



Newsletter 2 September 2015

Newsletter 2

Welcome

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

We have achieved much over the last few months, and all of the 8 Research Clusters we are funding are now up and running. In this newsletter we present a short report on the first few months of one of our first Clusters, AquaWales. In future editions of the newsletter we will highlight the work of the other Clusters and their progress.

We have made the first awards from our Research Development Fund, and a second round of applications has been received. We have also had a call for Returning Fellows which closed recently, and we hope to announce some successful candidates soon. Other notable activities since the April newsletter include another well attended public lecture, our Soil Matters Expert Panel at the Royal Welsh Show, and our contribution to the Royal Society of Chemistry-sponsored Science and the Assembly at the Senedd.

In August we had the first NRN-LCEE Annual Meeting.

55 Principle investigators, Sêr Cymru Fellows and PhD students and other project partners came together for 3 days, to present their work and discuss their plans for the next year with the Strategic Advisory Group. The meeting was a great example of one of the Networks' primary ambitions: bringing together some of the best researchers in Wales in a truly cross-disciplinary forum to create new opportunities for collaboration and new research ideas.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and through it learn more about our research and activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Thomas'.

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

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

Introducing our Clusters:

AquaWales

AquaWales' overarching theme is 'Minimising the Impacts of Intensive Aquaculture in the face of Climate Change'. The Cluster addresses the three main challenges for sustainable aquaculture: 1) reducing its ecological footprint, 2) reducing the risk of disease transmission, and 3) controlling the inadvertent introduction of invasive species.



The team, led by Dr. Sonia Consuegra at Swansea University, simultaneously considers the roles of genetic and non-genetic effects on fish domestication and their response to crowding. They will develop innovative methods for the early detection and management of invasive species in aquaculture and fisheries. [Learn more...](#)

News:

Successful Awards in the First Round of the Research Development Fund

In July three awards were made to the first round of our Research Development Fund (RDF). They are:

- Dr. Simon Neill (Bangor University) for a Tidal Lagoon Research workshop, in collaboration with Prof. Dominic Reeve (Swansea University) and Dr. Reza Ahmadian (Cardiff University).
- Prof. Dave Chadwick (Bangor University) for a Demonstration & Discussion workshop on Sensors for Improving Sustainable Land Use in Wales, in collaboration with Prof. Jamie Newbold (Aberystwyth University), Prof. Rory Wilson (Swansea University) and Prof. Bridget Emmett (CEH Bangor).
- Dr. Enrico Andreoli (Swansea University) for a one-day symposium on CO2 Sequestration and Low Carbon Strategies for the Production of Fuels and Chemicals, in collaboration with Dr. Sankar Meenakshisundaram (Cardiff University) and Dr. Gordon Allison (Aberystwyth University).

The second round of the RDF closed on 1 September and the third round will open on 1 October. Please [click here](#) to find out more about how to apply.

Science and the Assembly, Cardiff

The NRN-LCEE contributed to the Royal Society of Chemistry-sponsored Energy and Environment-themed Science and the Assembly on 19 May. [Read more...](#)



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Soil Matters: NRN-LCEE Hosts Panel of Soil Scientists at the Royal Welsh Show

On 22 July, the NRN-LCEE was at the Royal Welsh Show, where we hosted a breakfast at which a panel of experts answered questions about soil from a general audience. [Read more...](#)



Upcoming Events:

[Venturefest](#),
29 September

[Jane Rickson Public Lecture, IBERS](#)
Aberystwyth University,
11 November.

Funding Opportunities:

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

Our Clusters:



[AquaWales](#)



[Cleaner Cows](#)



[Climate-smart Grass](#)



[Geo Carb Cymru](#)



[Multi-Land](#)

1st NRN-LCEE Summer Conference

Representatives from all of the 8 NRN-LCEE Research Clusters came together at our first Annual Summer Conference in Aberystwyth University. They presented their work and forged collaborations within and between the Clusters as well as informing the NRN-LCEE Strategic Advisory Group of their progress.



Over 3 days, 55 delegates from all 8 Clusters met with the NRN-LCEE Strategic Advisory Group and the other Clusters. For many newly appointed Sêr Cymru Fellows and PhD students this was the first opportunity to meet with their partners at the other institutions, and it was an excellent opportunity for project meetings and discussions. [Read more...](#)

Public Lecture Series

On 9 June at the Sustainable Places Research Institute at Cardiff University, Prof. Sue Hartley, Director of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute at the University of York, gave a public lecture on the global challenges for sustainable food production. Prof. Hartley took the audience on a lively journey through the history of food production, and different scenarios to cope with the current challenges faced by food production for a growing population in a changing climate.



Our [next lecture](#) is by Prof. Jane Rickson, from Cranfield University, at IBERS in Aberystwyth on 11 November.

Recordings of all our lectures are available through our [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel.

Our Clusters:



[Plants & Architecture](#)



[Quotient](#)



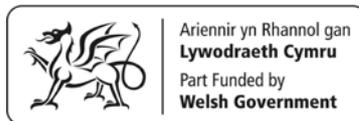
[Resilcoast](#)

Our Thematic Research Areas:

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](#)



LOW CARBON, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
RESEARCH NETWORK WALES RHWYDWAITH YMCHWIL
CARBON ISEL, YNNI A'R AMGYLCHEDD CYMRU



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