



Newsletter 1

Spring 2015

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Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for the Low Carbon, Energy and Environment (NRN-LCEE).

The aims of the NRN-LCEE are ambitious:

- To support and promote excellent, internationally competitive science in Wales.
- To foster increased and novel collaboration between researchers in Wales.
- To establish a new basis for a sustainable increase in research funding to Wales.
- To encourage researchers with excellent track records to establish themselves in Wales.

Most notably we have established 8 Research Clusters to spearhead research into the following four main themes for the Network:

1. [Sustainable intensification](#)
2. [Low carbon energy pathways](#)
3. [Developing the bio economy – social, economic and technological modelling](#)
4. [Impacts and mitigation of climate change and human activity](#)

Our clusters cover a diverse range of topics including marine renewables, fish aquaculture, carbon capture in abandoned Welsh mines, coastal resilience, the interactions between plants and architecture, multifunctional land use and sustainable agriculture. Further information about the clusters can be found within this newsletter and on our [website](#).

The NRN-LCEE will also be running events, lectures and other activities to further promote and support the exciting research being undertaken in Wales.

We look forward to sharing news about our activities through our quarterly newsletters.

Prof. David Thomas (d.thomas@bangor.ac.uk)

Director of the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon, Energy and Environment

News:

NRN-LCEE Research Cluster Showcase, Cardiff - 26 March

The first five awarded research Clusters were presented to a wider audience at a successful showcase event in Cardiff on 26 March. The Clusters presented their ambitious plans for the next four years. Dr. Patricia Thornley, Director of the SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub, gave the keynote lecture and Prof. Julie Williams, Chief Scientific Advisor for Wales, spoke about the Sêr Cymru programme and wider significance of the Network. [Click here](#) to read more and see the presentations.



Research and Development Fund Launched

We launched our Research and Development Fund on 1 April. Funding is available for a variety of initiatives to support new research developments and/or to expand opportunities for knowledge transfer, as well as engagement with stakeholders and industry initiatives. The deadline for the first Call is 1 June. [Click here](#) to read more.



Science Festival - 14 March

The NRN-LCEE supported the Bangor University Science festival which encourages children to develop an interest and understanding of Science. [Click here](#) to read more.



Public Lecture Series

We launched our public lecture series in February; Caroline Drummond MBE, Chief Executive, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) gave the inaugural lecture '[Breaking Down the Barriers to Deliver Real Change to our Farming and Food Systems](#)' at IBERS, Aberystwyth University. The second lecture in the series was '[What does 160 years of energy use tell us about sustained development?](#)' by Dr. Andrew Jarvis, Lancaster Environment Centre, hosted by Bangor University. Both insightful lectures were well attended and you can watch them [here](#). The next lecture will be by Prof. Sue Hartley in Cardiff on 9 June - [Sustainable and Resilient Food Production](#).

Would you like to stay informed of our activities? [Please sign up to our newsletter](#).



Upcoming Events:

9 June - Public

Lecture: [Sustainable and resilient food production](#) by Prof. Sue Hartley

22 July: '[Soil – Ask the Experts](#)' at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show

Funding Opportunities:

[NRN-LCEE Research Development Fund](#)
Deadline: 1 June 15

Our Clusters:



[AquaWales](#)



[Cleaner Cows](#)



[Climate-smart Grass](#)



[Geo Carb Cymru](#)



[Multi-Land](#)



[Plants & Architecture](#)



[Quotient](#)



[Resilcoast](#)