



Newsletter 5 June 2016

Newsletter 5

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon, Energy and Environment (NRN-LCEE), where we share some of the recent activities of the Network. These include three new awards through our Research Development Fund, two public lectures, a visit to the UK MetOffice by several of our Clusters, and a workshop exploring the concept of 'Resilience' in Cardiff – the first NRN-LCEE event organised in partnership with the Royal Society of Biology. You can read more on these and other activities below.

You will find a short report from one of our Returning Fellows, Dr Emma Hayhurst from the University of South Wales, who tells about her project and what effect the Returning Fellowship has had on her research career so far.

We are also pleased to announce some events and opportunities coming up, of which you can find more details in this newsletter. These include a symposium on nature-based solutions for a low carbon Wales, 'Low Carbon Cymru', which the NRN-LCEE is organising in partnership with Cynnal Cymru: Sustain Wales. There are two grant-writing workshops and several events organised with funding from our Research Development Fund. This Fund is available for a range of activities and open for applications through a continuous call until March 2017. You can find more details through the link below.

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

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:

(Reports on other NRN-LCEE Fellows will be included in future newsletters)

Dr Emma Hayhurst is a Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology at the University of South Wales, whose research focuses on dispersal prevention of antibiotic resistance genes by sludge fertiliser, through different methods of anaerobic digestion. Emma was recently awarded an NRN-LCEE Returning Fellowship grant. [Click here to read about how this has changed her professional life](#) and helped her to gain confidence in her abilities as a researcher.

Details on the projects of all six of our Returning Fellows are available on [our website](#).

News

NRN-LCEE RSB Exploring Resilience Workshop

Over 90 people were at the SSE Swalec stadium in Cardiff on 18 May, to learn about resilience from a highly multidisciplinary view of this broad and topical theme.

The workshop was the first NRN-LCEE event organised in partnership with the [Royal Society of Biology](#), and included 11 speakers that provided diverse and thought-provoking perspectives on different wide-ranging aspects of resilience. [Read more...](#)



Dr. Dave Abson (Leuphana University, Germany) spoke about sustainable intensification and agro-ecological resilience.

NRN-LCEE visit to the UK MetOffice

On 5 May, Fellows and PIs from the Climate-Smart Grass, Multi-Land, Plants & Architecture, Quotient and Resilcoast Clusters visited the UK MetOffice in Exeter. The group met with representatives from different MetOffice departments, including Dr. Adrian Hines (MetOffice representative on the NRN-LCEE Scientific Advisory Group), Dr Giorgia Fosser (high-resolution climate projections), and Dr Pete Falloon and Dr Debbie Hemming (climate impacts). Clusters were paired with these experts in a series of meetings, which provided the opportunity to develop ideas for future collaborative work. The NRN-LCEE will be providing bursaries for some of the Fellows to spend more time at the MetOffice to develop these initial ideas further. The first of such bursaries has recently been awarded to Dr Matt Lewis, Quotient Fellow at Bangor University.



(Photo: Simon Neill)

Upcoming Events:

[RDF-funded workshop](#)
'Sensors for Improving Sustainable Land Use in Wales'

29 June, Bangor University

[RDF-funded workshop](#)
Proposal Writing for Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships

4-5 July, Bangor University

[Low Carbon Cymru](#)
Symposium on Nature-based Solutions for a Low Carbon Wales.

6 July, Principality Stadium, Cardiff

[RDF-funded symposium](#)
Future Energy Systems: from 'Smart Grids to Smart Living'

7 July, Principality Stadium, Cardiff

['Extreme Weather Events – a concern for farming?'](#)

Panel discussion

20 July, Royal Welsh Showground

[ERC Grant writing workshop](#)
6 September, Reichel Hall, Bangor University

[Public Lecture](#)
[Dr. Deborah Hemming, UK MetOffice](#)
27 September, Bangor University

Research Development Fund

In May, Dr Simon Neill (Bangor University) hosted a 2-day tidal lagoon research workshop in the new Marine Centre Wales in Menai Bridge that was funded through the NRN-LCEE Research Development Fund (RDF). The event was attended by 50 people, including 30 academics from institutions across the UK, representatives from industry and third sector and environmental managers. [Read more...](#)

The next RDF-funded event will be a workshop on '[Sensors for Improving Sustainable Land Use in Wales](#)' on 29 June at Bangor University.

We are pleased to announce the award of three more RDF proposals. They are:

- **Proposal Writing Workshops for Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships**
Dr. Anne Howells (Aberystwyth University) together with Bangor and Cardiff Universities.
2 Workshops to be held 4-5 July (Cardiff), and 9-10 August (Bangor).
- **[Symposium on Future Energy Systems: from 'Smart Grids to Smart Living'](#)**
Prof. Phil Jones (Cardiff University), Prof. Alan Guwy (University of South Wales), Dr. Ian Masters, Prof Stuart Irvine (Swansea University), Prof. Phil Bowen (Cardiff University) and Prof. Iain Donnison (Aberystwyth University).
7 July, Principality Stadium, Cardiff.
- **IIGLOOS: Interactions at the interface of glaciology, oceanography and sea ice**
Dr. Yueng-Djern Lenn (Bangor University), Prof. Adrian Luckman (Swansea University), Dr. Tom Holt (Aberystwyth University) and Dr. Ed Blockley (UK MetOffice).
Summer 2016 (date TBC), Marine Centre Wales, Bangor University.

Further details on these awards can be found on the [RDF website](#).

Public Lecture Series

On 20 April, Dr Mark Wilkinson, from the University of Edinburgh, gave a public lecture at Cardiff University, hosted by the Geoenvironmental Research Centre. The lecture provided insights into the challenges society faces to meet CO₂ emission reduction targets, and the role carbon capture and storage can play in meeting these targets and combatting climate change.

On 1 June, Prof Rosie Hails, Director of Biodiversity & Ecosystem Science at the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Wallingford, spoke at Cardiff University in a lecture hosted by the newly established [Water Research Institute](#). Prof Hails provided a comprehensive overview of the concept of 'natural capital' and how this can be used to manage and preserve the UK's natural resources.

As for previous events, these lectures have been recorded and are available on [our website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

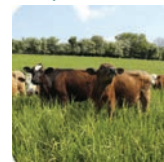
Our next lecture will be by Dr Deborah Hemming, Scientific Manager at the MetOffice Hadley Centre, on 27 September at Bangor University.

All our lectures are free to attend and open to the general public.

Our Clusters:



[AquaWales](#)



[Cleaner Cows](#)



[Climate-smart Grass](#)



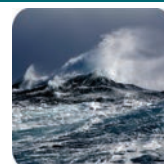
[Geo Carb Cymru](#)



[Multi-Land](#)



[Plants & Architecture](#)



[Quotient](#)



[Resilicoast](#)

Cluster Highlights – Public engagement and conference attendance

The NRN-LCEE actively encourages its Fellows and PhD students to attend and present at (international) conferences. [Click here to read more](#) from Dr Dimitra Loka, Climate-Smart Grass Fellow at Aberystwyth University, who presented at the 6th EUCARPIA *Festulolium* Working Group Workshop, held in April in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Plants and Architecture Citizen Science Pilot Launched

On 12 May the Plants and Architecture Cluster launched the ‘Environmental Crowdsensing Project’: A community engagement project, which engages and trains community partners to measure the impact of urban green spaces, and identifies potential for future urban greening initiatives, in partnership with several other organisations. [Read more...](#)

Resilcoast at the Urdd National Eisteddfod

In May, Bangor University PhD students Mollie Duggan-Edwards (RESILCOAST) and Cai Ladd took a break from their saltmarsh research to teach children about sea creatures at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Flint. [Read more...](#)



Mollie and Cai with “Mr. Urdd”, the Eisteddfod’s mascot.

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 activities](#)

Funding Opportunities:

[NRN-LCEE Research Development Fund](#)
Open call until March 2017



Low Carbon
Cymru



Nature-Based Solutions for a Low Carbon Wales

6 July 2016, Principality Stadium, Cardiff



Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

hefcw



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