



The Open  
University

**ESRC Workshop:  
Innovation systems for a low-carbon economy:  
The role for intermediaries and new innovation actors**

**Thursday 10th September 2015  
9.30am – 6pm**

**Open University in London, 1-11 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town, NW1 8NP**

This ESRC workshop, a collaboration between The Open University and The University of Southampton, adopts a multi-dimensional and multidisciplinary perspective to examine the ways to support the development of a low-carbon economy, in particular focusing on the design of innovation systems to support the development and diffusion of low-carbon innovation.

It is, now, widely acknowledged that the transition to a low-carbon economy is unlikely to occur unless radical changes take place on the policy and technology fronts in conjunction with substantial shifts in energy systems, organisational structures and corporate strategy. Yet, the presence of various market failures suggest many radical low-carbon innovations will not efficiently materialise unless there is a better coordination within the private sector, effective forms of public private partnership and support from an efficient environmental and innovation policy.

**SESSION 1: Innovation intermediaries**

**Professor Martin Kenney**, Community and Regional Development, University of California, Davis.

*The low slow return blues: Why the venture capitalists have difficulties with clean technology.*

**Dr Matthew Hannon**, RCUK Energy Strategy Fellowship, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College. *Facilitating and coordinating UK innovation through systemic innovation intermediaries.*

**Wisdom Kanda**, Environmental Technology and Management, Linköping University. *The roles of intermediaries in eco-innovation.*

**SESSION 2: City initiatives**

**Professor Douglas Crawford-Brown**, Director, Cambridge Centre for Climate Change Mitigation Research, University of Cambridge. *Social mobilisation of retrofits in Cambridge.*

**Professor Stephen Potter**, Department of Engineering and Innovation, The Open University

*The emerging network of incumbent, new and intermediary actors for smart city initiatives in Milton Keynes*, with Miguel Valdez, Matthew Cook and Pelle Langendahl.

**SESSION 3: Industry case studies**

**Martin Garratt**, Chief Executive, Cambridge Cleantech, Cambridge, UK. *Cambridge Cleantech – Developing a leading European cluster.*

**Neil Horsley**, Director, CleanTech Business, Nottingham.

**Ken Rumph**, Director, Industrial, IP and Cleantech Equity Research, Stifel.

**Tom Saunders**, Senior Researcher, International Innovation, NESTA.

This workshop aims to focus on the complexities of low-carbon innovations, paying special attention to the role of intermediaries that can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources across disciplinary, sectoral and institutional boundaries, including financiers, business associations and other member-based organisations that can help avoid innovation failure. It will focus the need for new actors and intermediaries in innovation systems to support low carbon and help bridge potential gaps between institutions such as universities, government and large firms that provide a core role in maintaining a stable and supportive environment for innovation. The workshop will address questions related to the topics below:

- How should policy be targeted to support the development of innovation systems and intermediary actors for the introduction and diffusion of low-carbon innovation?
- What types of funding and financing mechanisms are necessary to support innovation and commercialisation for low carbon and more sustainable forms of entrepreneurship?
- How does local context matter when attempting to stimulate entrepreneurship in low carbon and associated technologies?
- What role can Smart/Sustainable Cities and related initiatives play toward contributing to low-carbon innovation and how can they support an innovation systems approach?

### **Register to attend**

The event is free to attend but by reservation only. To reserve a place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovation-for-a-low-carbon-economy-a-role-for-intermediaries-and-new-innovation-actors-tickets-17823226751>

### **Food and refreshments**

Lunch will be provided on the day. If you have any special dietary requirements please contact us in advance.

### **Directions**

Please find directions to The Open University in London via:

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/contact//maps.aspx?contactid=1>