

Position opening: Research Lead

Company description:

Sanivation is a company on the front line of developing new technology and processes for the provision of sustainable sanitation in low-income areas of Kenya. Our business model of toilet rentals with monthly subscriptions for continual waste collection is revolutionizing the market approach to sanitation provision. Our solar waste treatment process is ground-breaking in reducing the time and infrastructure required to treat and transform human waste. And our method of using treated feces as a binder in the production of charcoal is a game changer in value-added processes of fecal reuse. Each of these innovations has stemmed from our work in the field, researching new ideas and tackling some of the biggest research questions the sanitation field has to offer: How do you provide cost-effective waste treatment in low-income high-density areas? Can we demonstrate the treatment's effectiveness in pathogen inactivation and compare it to a pit latrine? How can sanitation provision be modified to increase user acceptance in a refugee camp? How does coupling handwashing with toilet provision affect users' hand washing behavior?

As Sanivation scales and expands to new markets and opportunities, there is a demand to also scale and grow our research endeavors. Our work continually creates new questions in the WASH field, and our existing infrastructure as a growing sanitation company established in Naivasha, Kenya, provides a convenient ground on which to test many of these hypotheses. We need to stay up to date on current research being done around the world, and properly disseminate our work and conclusions being determined in Kenya. We want to build up our research capacity in Kenya, building our own lab and training local staff in proper research methodology. We want to maintain and better utilize relationships with current research partners like CDC, USAID, UNHCR and various universities.

Position description:

We are looking for a public health expert who is passionate about living in Kenya and leading the research arm at Sanivation. This job requires a minimum commitment of one year with a start time in October or November of 2015. It is a full-time paid position for location in Naivasha, Kenya. The job consists of four main objectives:

1. Creating more research endeavours. This means working with our partners and networks to continually prepare for more research projects as we develop new focuses and questions out of current work. This will include applying for grants for funding, and extending our networks, partners and support channels to make it happen.

2. Developing Sanivation's research capacity. We have a temporary simple lab at our current office, and in the next year we want to build our own lab. We need someone to help with the design and stocking of the future lab. We also need someone willing and able to train local Kenya staff on research methods and lab work. Beyond that we are leading and hosting various research teams from around the world, and we need someone to facilitate their partnerships with Sanivation.
3. Leading upcoming research projects. We already have many research aims and projects for the next year. We need someone to take these fairly vague concepts, develop them into clear needed research objectives with proper methods, and then lead the research projects. Projects that have already been approved for research include:
 - a. Pathogen inactivation study comparing pit latrines and Sanivation's solar treatment
 - b. Health and safety evaluation of Sanivation's waste collection process
 - c. Handwashing behavior study on coupling handwashing stations with Sanivation's mobile toilets
 - d. Emissions evaluation in household users of Sanivation's fecal fuel
 - e. Urine re-use in combination with bio-char
4. Disseminate findings. We know that a lot of the research Sanivation is working on has important implications on other work around the world. We need someone willing and wanting to publish our conclusions, to present at conferences and keep our team up to date on other research findings.

We have a great team and many strong current and potential partners. We are looking to find someone that is impassioned to help lead Sanivation's research pursuits. We believe the best way to grow is to hire really good people and give them what they need to execute.

Skills and experience you need:

- Experience as a health researcher in an international context, preferably East Africa
- A public health degree or extensive experience
- Excellent research writing, communication, and presentation skills
- Passion, a sense of humor, and flexibility
- Comfort and excitement about designing and leading research projects in Kenya
- A desire to live and work in Kenya

What you get:

- Flexible schedules and leadership opportunities in an entrepreneurial team culture
- The opportunity to design and lead groundbreaking on-the-ground research and work with partners like the CDC and USAID

- A passionate team that is dedicated to impacting lives in Kenya
- A competitive compensation package with growth potential

To apply:

If you think you could be a match, send a resume along with a brief overview about why you're passionate and qualified to emily.woods@sanivation.com with the subject "Research Lead."