

International Eco-Cities Initiative

December 2013 — Season's Greetings

Welcome to the latest issue of the International Eco-Cities Initiative newsletter. The bulletin (published three times per year) provides information about our research, events and publications, and seeks to contribute to analysis and discourse on 'eco-cities' and sustainable urbanism of various kinds across the world.

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Leverhulme International Network: workshop reports

In summer 2013, a series of parallel workshops was hosted by our Leverhulme International Network in Daejeon (South Korea), Görlitz (Germany), London (UK), Shenzhen (China) and Vancouver (Canada). The workshop theme was: 'taking stock: current research, policy and practice in "eco-city" indicators, standards and frameworks'. The resulting reports provide comparative insights into the emergence of various eco-city frameworks within local, regional and national policy contexts; and they serve as input into our ongoing international research.

- [The reports are available here](#)

Research: global analysis of eco-city frameworks

As part of our Leverhulme International Network, our research team has compiled a list of eco-city frameworks used to guide innovation, assessment and certification relating to urban sustainability. So far we have identified 43 schemes globally, which we are in the process of systematically analysing and comparing. This includes analysing the conceptual and practical approaches to urban sustainability, and evaluating intended as well as actual governance functions. As this is an emerging and rapidly growing policy field, we are aware that we may not have captured all existing frameworks. We are, therefore, reaching out to all of our contacts with the invitation to review our current list of schemes and to let us know of relevant additional eco-city frameworks (of one kind or another). All contributions will be acknowledged in our final report.

- [The list of eco-city frameworks can be viewed here](#) (PDF)

Policy: smart cities

In the UK, as elsewhere, policy-makers are keen to promote 'smart city' policies in an effort to encourage national innovation and boost international competitiveness. Like 'eco-city', the concept of 'smart city' requires definition, even standardization, if it is to be of practical value to policy-makers, planners and developers. To this effect, the UK government commissioned the British Standards Institution (BSI) to define smart cities through a series of Publicly Available Specifications (PAS). Simon Joss was invited to contribute to this work by joining the Steering Group in charge of drafting and reviewing PAS 180. Here, he reflects on his involvement in this process.

- [Read the smart cities blog here](#)

Partner profile: Bernhard Müller—IOER, Germany

Professor Bernhard Müller joined the Leverhulme International Network in 2012. He is a leading research and policy expert in the fields of regional planning and geography. Bernhard Müller is Executive Director of the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Dresden, and holds the Chair of Spatial Development at the Technische Universität Dresden. He is also currently Director of the Dresden Leibniz Graduate School. He holds elected membership of: the German Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL); the German National Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech); and the Saxonian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig. Since 2013, he is a member of the national steering group on standardization regarding smart cities. His research interests and expertise are in: sustainable urban and regional development and planning; tools and methods of spatial development; and regeneration of cities and regions. In addition to a German and European focus, his research experience and interests are related to North and South America as well as Asia.

- [Bernhard Müller's webprofile](#)

LinkedIn Discussion Forum

The 'International Eco-Cities Forum', our online discussion board, now has over 200 members, including researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. It invites contributions from around the world, aimed at discussing and sharing information, reflections and practical learning on sustainable urbanism in its various forms.

- [Join the International Eco-Cities Forum](#)

Further Information

For more information about the International Eco-Cities Initiative and to sign up for news and events, please see our [website](#).

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