



February 1, 2018

Energy Access Fellowship

OnePower is currently recruiting multiple enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to fill roles across the organization in support of the commercial launch of OnePower Lesotho.

OnePower is an energy startup based in Lesotho whose mission is to bring electricity to underserved communities across the developing world. OnePower was incubated by STG International, a non-profit based in Cambridge, MA that spin-off from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2007. STG International has been working on energy access globally for more than 10 years, with funding from a wide variety of sources including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, and partnerships across sectors and governmental ministries in Lesotho specifically.

OnePower is currently undertaking two large projects in Lesotho that address this need from different angles. First, to support energy security in Lesotho OnePower is the developer of Lesotho's first solar PV power plant, a 20MW grid-connected project. Second, to address the needs of communities outside of the utility's service area, OnePower is in the development phase of a 25 mini-grid project, which will begin to be installed in rural communities in Lesotho in 2018.

As an Energy Access Fellow your primary responsibilities will be contributing to the successful roll-out of these rural mini-grids. Fellowship topics can have a variety of focus areas, guided by the expertise and interests of the Fellow, including:

1. Empowering the Community

- a. **Helping Small Businesses:** OnePower intends to leverage energy access to empower the communities we serve, which includes supporting local businesses. Our primary aim in this area is to establish supply chains for efficient appliances (LED lamps, refrigerators, etc.) so that village shops can buy these items at an affordable (e.g., wholesale) price and sell them to households in their communities. For this thrust we are looking for a volunteer that will connect with small businesses, including helping small business build a cooperative network, and help to establish global supply chains for the appliances. This final task will be informed by and in cooperation with partners conducting similar work in India.
- b. **Lesotho National Council of Women:** Because we recognize the ongoing challenges in working toward gender-equality, particularly in developing economies, OnePower is partnering with the National Council of Women in Lesotho to envision pathways for women in particular to capitalize on the benefits of energy access. The National Council of Women provides support for women-run businesses throughout the country, offering workshops and trainings for aspiring and current entrepreneurs. For this thrust we are looking for a volunteer to propose, evaluate, and test policy options on how specifically to drive forward this collaboration with the National Council of Women to best serve the women in Lesotho's rural communities.
- c. **Community Engagement:** OnePower is proud to established strong relationships with the communities its mini-grids will serve, a process put in place from the beginning. However as we aim to grow exponentially over the next few years, we will need to formulate specific protocols and process for community engagement, both before, during, and after electrification. For this thrust, we are looking for a volunteer to work through community engagement strategies, engage with the

communities we work with to solicit feedback from community leaders and members, and evaluate different options on well-defined metrics.

2. Engineering

- a. **Ha Makebe Community Mini-grid:** OnePower is in the final stages of bringing our first pilot mini-grid online in Lesotho, an opportunity for significant learning and reflection on the technological design. In particular we are looking for engineering students with a passion for programming to work through the next steps of system integration that are needed to support scaling from a single mini-grid to a portfolio of twenty-five.
- b. **Manufacturing of PV Tracker:** OnePower proudly engineers and manufactures its own PV tracking systems in Lesotho. Currently on the second major design revision, this hardware component maximizes energy we can deliver from each imported PV panel. Under this thrust we are looking for mechanical engineering students or professionals interested in design validation, improvement, and design for manufacturing.

Regardless of topic focus all Fellows will be invited to participate in a variety of guiding tasks in OnePower's ongoing work in Lesotho, including:

- Collaborating with an enthusiastic team of Basotho engineers, technicians, and entrepreneurs
- Interfacing with government partners in the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Health; growing existing collaborations with the Lesotho Department of Energy and Ministry of Education
- Improving understanding of rural energy needs through ongoing collection of energy use and climate data at health facilities and schools around Lesotho
- Identifying opportunities for expansion, brainstorming new projects, developing proposals

We are looking for creative, confident, technically-competent individuals who love to take on new challenges and enjoy the idea of working in a field that is still very much in its infancy. Fellows will be based in Maseru, Lesotho and will be expected to commit to 3-6 months of tenure. **These volunteer positions are available immediately, and preference will be given to candidates who are able to start between May 1 and September 4, 2018.**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate/graduate student or recent graduate
- Experience working or traveling overseas, an open-minded attitude toward other cultures and working environments
- Excellent communication skills (oral, written)
- Creativity and willingness to take on challenges
- Ability to diplomatically manage work and interactions with individuals at many levels of experience and influence within the governmental, private, and non-profit sectors

Benefits:

- Be part of a young and enthusiastic team
- Experience working in energy access - a rapidly growing and highly important sector

- Gain a deep understanding of the challenges in energy provision, from the economic, policy, and engineering perspectives
- Work in an interesting and extremely friendly country in sub-Saharan Africa (*English is one of the official languages*)
- Housing (guarded facility) provided in Maseru, Lesotho

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, university transcript, desired start date, and contact information for two referees to fellows@stginternational.org. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis until positions are filled.