



Newsletter 3 January 2016

Newsletter 3

Welcome

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

All eight of our Research Clusters have now completed their recruitment process: We have attracted an excellent team of Fellows and PhD students (many from outside of the UK), and it is exciting to see how quickly the teams have established and are already delivering a new momentum to research in Wales.

We have also awarded two Fellows through our Returning Fellowship scheme. A second call for applications closed on 17 December and we hope to announce another cohort of Returning Fellows soon.

In the last newsletter, we gave a short report on the progress of the AquaWales Cluster. This time we are introducing one of the Fellows from that Cluster: Dr. Amy Ellison who has joined AquaWales from Cornell University, USA. She explains her work as an NRN-LCEE Fellow below. In future newsletters we will introduce other Fellows and naturally the work being undertaken by the other Clusters.

Since our last newsletter, in addition to the research activities, the NRN-LCEE has organised several events to facilitate new research connections and support research in Wales: PIs from our Quotient and Plants & Architecture Clusters visited the European Commission in Brussels to both showcase their work and gain insight into how to secure European Union funding. We hosted well-attended public lectures at IBERS, Aberystwyth University and Swansea University, and the first Sêr Cymru Crucible – a training event organised jointly with Welsh Crucible for all NRN-LCEE Cluster Fellows and students.

Hopefully this newsletter gives you a brief insight into the activities of the NRN-LCEE, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

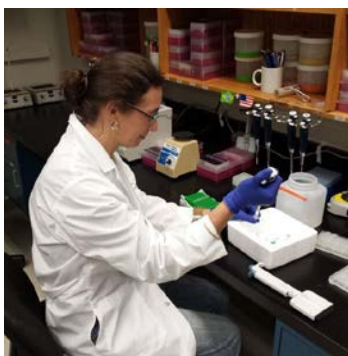
Prof. David Thomas (d.thomas@bangor.ac.uk)

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

Introducing our Fellows:

Dr. Amy Ellison, Sêr Cymru Fellow, AquaWales, Cardiff University

Dr. Amy Ellison is a Sêr Cymru Fellow at Cardiff University, as part of the AquaWales Research Cluster. Her main role on the AquaWales project is to investigate the effects of intensive aquaculture on producing stress in fish, particularly at high stocking densities. The work involves studying the transmission of disease and the immune responses of fish to pathogens. [Read more about her experience...](#)



Upcoming Events:

[Next Public Lecture: Prof. Tiina Roose, University of Southampton. "What maths can tell us about plant growth and soil fertility"](#)

12 January, 17:30,
Gareth-Edwards Jones
Lecture Theatre, Thoday
Building, Bangor
University.

[Building New Bridges for Low Carbon Energy](#)

(RDF-funded
symposium)
4 February 2016, Energy
Safety Research
Institute, Swansea
University Bay Campus

[Resilience Workshop](#),
18 May, Cardiff

News:

NRN-LCEE Researchers visit the European Commission in Brussels

From 2 to 4 November 2015, PIs from the NRN-LCEE Plants & Architecture and Quotient Research Clusters visited Brussels, to discuss recently announced and future European Union funding opportunities for low carbon, energy research and the bio-economy in Wales. A series of meetings was organised with the Welsh Higher Education in Brussels Office (WHEB), for the PIs together with members of the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation, policy officers, associations and Brussels representatives of key organisations pertinent for their respective research areas. [Read More...](#)

Welsh Crucible

NRN-LCEE Fellows and students attended the first NRN-LCEE 'Sêr Cymru Crucible' in Deganwy, North Wales from 15 to 17 December. This was a training event organised jointly by the NRN-LCEE and the award winning Welsh Crucible programme. [Read more...](#)



Research Development Fund

The 4th call for the NRN-LCEE Research Development Fund is now open for applications (deadline 1 March). For more information [visit our website...](#)

Returning Fellowships

Two Returning Fellows were funded. They are:

- **Dr. Jessica Adams** (Aberystwyth University), for her work on novel separation technologies to extract high-value compounds with health benefits from macroalgae.
- **Dr. Elaine Jensen** (Aberystwyth University), for her work on the suitability of energy crops Miscanthus and Phalaris in remediation of contaminated mining sites, whilst providing renewable energy without displacing food production

Funding Opportunities:

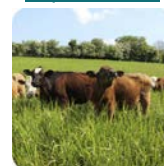
[NRN-LCEE Research Development Fund](#)

Deadline: 1 March 16

Our Clusters:



[AquaWales](#)



[Cleaner Cows](#)

Public Lecture Series

On 11 November, over 65 people attended the Edward Llwyd lecture theatre at Aberystwyth University to hear Prof Jane Rickson, from Cranfield University, discuss the importance of soil for agriculture, conservation and society. The lecture was organised by the NRN-LCEE as part of the International Year of Soils 2015, in collaboration with the Institute for Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS). [Read more....](#)

On a very wet evening in Swansea on 2 December, Dr Vicky Pope, from the UK MetOffice, took an audience of students, academics and members of the public on a journey through the history of our climate, how we measure it and the impacts of climate change. [Read more....](#)

Our next lecture will be by Prof. Tiina Roose from the University of Southampton. She will speak on the varied and complex ways in which plants and soil interact using modelling approaches, [at Bangor University on 12 January](#). As with previous events, this lecture will be recorded and available [on our website afterwards](#).

The NRN-Office has moved

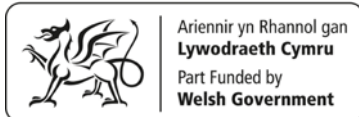
From 11 December, the NRN-LCEE office (David Thomas, Serinde van Wijk and Jenny Dickinson) will be based in the new Marine Centre Wales in Menai Bridge. Our new office address is:

Marine Centre Wales
School of Ocean Sciences
Bangor University
Menai Bridge
Anglesey LL59 5AB

Our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.



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



Ariennir yn Rhannol gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Part Funded by
Welsh Government

Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

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Our Clusters:



[Climate-smart Grass](#)



[Geo Carb Cymru](#)



[Multi-Land](#)



[Plants & Architecture](#)



[Quotient](#)



[Resilcoast](#)