Postdoctoral Researcher in Organic Matter Dynamics and Biogeochemistry

DESCRIPTION: The Department of Environmental Science and Technology at the University of Maryland seeks candidates for an 18-month postdoctoral research associate position in organic matter dynamics and biogeochemistry.

POSITION SUMMARY: The successful candidate will lead a project investigating the efficacy of composting animal manure in a commercial composting facility located in Maryland, with two specific objectives: (1) understand how composting processes affect physical and chemical properties of the finished products and (2) investigate how the land application of various compost products affects the organic matter dynamics and biogeochemistry in Maryland soils. Additional opportunities to conduct research related to organic matter dynamics and carbon sequestration in soils are available and encouraged. The selected candidate will have access to the newly established Isotope Biogeochemistry laboratory of Dr. Gurpal Toor, which includes various instruments such as Thermo–Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry, Shimadzu TOC/TN analyzer, Lachat QuickChem 8500 FIA, and others.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION: A Ph.D. in soil science, agronomy, earth science, geochemistry, or a related field with an emphasis on investigating organic matter and/or carbon in agricultural soils. The successful candidate must have completed a Ph.D. within the last 5 years. Candidates possessing education, training, publications, and skill in theory and application of isotopes of carbon and spectroscopic techniques such as FT-ICR-MS will be preferred.

APPLICATION: Please send a cover letter outlining your interest and qualification and current resume to Dr. Gary Felton (gfelton@umd.edu). Position is available immediately and will remain open till a suitable candidate is identified. For best consideration, applications should be received by December 15, 2018.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION: The Department of Environmental Science and Technology has 26 faculty with expertise in soil science, ecology, and ecological engineering. The departmental faculty are nationally and internationally recognized for their work on agricultural and environmental issues. The faculty in the department are strategically spread across four cross-disciplinary themes, including soil and watershed science, wetland science, ecological technology design, and ecosystem health and natural resources management. For additional information, see www.enst.umd.edu

CAMPUS/COLLEGE INFORMATION: Founded in 1856, University of Maryland, College Park is the flagship institution in the University System of Maryland. Our 1,250-acre College Park campus is just minutes away from Washington, D.C., and the nexus of the nation’s legislative, executive, and judicial centers of power. This unique proximity to business and technology leaders, federal departments and agencies, and a myriad of research entities, embassies, think tanks, cultural centers, and non-profit organizations is unparalleled. Synergistic opportunities abound and are virtually limitless. The University has a diverse community of 39,000 students, 9,000 faculty and staff, and 352,000 alumni; all dedicated to the pursuit of Fearless Ideas. Our faculty includes 3 Nobel laureates, 2 Pulitzer Prize winners, 3 Emmy winners, and 2 Tony winners. The University is committed to attracting and retaining outstanding and diverse faculty and staff that will enhance our stature of preeminence in our three missions of teaching, scholarship, and full engagement in our community, the state of Maryland, and in the world. In addition to the renowned research enterprise and programs in academics, arts, and athletics, the university is committed to social entrepreneurship as the nation's first “Do Good” campus. For additional information, see the website at www.umd.edu