
- (3) Demonstrated experience in quantifying environmental impacts using industrial ecology methods and related analytical approaches**
- (4) Demonstrated programming skills using statistical analysis software and related computational tools**

5. Selection Process

The selection process will be by means of screening applications followed by individual interviews. Applicants whose applications have passed the initial screening process on details of the interview will be informed on a later date.

In the selection process, the following points will be taken into consideration.

- (1) Experience or skills in collecting and analyzing statistical data related to consumption and other aspects of daily life
- (2) Knowledge of, or a strong interest in applying, research methods related to pro-environmental behavior and future scenario exploration, such as questionnaire surveys, social simulation, and uncertainty analysis
- (3) A demonstrated commitment to disseminating research outputs internationally, and to working collaboratively within interdisciplinary teams

6. Application Documents and Process

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents as instructed below.

- (1) Curriculum Vitae (using the prescribed format)
 - (2) List of Research Achievements (categorized into original research papers, books, review articles/commentaries, and oral presentations) Manuscripts under review, non-academic publications, datasets, software, and other research outputs may also be included.
 - (3) Electronic copies of major research works in PDF format (up to three papers, which may include published papers, manuscripts submitted or under review, or your thesis)
 - (4) Summary of Previous Research (approximately one A4 page)
 - (5) Statement of Purpose (approximately two A4 pages)
- List past employments (organization names, address, employment periods) in the prescribed format CV.
 - Include information if having worked with NIES other than employment contract such as Visiting Researcher, Collaborative Researcher, Research Student, Interns, and dispatch employee.
 - To submit electronically, the applicant must email the contact person listed under “12. Contact Information” in advance for submission instructions, with the subject titled “Application documents for Industrial Ecology Research on Pro-environmental Behavior”.
 - The documents submitted will not be returned. Application materials submitted by applicants other than the successful candidate will be properly discarded after

selection is completed.

7. Deadline

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and it may be closed once a suitable candidate has been found. Applications are also welcome from candidates who have substantially completed their doctoral dissertation and are expected to obtain their doctoral degree in the near future.

8. Work Conditions and Related Regulations

- Research Associate is treated as Contract Employee.
- Working Hours: Exempt Working Hours (deemed to have worked 8 hours and 15 minutes per day regardless of the actual hours worked on weekdays)
- Basic Remuneration: JPY 5,652,000+ per annum
- Probationary Period: 6 months under same working conditions
- The employee may be requested to work overtime and/or on holiday if necessary.
- Compensation will be based on the Regulations Regarding Remuneration for Contract Employees at NIES.
- Social insurance is provided in accordance with the National Public Officers Mutual Aid Association Act, the Health Insurance Act, the Employee's Pension Insurance Act, the Employment Insurance Act, and the Long-Term Care Insurance Act.
- Smoking is allowed only in designated smoking areas for secondhand smoking policy.
- For other matters pertaining to this employment please ensure to refer to the Rules of Employment for Contract Employees at NIES and related regulations.

(Japanese only) <https://www.nies.go.jp/about/disclosure/kitei/index.html>

9. Date of Commencement

This position will start as soon as possible after September 1, 2026.

10. Term of Contract

This is a contract position that, in principle, terminates at the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2027). However, depending on the status of the research plan and performance evaluations, it may be possible for the Contract Employee to renew their

yearly contract, although in principle, it cannot be extended past March 31, 2031.

The employment contract may be renewed only within the scope not exceeding the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) that includes the day before the employee reaches the age of 65. If the day before reaching the age of 65 has already passed at the time of hiring, the contract will be limited to one fiscal year.

11. Others

This work falls under the subject matter of Article 15-2 of the Act on Activation of the Creation of Science and Technology Innovation.

(Japanese only) <https://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/document?lawid=420AC0100000063>

12. Contact Information

Applications and any inquiries should be directed to the following person.

Dr. Ryu KOIDE

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This is an English translation of a Japanese document. If there is a discrepancy between the two documents, the Japanese version takes precedence.