

Off-Grid and Renewable Transitions in Energy Livelihoods, Durham
University, March 24th 2015.

The LCEDN: The First Three Years



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Overall Aims and Objectives

- To act as **a hub** to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from across the UK with interests in low carbon energy and international development.
- To actively promote **innovative** new forms of knowledge, develop new methodologies to enhance **transdisciplinary** working and to enhance research excellence in this field (with particular focus on PG community).
- To build a strong trans-disciplinary research **community** around these issues in the UK.
- To more fully **connect** the UK academic community into the global and regional networks working on these issues.
- To act as **a repository and conduit** for knowledge about these issues in the UK and make it more accessible (within and beyond academia)

Origins

- Around 2010/2011: growing international interest in energy access, climate change, low carbon technologies etc.
- RCUK, DFID and DECC identified low carbon transitions and international development as a critical area for developing UK research capacity. 2 main drivers.
 - Rapidly increasing volumes of finance the UK government (+ globally) are making available for the low carbon transition and enhancing energy access in developing countries.
 - Acknowledgement of significant UK academic expertise in energy research but suggestion that this had yet to engage substantially with questions of development.

Origins

- The 2010 review of the RCUK Energy Programme had highlighted this issue as a significant weakness of UK research – specifically that *'energy technologies and development' was an area of weak performance and high interest.*
- At the same time it was also clear that there was a lack of connection between energy and development research communities in the UK.

Alongside this, a group of us had already independently recognized the need to establish a stronger trans-disciplinary research community. UKERC Event in May 2010.



Responses

- In **May and July 2011**, meetings held to bring together UK academic and policy communities working in this field.
- Gave rise to the idea of the formation of a **National UK Network** to try and take forward some coordinated activities
- **LCEDN launched January 2012** funded by DECC for 15 months – managed by Loughborough (for the MEC) and Durham in partnership with Imperial, SPRU and UKERC.

Responses

- Through our **Management Committee** and other routes we have liaised closely with DFID, DECC, UKCDS, the UK Private Sector (via the Energy KTN) and the UK NGO sector (through Practical Action, Ashden and others on behalf of BOND)
- No specific funding for LCEDN since Spring 2013
- But continuing activity (some funded, some not).
- Unsuccessful EPSRC bid last summer
- Continuing to look at ways of funding the wider network activities.

What have we been doing?

1. Established a **searchable directory of UK research expertise** (around 200 individuals now listed)
 1. Developed the **LCEDN website** as an innovative web space for the development of this research community (community blogs, 'hot off the press,' events, funding calls, news etc.)
- + Sign up on the site for email updates or all updates are tweeted and added to the facebook site automatically.

Recent Comments

Live Feed for Tomorrow's Bioenergy Event | LCEDN on Bioenergy: An engine for economic growth in the Global South?

Exciting New LCEDN/Bioenergy SUPERGEN hub/JKCDs Workshop on Bioenergy – January 28th 2015 | LCEDN on Bioenergy: An engine for economic growth in the Global South?



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LCEDN Day Conference: Off-Grid and Renewable Transitions in Energy Livelihoods (Durham, March 23rd and 24th) | LCEDN

BY LCEDNADMIN · ON FEBRUARY 26, 2015 · IN COMMUNITY > BLOG · WITH 0 COMMENTS

The Eventbrite page for our forthcoming Day Conference on Off-grid and renewable transitions in energy livelihoods is now up and running. Please come and join us in Durham (March 23rd and 24th) Further details and Provisional Programme available at: [Continue Reading](#) →

Live Feed for Tomorrow's Bioenergy Event

BY LCEDNADMIN · ON JANUARY 27, 2015 · IN COMMUNITY > BLOG · WITH 0 COMMENTS

We are delighted to announce that there will be a live feed from our event at the Wellcome Trust tomorrow. Follow this link to join us: <http://www.supergen-bioenergy.net/news-and-events/supergen-hub-assembly>

[Continue Reading](#) →



Dr. Jeremy Woods
Imperial College London

Jeremy Woods on the SCOPE Bioenergy and Sustainability Initiative

BY LCEDNADMIN · ON JANUARY 16, 2015 · IN COMMUNITY > BLOG · WITH 0 COMMENTS

Jeremy Woods of Imperial College talks about the SCOPE Bioenergy and Sustainability Initiative which he has been involved in over the past couple of

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Source: [Green Economy in the South. Negotiating Environmental Governance, Prosperity and Development – and International Conference](#) | Published on 2015-03-18

Post (Blog): [Why we should argue about agronomy](#)

What have we been doing?

3. **'State of the field'** reviews of the existing evidence base + current UK energy/development research.
Data Visualization Section of the website
4. **'Rapid evidence reviews'** of specific technologies, particular regions or emerging themes where there is a current policy and research need.
Were able to do this as part of the initial wave (network consultation process)
5. Stimulation of new **postgraduate/training programmes** and involvement of the postgraduate community
Again we drew in specific resources for this in the first phase

What have we been doing?

6. Running **workshops, conferences and seminar series** to drive the network's development and facilitate real interaction with researchers and other actors from the Global South and other communities working on these issues in the UK and beyond

Loughborough (April 2012) – ***'Low Carbon Energy for Development: Past Experiences & Future Challenges'***

Sussex (September 2012) – ***'Transitions to Low Carbon Energy Systems: Which Pathways to Energy Access for All?'***

Imperial (June 2013) – ***'Private Sector Roles in Low Carbon Energy Solutions to the Climate Challenge'***


Events archive on the Website

The Low Carbon Energy for Development Network (LCEDN)

http://www.lcedn.com/ Google


Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (130) Popular

technologies, but about making sure that the skills and capabilities are available locally according to the Sussex Energy Group's Rob Byrne.



04:51 vimeo

Dinesh Bhujju from the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology explains that work is already well underway in Nepal to register climate change vulnerabilities and develop adaptation policies.



Mu Wamduur Kamman (Chief Engineer, LGED, Bangladesh) - [Low Carbon Energy for Development: an initiative by LGED, Bangladesh.](#)

Dinesh Bhujju (Nepal Academy of Science and Technology) - [Nepal's Climate Change Scenario and Efforts to Promote Low Carbon Energy.](#)

Eli J. Bala (Director, Renewable Energy, Energy Commission of Nigeria) - [Combating Climate Change in Nigeria with Renewable Energy Sources.](#)

Rob Byrne and **David Ockwell** (Sussex Energy Group, Science and Technology Policy Research, University of Sussex) - [Pro-poor pathways to low carbon energy access in LDCs: Informing emerging policy via insights from innovation studies and socio-technical transitions theory.](#)

Ivan Azurdia Bravo (Rijatzul Q'ij (Semilla de Sol), Guatemala) - [Adaptative Resilience & Technological Syncretism.](#)

Discussion Session Two: Meeting the UN 2030 Targets: The Role of Low Carbon Technologies

Speaker Session Five: The Role of New Technologies in Meeting the Low-Carbon Challenge
(Chair: Richard Blanchard, Loughborough University)

Speakers

Michael Walls (School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering, Loughborough University) - [Photovoltaic Research & Development in the UK.](#)

Gavin Walker (Faculty of Engineering, University of Nottingham) - [BioCPV - bringing a renewable energy system to a village in India.](#)

Graham Ault (Institute for Energy and Environment, University of Strathclyde) - [Integrating Renewable Energy into Power Networks: smart grid, micro-grid or off-grid?](#)

Speaker Session Six: Demand Management, Energy Efficiency and the Low Carbon Transition
(Chair: Rosie Day, University of Birmingham)

Speakers

Ijaz Hossain (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) - [Energy efficiency potential in Bangladesh.](#)

Monjur Mourshed (School of Civil and Building Engineering, Loughborough University) - [Managing energy demand from buildings: Profile, energy efficiency and the effect of climate.](#)

Rinoy K Choudhary (Indian Institute of Social Welfare and

What have we been doing?

7 . ‘**Exploring/Promoting research funding**’ – we have been liaising with colleagues in DECC, DFiD and RCUK over how to promote joined-up research funding in this area.

E.g. establishing the case for the Understanding Sustainable Energy Solutions Programme and now networking the funded projects (EPSRC funded)

Exploring new calls (e.g. event with DFiD on new Bioenergy research programme)

Regular interactions with DFiD, Newton Fund, ICF etc.

Significant support and advice from UKCDS

Individual USES Projects



MECON

Effective energy efficiency policy implementation targeting "new Modern Energy CONsumers" in the Greater Mekong Sub-region



AGRICEN

Agro-industries and clean energy in Africa



Energy from Rice Straw

Energy from Rice Straw



Green Growth Diagnostics for Africa

Green Growth Diagnostics for Africa



SONG

Solar Nano-Grids (SONG): An appropriate solution for meeting community energy needs?



RE4FOOD

Energy Efficient Rural Food Processing Utilising Renewable Energy to Improve Rural Livelihoods



BARRIERS

Understanding the barriers to the introduction and uptake of clean/improved cookstoves in Southern Africa



Energy and Low Income Tropical Housing

Energy and Low Income Housing



READ

Energy Literacy for Decentralised Governance



STEPS

Sustainable Thermal Energy Service Partnerships



SAMSET

Supporting Sub-Saharan Africa's Municipalities with Sustainable Energy Transitions



ESCO Box

Smart monitoring, billing and control for pro-poor access to energy services

Recent Collaborative Events

- No funds for our own events since 2013 (except for e.g. USES Annual Workshop)
- Response? Looked for Collaborations
- Fantastic Support from UKCDS/Wellcome Trust
- September 2014 (joint event with DECC, UKCDS and the Energy Trust) – **‘Clean Energy Innovation in the Developing World’ (focused on SMEs)**
- January 2015 (joint event with Bioenergy SUPERGEN, UKCDS and DFID) – **‘Bioenergy: An Engine for Economic Growth in the Global South’**

Planned LCEDN Activities

- Continued **USES Network Activity** (plus exploring potential for more connected approach)
- Talking to Social Housing Foundation about an event on **Urban Energy** Issues
- Talking to Wind Empowerment about an event on **small-scale wind** (working with KTN on mapping activity in this area, HEIF-funded)
- Still exploring potential funding for funding of **broader network activities**
- Ideas Please (e.g. energy efficiency)!

Key Themes for Today

- The day's theme: Energy and Livelihoods
- Finding out what others are doing (lots of opportunities for hearing about a whole range of innovative projects)
- Scoping the Current Scenario: Key themes emerging
- Scoping the Current Scenario: Funding for energy/development Research: current and forthcoming calls and funding mechanisms
- Future Directions: What should/could the LCEDN be doing?