Energy Materials Scientist

Reports to:	Materials Team Leader	**Position Status:**	Permanent
Unit:	Science Operations – Geological Systems	**Location:**	Gracefield
Department:	Earth Resources & Materials	**Team:**	Materials
Direct Reports:	Nil	**Budget & Delegated Authority:**	Refer to Delegated Financial Authority Policy
Career Step:	Scientist 2 / 7	**Job Family:**	Science & Research
Career Path:	Research	**Date:**	February 2026

Our Organisation

Earth Sciences New Zealand was established on 1 July 2025, through the merger of GNS Science and NIWA, with the upcoming acquisition of MetService further strengthening its capabilities. As part of the most significant reform to New Zealand's science and innovation system in over 30 years, Earth Sciences NZ is positioned as a leading-edge organisation that excels in earth, environment and natural resources science.

With six core science missions – Geological Hazards, Weather and Climate Hazards, Energy, Land and Water, Atmosphere and Climate, and Oceans and Fisheries – Earth Sciences New Zealand is set to become a globally recognised science leader. By integrating multidisciplinary expertise and advanced technologies, the organisation will tackle complex environmental challenges and unlock opportunities for sustainable growth and development.

Following the MetService acquisition, Earth Sciences New Zealand will comprise approximately 1500 staff across 22 sites, managing $400 million in assets and generating $370 million in annual revenue. Serving both the public and private sectors, Earth Sciences New Zealand plays a vital role in enhancing national resilience to natural hazards, in supporting economic growth and in delivering innovative science for a sustainable future.

Role Purpose

Research and development of new materials and technologies for energy production, conversion, storage and utilisation applications.

Position Priorities and Responsibilities

- New materials development using physical and chemical techniques.
- Research on energy production and storage process.
- Technology transfer of newly developed scientific research.
- Develop prototypes for high-value manufacturing and Energy industries.

- Liaise with industry in New Zealand to explore and develop new opportunities for Materials Science research.
- Establish new collaborations with industry in New Zealand.
- Communicating scientific research through lead authorship and co-authorship of scientific publications or reports.
- Assist with planning, execution and reporting of projects.
- Supervising technicians or other staff.

Health and Safety

- Champion a proactive health, safety, and wellbeing (HS&W) culture within the team by promoting best practices, encouraging open communication, and supporting continuous improvement initiatives.
- Ensure team members understand and implement HS&W responsibilities relevant to their roles, providing guidance, training, and resources as needed.
- Support incident investigations within the team, ensuring timely response, appropriate support for affected workers, and effective implementation of corrective actions.
- Completed leadership activities such as safety conversations, regular review of critical risk activities and ensure any corrective actions or improvements are implemented and reviewed.

Responsibilities of all Employees

- Comply with all Earth Sciences New Zealand policies, procedures and frameworks, and act in line with the organisational values.
- Contribute to our healthy and safe workplace by following HSW expectations outlined in and integrated into our operational practises and HSW frameworks, including undertaking HSW training and participating in health-monitoring programmes relevant to your work.
- Work effectively as a team member by fostering good relationships and supporting others, providing coverage of other functions as required and ensuring workloads are evenly spread.
- Have the flexibility to adapt and develop as the organisation and its environment evolves.

Key Working Relationships

Internal	External
• Earth Resources and Materials Department • Science Operations – Geological Systems	• Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) • Robinson Research Institute (RRI) • New Zealand Universities

Person Specification

Qualifications and Experience

Essential

- A PhD in Chemistry/Materials Engineering/ Chemical Engineering, 2 years of occupational experience on energy materials research.
- Expertise in energy systems, industrial process and new material synthesis and characterisation techniques and/or materials science research.

Desirable

- Expertise in electrocatalytic materials, industrial process and new material synthesis and characterisation techniques and/or materials science research.
- Strong knowledge and experience in industrial process and experimental materials chemistry or advanced materials would be beneficial.

Skills, Knowledge and Attributes

- Practical experience in new materials and innovative technology development. The ability and commitment to achieve effective result and work towards or exceed agreed goals.