



Title *Ethiopia Energy Lead - RMI Africa Program*

Application Instructions Please ensure you have read the entire announcement below before submitting an application.

Be prepared to upload (1) a resume and (2) a cover letter, both documents are required. The first page of the online application will allow you to attach your resume. The second page of the online application will allow you to upload additional documents. Candidates who do not provide a compelling answer to the question "Why do you want to work at Rocky Mountain Institute" in their cover letter may not be considered. Additionally, incomplete application materials (for example, a missing cover letter) may not be considered.

Applicants must be in possession of the valid permit to live and work in the country of work.

Interested candidates can submit their application before **February 15, 2021** 9am EST time (5pm Addis Ababa) to the following email: sbackstrom@rmi.org, with "RMI Ethiopia Energy Lead" in the subject line.

Due to the large number of applications received, RMI is not able to respond to every applicant. We will be in contact with applicants moving to the interview stage.

RMI is an equal opportunity employer.

No phone calls, please.

About Rocky Mountain Institute

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) is an independent non-profit founded in 1982, focused on transforming global energy use to create a clean, prosperous and secure low-carbon future. . That is our mission. That is our passion. And every day, every member of our team of more than 200 people, works tirelessly to achieve that mission. We are driving the global energy transition from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables by working in partnership with governments, businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to advance market-based solutions. We achieve this by developing breakthrough ideas, testing and refining them, reshaping markets, and bringing solutions to scale. RMI is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an annual budget of \$50 million and offices in Basalt and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Beijing. www.rmi.org

With an independent, objective, and fact-based approach, RMI brings experience gained from engagements with governments and utilities in developing economies to solve the toughest energy challenges. The Africa Energy Program currently works with select sub-Saharan African



country partners to catalyze a dramatic increase in access to affordable renewable energy and energy efficiency that will bring benefits to all national stakeholders.

In order to reap the promises of the new energy economy, a fundamental change in approaches from governments, funding entities and the power sector private players is required to scale up energy access. RMI helps support them through a developed and tested process, focused on outcomes and impact:

1. We use our expertise in distributed energy systems and utility business models to create a robust technical and economic diagnostic that determines the cost and opportunities of existing and potential generation, transmission and off-grid technologies. This diagnostic is underpinned by significant in-country engagement to deliver actionable recommendations.
2. We subsequently work hand in hand with stakeholders to take first steps that will help capture the near-term opportunities, including capacity building for implementation partners, and identification of investment opportunities, and support to address operational issues.
3. Finally, we continue our efforts with trusted implementation partners to ensure clear roles and responsibilities are established and that continued progress is achieved after our initial intensive work is concluded. Moreover, RMI provides ongoing targeted support for implementation partners to ensure lasting impact.

Ethiopia represents a strategic country for the RMI Africa Program: RMI has emphasized efforts and collaboration with key decision-makers to leverage the full potential of Ethiopia in 1) energy access through minigrids projects development and implementation, 2) deployment of productive uses of energy, and 3) energy efficiency.

The Role

Ethiopia Energy Lead

Overview

RMI is seeking a talented and experienced Ethiopia Energy Lead to support its work to improve and expand energy access and cost-effective use of distributed energy resources in Ethiopia. This professional will play a key role in programmatic efforts in Ethiopia, with the opportunity to also support work on the energy transformation across sub-Saharan Africa. RMI is currently in the process of opening its first office on the continent, located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Energy Lead will firmly establish the organization as an independent thought and implementation leader by driving energy transitions from traditional and often polluting and expensive energy infrastructure to clean, affordable, and resilient energy resources.

This position reports to the Ethiopia Country Manager of RMI Africa Program and collaborates closely with the program's leadership to execute RMI's programmatic strategies in Ethiopia. The Energy Lead will engage with all members of the Africa team to develop content, share learnings, and clearly communicate in-country developments to non-Ethiopia-based



teammates in order to shape country strategy and support adaptation to local needs. The ideal candidate will be based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Energy Lead will serve as RMI's primary representative to stakeholders in Ethiopia, including leaders from across government, development partners, and the private sector. Prior experience working with national institutions such as Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), the Ethiopia Electric Utility (EEU), the Ethiopia Electric Power (EEP), the Ethiopia Energy Authority (EEA) or development partners (e.g. the World Bank, GIZ) will be considered a major asset. The selected candidate will also support project implementation across Ethiopia, including by providing technical expertise, content development, and potentially management of small teams. The Energy Lead may also play a role in fundraising efforts.

RMI has a well-established reputation and extensive capabilities in designing and executing collaborative problem solving and solution scaling teams. We seek a highly creative, entrepreneurial yet deeply and broadly experienced energy professional to join our team and shape the fastest growing energy sectors in the world.

This is a full-time contractor position with an initial contract term of 6 months.

Location

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Specific Roles and Responsibilities

- Contribute to project execution and energy workstreams across a variety of initiatives
- Build relationships with key senior stakeholders in Ethiopia, including but not limited to the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) and the Ethiopia Electric Utility (EEU)
- Support conversations with prospective and existing partners and funders
- Synthesize research and lessons learned from key energy stakeholders' experience
- Collaborate with the Country Manager and across all levels of the Africa team to support project selection and planning, and to develop the organization's expertise and reputation in energy systems in Ethiopia
- Build RMI's network and identify new projects, and shape and deliver collaborative efforts with governments, development partners, and the private sector in Ethiopia
- Serve as a subject matter expert and thought leader to develop innovative approaches for holistic energy system development, new business models for energy and energy service providers, and respectfully challenge current approaches
- Identify and shape specific program initiatives and projects, likely in combination with other senior professionals, focusing on topics such as minigrid deployment, productive uses of energy, energy efficiency for increased access, national-level energy planning, and targeted capacity building



- Demonstrate organizational leadership, helping set a culture of impact, accountability, and entrepreneurship
- Travel up to 25% of the time, within Ethiopia and abroad

Minimum Qualifications

- Undergraduate degree from a well-respected university
- Multiple years of energy work experience with an emphasis on renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Independent work style, comfortable self-managing multiple priorities and workstreams concurrently, with the ability to drive projects forward despite ambiguity
- Proven track-record of delivering against deadlines and reliably delivering outcomes
- Excellent interpersonal communication abilities in written, verbal, and presentation forms, demonstrating humble confidence
- Proficient with Microsoft Office, including experience writing reports, building presentation decks, and developing spreadsheet models
- Fluent English and Amharic speaker

Preferred Qualifications

- Graduate degree in science, engineering, policy, economics, or other relevant field
- Deep understanding of energy systems on a technical, financial, and political basis, ideally grounded with experience in developing economies
- Established network in Ethiopia's energy sector, particularly with senior stakeholders working on off-grid and renewables
- Ability to engage with leaders from local and international partners in a respectful and appropriate manner, including eloquent and compelling speaking and writing
- A strong creative streak with proven ability to find new and impactful approaches, influence others' thinking, and demonstrate entrepreneurial leadership
- Existing network in the Ethiopia financial sector
- Ability and interest in working with colleagues across a broad range of energy-related topics in sub-Saharan Africa and developing economies worldwide
- Basic knowledge of other Ethiopian languages, in addition to English and Amharic