

International Eco-Cities Initiative

June 2013

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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Policy Brief: governing for eco-city innovation

This briefing note summarises the key findings of our two-year project 'The Governance of Eco-City Innovation' funded by the Economic & Social Research Council. The recommendations highlight the importance of: political leadership through steering and incentivising; integration across urban systems and scales; community engagement tailored to various publics; social sustainability complementing environmental-technological goals; and data accessibility and comparability as prerequisite for practice learning.

- [The report is available here](#)

Research Article: towards the 'ubiquitous eco-city'

This paper, published in spring 2013 in the Journal of Urban Research & Practice, reports the findings of a recent global census of eco-city initiatives. It identifies a series of significant trends that have accompanied the global mainstreaming of eco-city policy and practice, including: increased international knowledge transfer activities involving both public and private actors; the centrality of 'carbon discourse'; the marrying of 'green' with 'smart' technological systems; and a focus on achieving environmental innovation through economic growth. The paper highlights the need to moderate the 'ubiquitous eco-city' paradigm with strong local contextualisation and social sustainability measures.

- [The article can be accessed here.](#)

Doctoral Research Project: eco-cities and the 'public'

'Eco-Cities: Technological Showcases or Public Spaces?' is the focus of Rob Cowley's doctoral research project. Rob's work examines the socio-political dimensions of urban sustainability, with focus on the

place of the 'public' in planned and implemented eco-city initiatives. The research includes a comparative analysis of urban sustainability plans, policies and visions around the world, along with in-depth fieldwork on the EcoDistricts initiative in Portland, Oregon (US), and the new city of Sejong (South Korea). Rob joined us with an MA in Urban and Regional Planning (from Westminster), a Diploma in Human Geography (Open University), and a first degree in Modern Languages and Literature (University of Oxford). Please feel free to contact Rob to find out more about his research.

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Event: UCL—Westminster workshop, 28 June 2013

As part of our Leverhulme International Network 'Tomorrow's City Today', the first in a series of parallel workshops will be hosted over the summer in Canada, China, Germany, South Korea, and the UK. The theme is 'Taking Stock: Current Research, Policy & Practice in Eco-City Indicators, Standards and Frameworks'. University College London (UCL) and the University of Westminster will kick off the event series with a joint workshop in London on 28 June 2013. The workshop will discuss recent developments in Britain, including on-going research, policy-making and practical initiatives relating to urban sustainability indicators and frameworks.

- [London workshop programme & registration](#)
- [Other Leverhulme workshops](#)

Partner profile: Mark Roseland—Simon Fraser University, Canada

Professor Mark Roseland joined the Leverhulme International Network in 2012. He is the Director of the Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver. He gained international prominence through his landmark publications including *Eco-City Dimensions* (1997) and *Toward Sustainable Communities* (1992; 4th edition 2012). Mark has extensive experience in designing and implementing urban sustainability frameworks; and was instrumental in developing the 'Community Capital Tool' in partnership between Simon Fraser University and Tilburg University (Netherlands). The tool, which is aimed at policy-makers and practitioners, emphasises community mobilisation as part of sustainable community development. In 2012, Mark led the launch of 'Pando Sustainable Communities', an online network promoting collaboration among sustainable communities researchers and practitioners around the world. From January 2013, Mark has been seconded to the City of North Vancouver, where he is Chief City Planner.

- [Mark Roseland's webpage](#)

LinkedIn Discussion Forum

The 'International Eco-Cities Forum', our new online discussion board, was launched in April 2013. It invites contributions from around the world, aimed at discussing and sharing information, reflections and practical learning on sustainable urbanism in its various forms. Over 130 members have signed up to date, including researchers, policy-makers and practitioners.

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

Further Information

For more information about the [International Eco-Cities Initiative](#) please see our [website here](#).

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