Principal Energy Economist

Location

- London-based.
- Common Wealth's office is in Hackney. We have a flexible working policy although attendance at the office is expected 40 per cent of the time for London-based employees.

Salary

- £55,099 rising to £60,384 in automatic increments.
- Common Wealth salaries are subject to annual pay negotiations and our collective bargaining agreement, which also outlines clear policies on future progression.

Contract type

- Permanent.

Hours

- Full-time (34 hours per week).
- Common Wealth operates a nine-day fortnight working pattern.
- 38 hours over five days in one week and 30 hours over four days in the following week, on an alternating fortnightly cycle.

Responsible to

- Director of Research.

Start date

- As soon as feasible following appointment.

Right to work

- This position requires the right to work in the UK.

Benefits

- Flexible working hours. We also accommodate caring responsibilities. Please enquire about our carers' policy.
- 34 days of annual leave (inclusive of public and bank holidays).
- Eight per cent employer pension contribution.
- Employer-funded healthcare cash plan.
- Parental leave significantly above statutory.
- Group life assurance at 3x salary.
- In London, our office building provides: free lunch once a week, free weekly exercise classes, free yoga classes, and free tea and coffee.

About Common Wealth

Common Wealth is a think tank focused on securing a democratic and sustainable future. From the inequalities of the asset economy to structural solutions to the climate crisis, our work is systemic in focus and ambitious in orientation.

Summary

The Principal Energy Economist is a senior role at Common Wealth responsible for leading on the design and advocacy of our energy programme and how it interacts with progressive economic strategy. The focus is on the electricity sector, but with scope to work on related questions of heating, transport, and industry, within the political context of debates around “public control”.

The role has three core functions:

- To lead on our quantitative and data-driven research to build the case for a public energy system, highlighting both the costly dysfunctions of the status quo and the benefits of structural reform.
- To design a policy agenda that can translate argument into implementable programme, requiring both detailed and robust policy design and strong advocacy skills.
- To develop out Common Wealth’s macroeconomic argument for energy system reform given the sector’s role governing a systemically important price, with major implications for inflation, Britain’s fiscal position and industrial and aggregate economic performance. The role will include contributing to Common Wealth’s macroeconomic interventions and related questions of progressive political economy.

The role holder will bring excellent analytical and technical skills, a deep knowledge of the energy sector and progressive macroeconomic debate, a commitment to creative policy thinking, and a proven ability to translate complex findings into accessible and compelling formats. The successful candidate will oversee projects, develop high-quality outputs and arguments, and directly support the leadership team to develop to our organisational goals through research, external engagement, and fundraising. As a member of a collaborative organisation, they will help shape the culture, direction, and day-to-day work of the organisation.

We particularly welcome applications from candidates with experience in government, regulatory bodies or the energy industry.

As with all roles at Common Wealth, this position involves working collaboratively and flexibly within a medium-sized team, and you may be asked to contribute across projects or areas beyond your core responsibilities.

Key Responsibilities

Research, analysis and policy development

- Lead on the development of ambitious, detailed and robust policy design, providing intellectual leadership, technical rigour and project management skills to ensure quality, innovation and impact.
- Design and manage our quantitative energy analysis to make a persuasive case for reform, including both whole-system and subsector specific work e.g. transmission or distribution networks.
- Develop Common Wealth's work on the intersection between progressive macroeconomic strategy and the governance of the energy sector as a whole, positioning ourselves as a leading voice on pressing economic issues e.g. trade, inflation, industrial strategy, fiscal strategy and institutional design.
- Support the Director of Research in leading the development of Common Wealth's energy research programme, identifying synergies and new research questions that fill critical gaps in our existing work and/or respond to timely political economic questions.
- Identify opportunities to intervene on political and economic developments in the energy sector, overseeing and undertaking reactive data analysis to generate insights into current events as they transpire.
- Manage internal processes for leveraging financial databases, corporate accounts, economic data and other sources to conduct robust quantitative analysis and map trends, with a specific responsibility for leading on streamlining and cohering these processes.
- Ensure Common Wealth's research remains at the intersection of leading academic research and real-world policy development, while delivering outputs that are accessible to a broad range of audiences. The role will involve collaboration with Common Wealth's existing network of experts, as well as broadening our reach to new expert audiences.
- Undertake quality control of analytical work, specifically the design of research questions, methodological approaches, and final querying/stress testing of results across the research and data teams.
- Maintain a high degree of subject matter expertise in the energy sector, and on key areas including corporate and financial accounting, macroeconomics, and political economy.
- Line management and mentoring of junior members of the data and/or research teams.

Advocacy and impact

- Build and leverage existing networks of stakeholders — including politicians and their advisers; academics; media and civil servants — to make a persuasive case for our agenda and work with wider team to achieve policy and programmatic "wins".

- Develop position as leading expert and critical voice in the media and wider debate around Britain's energy system and economic strategy.
- Engage directly in debates around "public control", emphasising the critical (and missing) role of ownership and public financing alongside regulation, as well as the wider progressive macroeconomic toolkit.
- Be a key representative of Common Wealth externally, including through public speaking, media appearances, and events.
- Collaborate with the production team to ensure our research reaches its target audiences across policy, politics, academia, and movements.
- Lead on developing insightful data visualisations, working with the production and data teams to visualise data in innovative and compelling formats to maximise the impact of analysis with a range of audiences and levels of expertise.
- Oversee timely and reactive interventions through rapid analysis of unfolding events or policy announcements/debates.

Fundraising

- With the support of the leadership team, develop high-quality research proposals and ideas that align with Common Wealth's mission and programmatic priorities.
- With the support of the leadership team, proactively identify, nurture, and lead on funding opportunities.
- Lead or contribute to fundraising bids and reporting processes.
- Maintain funder relationships and support long-term programme sustainability.

Person specification

Essential

- A degree or equivalent level qualification in economics, or in a subject with knowledge and skills applicable and transferable to energy policy-oriented economic analysis and data visualisation such as a science or quantitative discipline, or equivalent training and work experience.
- Proven high level subject matter expertise in UK energy and economic policy, both in analysis and policy design, whether from academic or equivalent training and work experience..
- Understanding of relevant contemporary debates around the future of the energy system and progressive UK macroeconomic strategy.
- Strong applied quantitative research and data analysis skills, with demonstrable experience designing and delivering robust economic analysis.
- Demonstrable ability to develop methodologies and generate original insights from energy, economic, financial or corporate datasets.
- Ability to read and understand financial statements.
- Demonstrable experience managing research projects from ideation to delivery, including overseeing timelines and working to deadlines.
- Strategic thinking and a demonstrated understanding of how research and analysis contribute to political change.

- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, with the ability to present complex findings clearly .
- Demonstrable ability to work collaboratively in a values-driven team and uphold shared research and production processes.
- A commitment to Common Wealth's mission of building a democratic and sustainable economy.

Desirable

- Experience working in one of the energy industry, government or civil service, or the regulators.
- Experience producing dynamic or interactive visualisations (e.g. R Shiny, JavaScript, D3.js).
- Advanced skills in R, Python, or another statistical language, and confidence in working with complex datasets.
- Familiarity with datasets such as ONS, LSEG or similar financial databases.
- Experience producing high-quality, creative and accessible data visualisation for a range of audiences.
- Understanding of UK political and economic institutions and debates.
- Experience in mentoring and supervising junior colleagues.
- Experience contributing to fundraising applications or research development processes.
- Media experience (or willingness to do so) whether written or radio/TV.

To apply

Please send your CV (no more than two pages) and a brief cover letter outlining how your skills and experience align with the position (no more than one page) to jobs@common-wealth.org by 10:00am GMT on Monday 9th November 2026.

Candidates must be available for online interviews on 17th & 19th November 2026.

As part of our recruitment policy, we anonymise all applications when undertaking shortlisting. We would be very grateful if you could please submit your CV and cover letter with **any identifying characteristics removed** (name, email address, DOB, etc.) as this will enable us to shortlist applications more efficiently.

We are particularly keen to receive applications from people in groups underrepresented in our sector.

Please note that we cannot sponsor visas, therefore we can only accept applications from candidates who already have right to work in the UK or are able to obtain this independently.

If you have any questions about the role, please feel free to contact us at jobs@common-wealth.org