Open Position (w/m/d) – Senior Scientist

Whole Life Carbon & LCA of Materials, Buildings and Building Stocks (Lead)

Position ID	**RISE-Team-2611-02**	**Extent**	80–100% (100% = 38.5 hours/week)
Start	February 2027 or as soon as possible	**Initial contract**	2 years
Applications	**Until 4 December 2026; review and interviews from 18 November 2026**	**Location**	Vienna, hybrid (see appendix)
Salary (min.)	Employment group F, Research CA: €4,868 gross/month FTE (14× a year)	**Contact**	Dr. Martin Röck, martin.roeck@riselabs.at

About us

RISE, the Institute for Regenerative Spatial Systems Science, is an independent research institute in Vienna. We model buildings and building stocks to show which options fit within the carbon budget and how the built environment can give back to people and planet. Our work informs the European Commission, UN agencies, national governments and philanthropic funders. RISE co-founded and co-leads GBDI, the Global Building Data Initiative, and the INDICATE building LCA data and policy accelerator framework. Beyond sustainability, towards regeneration. www.riselabs.at

GBDI, the Global Building Data Initiative is a community of experts from research, industry and policy working on open data for resource use and whole life carbon of buildings. Led by researchers from RISE, EPFL and USP, supported by GLOBE, it develops the Open Building Data Format (openBDF) and Platform. In April 2026, GBDI co-founded CLEAR – the Coalition for Life Cycle Emissions Alignment and Reporting – with RICS and WBCSD. www.gbdi.io

About the role

Help show which buildings and materials fit within the carbon budget, so that construction can meet human needs within planetary limits. You will lead our scientific work on whole life cycle assessment (WLCA) of buildings, materials and building stocks – the material basis of human settlements. You will develop the methods and data that make WLCA comparable and usable worldwide, for GBDI and INDICATE. You will build GBDI's data partnerships in Asia and Africa and help shape GBDI's open building data format (openBDF). You will work directly with the Director and the Global Partnerships and Programmes Lead (RISE-Team-2611-01), and closely with our Junior Scientist for whole life carbon and LCA (RISE-Team-2611-03) and GBDI's software engineers.

This profile is tentative. We will discuss and design the final profile and the extent together with the person we hire, based on their strengths, interests and our project needs. We value initiative: if you see a better way to contribute, tell us.

What you will do

- Develop regional material emission factors and prospective WLCA methods, and specify checks against benchmarks and limit values for GBDI's open-source WLCA calculation engine.
- Identify and onboard data partners in Asia and Africa, and co-develop emission factors, openBDF adaptations and trainings with local universities and partners.
- Contribute to the global WLCA data standard developed in CLEAR based on openBDF.
- Lead INDICATE's technical onboarding pathway for new countries – minimum data requirements, quality assurance, open-source tools and templates – aligned with the EPBD, EPC databases and national building registries – and co-lead guidance on linking whole life carbon with EPCs, Renovation and Material Passports, CRREM and GRESB.
- Upscale results to building stocks and scenarios – including renovation-first, circular and low-carbon material strategies – publish, supervise and help raise funding.

What you bring

- **Essential:** Experience with scaling up building LCA, material flow analysis (MFA), building stock modelling or scenario analysis – ideally including carbon budgets and sufficiency-first strategies (avoid–shift–improve).
- **Essential:** A publication record in peer-reviewed journals and experience leading or contributing to research proposals or grants. Please tell us which funds you helped raise and what your role was.
- A PhD, or a Master's degree with at least 3 years of relevant research experience, in industrial ecology, environmental or civil engineering, architecture or a closely related field.
- Proven expertise in LCA of buildings and construction products according to EN 15978, EN 15804+A2 and ISO 14040/44, including whole life carbon and life cycle inventory (LCI) and emission factor data.
- Demonstrated coding experience in Python and reproducible workflows (Git, documented code). Name the frameworks and packages you have used, e.g. brightway, premise, openLCA, ODYM, pandas or polars.
- Professional proficiency in English (spoken and written). German is appreciated but not required.

Nice to have

- Experience with data standards, schemas or exchange formats (JSON schema, APIs), EPDs or LCA databases.
- Experience with input-output or parametric modelling of building stocks, or with impacts beyond global warming potential (e.g. land use, biodiversity, life cycle costs).
- Knowledge of EU whole life carbon policy (EPBD, Level(s)) and building practices and data in our focus countries.
- Experience supervising students or junior researchers.

How we work

Hybrid in Vienna: office days are Tuesday to Thursday, Monday and Friday are home-office days by default, and the office is open all week. Our working language is English. We publish methods, data and code openly wherever licences allow.

Salary

Employment group F of the Research CA: minimum gross salary €4,868 per month full-time (38.5 hours/week), paid 14 times a year (€3,894 at 80%). We are willing to pay above this baseline, depending on your qualifications and experience.

How to apply

Send your application as three PDFs to office@riselabs.at with the subject line **RISE-Team-2611-02 – [Your name]**. Applications without a Position ID in the subject line may not be considered. Applications are accepted until 4 December 2026. Reviewing and interviewing start on 18 November 2026 and continue until the position is filled.

1) **Motivation letter** (max. 2 pages), including names and contact details of three professional references (contacted only after an interview, with your consent)
2) **CV**, including a list of projects and publications
3) **Examples of your work** relevant to the position – for example a link to a code repository (e.g. GitHub, Zenodo) and/or a publication that shows your WLCA or modelling work.

Applying for more than one position? List all Position IDs in the subject line and tell us in your letter which you prefer and why. We don't expect anyone to meet every requirement: if you meet the essential requirements and the work excites you, please apply. We especially encourage women, people from the Global South and others underrepresented in our field, and we value non-linear careers (e.g. career breaks, care work, work outside academia).

Equal opportunities. We assess all applications against the same criteria. Tell us if you need adjustments in the process. First-round interviews are online; for the final selection we may invite you to an on-site interview in Vienna (travel costs reimbursed). We use your data only for this recruitment.

Appendix: Where you will work and what we offer

All positions are based in Vienna. In 2027 we plan to move our offices to Die HausWirtschaft, Bruno-Marek-Allee 5, 1020 Vienna, in the 2nd district (Leopoldstadt). Until the move, we work at Climate Lab, Spittelauer Lände 45, 1090 Vienna, and we keep our Climate Lab membership afterwards. If you are looking for housing, please take the new location into account.

Support for international hires

- Relocation support
- Help finding housing
- Career support for partners of mid-career and senior scientists via our research and industry network in Vienna

Financial benefits

- Salary following the Research CA
- Paid 14 times a year (summer and winter holiday payments)
- Employer social security contributions
- Contribution to German lessons

Work–life balance and family

- Part-time work arrangements
- Hybrid by default, office days Tue–Thu
- Up to 100 telework days within Austria
- 5 weeks of annual leave plus Austrian public holidays
- Consultancy leave for research scholars
- Paid parental leave (as per CA and social security)

Training and development

- Up to 2 trainings a year, up to 6 days in total (longer trainings by agreement)
- Framework for career progression
- Regular performance and development reviews
- International collaboration and exchange for early-career and postdoctoral researchers

Health and wellbeing

- Bike-friendly workplace with showers
- Small on-site gym and yoga studio (from 2027)
- Subsidised sports events and sponsorship options

Environment and atmosphere

- Diverse, international team and partner network
- A values-based work culture and gender equality
- Under 30 minutes from Vienna Main Station
- Sustainability practices and green initiatives

Die HausWirtschaft (our office from 2027)

- Cooperative house for working, living, leisure and culture
- Active community of small businesses and creatives
- Fresh organic lunch three times a week
- Yoga, shiatsu and more bookable in the house; table tennis and table football
- Low-energy building with its own solar power
- Pedestrian zone by the Freie Mitte park, with excellent public transport links

Climate Lab membership (continued after our move)

- 24/7 key card access
- High-quality meeting and event spaces
- Community events at Climate Lab, Impact Hub Vienna, Future Health Lab and Education Lab
- Global Pass: 3 days of coworking per year at Impact Hubs around the world

Living and working in Vienna

- A liveable city: ranked 2nd in the EIU Global Liveability Index 2026, with parks, culture and the Danube on your doorstep
- International and English-friendly: a UN city and research hub; English is our working language, and we support German lessons
- Getting around: excellent public transport and a growing cycling network
- Housing: the rental market is competitive, so plan ahead – we help you find housing, and Die HausWirtschaft is in a well-connected, central district
- Moving from the EU/EEA: no work permit needed; register your address and your residence after arrival

Talent pool. No open position that fits your profile? Send an unsolicited application to office@riselabs.at with the subject line **RISE Talent – [your field]**; we will review your application and may keep your details on file for up to two years.