

Postdoctoral Fellow—Biological Methane Capture with Startup Leadership Opportunity
Swanson and Lidstrom Laboratories (Utah+ UW)
Seattle, WA and Salt Lake City, Utah USA

About the role

We are recruiting a **two-year, co-mentored postdoctoral fellow** to accelerate **direct methane capture** by pairing rigorous science with real-world translation. The position is jointly led by **Jessica Swanson (University of Utah)** with training and co-mentoring from **Mary Lidstrom (University of Washington)**. This position is designed for scientists who want to both advance the frontiers of methane capture research and help launch a climate-tech startup—potentially stepping into a CTO role.

What you'll do

- **Optimize** methanotrophic strains and growth conditions across a range of CH₄ regimes.
- **Engineer and test** the **biotic/abiotic interface**; identify parameters that maximize conversion efficiency.
- **Engage** with engineering teams to test and operate **bench/pilot bioreactors**; analyze performance data to guide scale-up.
- **Support field deployments**, collaborating with technical and business partners to position the technology for **real-world use** and **early investment**.
- **Document, publish, and communicate** results to scientific and non-technical audiences.

What you bring

- **PhD** in biomolecular sciences, microbiology, bioengineering, chemical engineering, or related field.
- **Experimental strength** in microbial physiology, bioprocess/bioreactor work, or related methods (omics, kinetics, controls, or materials).
- **Curiosity for tech translation**—comfortable iterating in the lab and troubleshooting in the field.
- **Collaborative mindset** and **clear scientific communication**.
- **Nice to have:** Experience **with gas-fermentation systems, methanotrophs, or materials/interfaces**.

Logistics & training

- **Two years total: Year 1 in Seattle (UW); Year 2 in Salt Lake City (Utah).**
- Access to **cross-institutional facilities, mentorship** in scale-up and market readiness, and **opportunities** to engage with deployment partners.

To apply, please contact Professor Swanson at j.swanson_at_utah.edu, and include:

- **Resume**
- **Statement of career goals**
- **Names and contact information for two references**

More information is available [here](#).