

INTERNATIONAL ECO-CITIES INITIATIVE

International Eco-Cities Initiative July 2018



Dear Readers,

We would like to use this issue of our newsletter to let you know about some changes happening to the International Eco-Cities Initiative. At the end of July, Simon Joss will be leaving the University of Westminster, to take up a new appointment as Professor of Urban Futures at the University of Glasgow (from September). In ongoing collaboration with Arthur Molella (Smithsonian Institution) and Robert Kargon (Johns Hopkins University), the International Eco-Cities Initiative will be hosted on our [new website](#). (The University of Westminster will keep the existing website and its various resources publicly accessible.)

This moment of change prompts us to reflect on the evolving debate about eco-cities since the initiative's launch in 2009. For one thing, sustainable urbanism seems to have gone even more

sustainable city is as eagerly debated and contested as ever. Indeed, a multitude of new paradigms – ‘smart city’, ‘resilient city’, ‘low-carbon city’ etc. – have entered the fray, offering new directions and vying for influence. Pessimistically, one could point to the persistent gulf between the ambition of the eco-city and its practical realisation. Optimistically, one can point to the manifold innovative ideas and practices being pursued with serious effort and commitment.

Critical engagement with present (un)sustainable urban development is essential to open up pathways to urban futures and, vice versa, scoping future visions and norms of the urban age are key to addressing present conditions. To this end, the International Eco-Cities Initiative will continue to make probing contributions through research, policy work and public engagement, albeit in different organisational form. As such, we look forward to extending our networking with partners and readers in the coming period.

Meanwhile, we would like to draw attention to a tripartite series of papers on ‘future cities’, recently published by Palgrave Communications as part of a special issue on the politics of an urban age. Authored by Federico Caprotti, Rob Cowley, and Simon Joss, respectively, the essays argue for a greater emphasis on social perspectives in the discussion of urban futures.

- [View the full news item and open access papers](#)

LinkedIn discussion forum

The ‘International Eco-Cities Forum’, our online discussion board, now has over 670 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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