

**“Energy, environment and us:
Circular economy and the role of citizens”**

**1st Energy & Environment Clustering Event
23-24 September 2019**

Hosted by Durham University

Ken Wade Lecture Theatre
Calman Learning Centre, Science Site
South Road
Durham, DH1 3LE, United Kingdom
#EUAenergy @DEI_Durham

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

The transition towards a carbon-neutral society or, preferably, towards a carbon-negative society requires the collective effort of all of us. It is now widely acknowledged that the Earth cannot sustain the pace at which its natural resources are being exploited and frequently converted into products that, even when they contribute to our well-being, are very difficult to reuse and recycle. At the bottom of the value chain for economical competitiveness and social prosperity lie the never-ending needs for affordable access to energy.

The targets set by the European Union (A Clean Planet for all, COM(2018) 773 final) and COP 21 (Paris Agreement, United Nations, 2015) regarding CO₂ emissions, energy saving and the use of renewable energies aim at speeding up a transition towards sustainability, and are directly related to the way we use natural resources to generate the energy that our societies need. University research and education have a key role to play in these endeavours, particularly in exploring new business models and citizen behaviours to achieve these goals. Collaboration between universities and businesses and with citizens is essential to ensure that the newly generated knowledge is put at the service of society.

In this context, what is the role of research, education and training? How can we find solutions for the social and technological challenges of the energy and climate transition? These are key questions which are going to be addressed at the 1st Energy & Environment Clustering Event, organised by the [EUA Energy & Environment Platform](#) (EUA-EPUE) and [Durham University](#).

EUA-EPUE connects universities across Europe to tackle the energy challenge through collaborative and interdisciplinary research, education and innovation to create a truly clean and sustainable energy system. As part of the [UNI-SET project](#) (2014-2017), the Platform developed two main documents: In 2016 a [Roadmap for European Universities in Energy](#) laid out a vision for a strategic agenda for universities and stakeholders in order to maximise their impact in the field of energy. In 2017 a strategic report [An Action Agenda for European Universities](#) provided a framework for universities across Europe to take initiative and develop interdisciplinary cooperation in the energy and environmental field. Early 2018 EUA-EPUE strategically broadened its perspective by integrating environmental aspects, to align with European and international targets towards sustainability.

Consequently, the Energy & Environment Clustering Events aim to support universities in addressing social and technological challenges of the energy transition and climate change. Building upon the “[Energy Clustering Events](#)”, this new series of events is addressed to university leadership, energy professionals and policy-makers active in higher education and research in the field of energy and environment.

The [1st Energy & Environment Clustering Event](#) will focus on the engagement of consumers and citizen communities and on the transition to a circular economy. It will provide a platform for university leaders to share experiences in i) educating and training the next generation of master’s graduates and doctorates, ii) building research capacity within universities and other higher education and research institutions, or iii) strengthening interdisciplinary cooperation between universities and citizen communities, policy-makers and industry/business.

MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2019

11.00-13.00 Registration

12.00-13.00 Welcome Lunch

13.00-13.15 Welcome Addresses

- Prof. Claire O’Malley, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Durham University
 - Dr. Lesley Wilson, EUA Secretary General
 - Dr Douglas Halliday, Chair of the EUA Energy and Environment Platform; Co-Director of the Durham University Energy Institute (DEI)
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13.15-14.05 Keynote Lecture “The global challenge: Interdisciplinary education and research, SDGs and circular economy”

Prof. Benjamin Sovacool, University of Sussex. Benjamin Sovacool is Professor of Energy Policy at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and Director of the Sussex Energy Group. He works as a researcher and consultant on issues pertaining to energy policy, energy security, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation. More specifically, his research focuses on renewable energy and energy efficiency, the politics of large-scale energy infrastructure, designing public policy to improve energy security and access to electricity, and building adaptive capacity to the consequences of climate change.

14.05-15.00 Plenary Session “New perspectives on university research, education and training towards energy and environment sustainability”

This plenary will introduce the EUA-EPUE Platform and conference specific objectives. The session will also include a presentation on new perspectives for university research and education, including the need for more interdisciplinary research and the development of new educational programmes.

- Prof. Linda Steg, University of Groningen, Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Environmental Psychology
- Dr Douglas Halliday, Chair of the EUA Energy and Environment Platform; Co-Director of the Durham University Energy Institute (DEI)

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 Parallel Sessions “How universities contribute to interdisciplinary education for circular economy”

This session aims at the sharing of experiences from institutional initiatives supporting and developing energy research and education activities relating to the integration of renewable technologies and solutions and resulting in significant steps towards the required energy and environmental transition.

Best practices from call for contributions:

- **Consumers and citizen communities in the energy transition and care for the environment**, with papers from Aalto University, De Montfort University, Durham University, KU Leuven, University College Cork, Universidad de Navarra, University of Freiburg, University of Oslo, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.
- **Circular economy for the energy transition and care for the environment**, with papers from AGH, European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance, European University at St Petersburg, National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Utrecht University, University of Vaasa.

17.00-17.30 Report on the outcomes of the parallel sessions

19.00-22.00 Dinner

TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

8.30-9.00	Registration
9.00-9.50	<p>Keynote Lecture “Informing consumers/citizens, motivating and facilitating behaviour change: how can universities play a role”</p> <p>Prof. Eric Brangier, Université de Lorraine, Ergonomics of Products and Services - Organizational Psychology. Eric Brangier is a specialist on anticipation of the future needs of the consumers, from the SSH community. His work is mainly methodological and focuses on applications linked to energy and mobility.</p> <p>Walter R. Stahel, Founder and Director of The Product-Life Institute. Walter Stahel is one of the key thinkers of the circular economy and the founding father of the Performance economy. The concept of circular economy dematerialises the industrial economy, with industry adopting the reuse and service-life extension of goods as a strategy of waste prevention, regional job creation and resource efficiency in order to decouple wealth from resource consumption. (video contribution)</p>
9.50-10.50	<p>World Café Method: “How to design consumer or community oriented research projects at universities” (in relation to energy/circular economy)</p> <p><i>The main objective of this session is to test ideas for the main topics addressed in Day 1. Participants will split into 5 to 6 small and informal working groups. The session is structured in two parts of 30 minutes each. Each group will have one moderator and one rapporteur. The moderators will invite the participants to brainstorm on selected questions.</i></p>
10.50-11.15	Coffee break
11.15-11.45	Report from the World Café groups
11.45-12.45	<p>Roundtable discussion “The role of consumers in the circular economy and energy transition”</p> <p><i>The objective of this session is to translate the discussions into concrete steps in supporting the role of consumers in changing their energy consumption behaviour. Different actors engaged in that endeavour will participate, including policy-makers, local authorities, university leaders, energy communities, industry.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wouter van Bolhuis, Energy programme coordinator, Municipality of Groningen, the Netherlands • Barbara Vest, Special Advisor at Energy UK; former Director of Generation at Energy UK • Prof. Johan Hustad, Trondheim Living Lab, Norway • N.N., European Commission (tbc) • Professor Ahmed Khan, Chair Sustainable Architecture and Urbanism, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium

12.45-13.00 Closing Remarks

- Dr Douglas Halliday, Chair of the EUA Energy and Environment Platform; Co-Director of the Durham University Energy Institute
- Dr. Lesley Wilson, EUA Secretary General
- Prof. Jon Gluyas, Executive Director of the Durham Energy Institute

Announcement of the [DEI Annual Research Symposium “Where Energy Meets People”](#) (10 Year Anniversary) on 25 September 2019

13.00-14.00 Farewell Lunch

14.00-17.00 Visit Durham energy and environment facilities
