

# International Eco-Cities Initiative

## March 2015

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 contributes to analysis and discourse on 'eco-cities' and sustainable urbanism of various kinds across the world.

In this issue:

- International Conference: Tomorrow's City Today – Prospects for Standardising Sustainable Urban Development
- New Research Article: Sustainable-Smart-Resilient-Low Carbon-Eco-Knowledge Cities
- Doctoral Research Opportunities in the International Eco-Cities Initiative
- Seminar: Critical Research on Chinese Eco-Cities
- Seminar: The Future of Policy and Standards for Low and Zero Carbon New Homes
- Call for Papers: Ecocity World Summit 2015 in Abu Dhabi

## International Conference: Tomorrow's City Today - Prospects for Standardising Sustainable Urban Development

We are pleased to announce a major international conference which will take place on Friday 12 June 2015 at the University of Westminster (London), to explore the prospects for the standardisation of urban sustainability. The event brings together leading international policy experts, researchers and practitioners to discuss their own experiences of devising and implementing frameworks, as well as future policy directions. Our Leverhulme Trust-funded international research network has conducted systematic cross-comparative analyses of emerging 'eco-city frameworks' around the globe, explored the experience of applying these on the ground, and investigated key actors' expectations for the future. The final report from this three-year programme will be launched at the conference. There is no charge for attending, but early booking is recommended.

- [See the provisional programme and book a place](#)

## New Research Article: Sustainable-Smart-Resilient-Low Carbon-Eco-Knowledge Cities

At first sight, urban categories such as 'sustainable city', 'smart city' and 'eco city' often appear almost interchangeable; but might these and other sister terms on closer inspection reveal conceptual distinctiveness? To provide some answers, this new article explores the relationships between twelve dominant city categories used to describe urban initiatives which aim to create better environmental, social and economic conditions and to enhance cities' attractiveness and competitiveness. Based on a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of over 1,400 academic articles published between 1996 and 2013, the findings suggests that these categories are not all equal - they each harbour conceptual meanings of their own - and that together they form a distinct relational field. Among the co-authors are Professor

Martin de Jong (Delft University of Technology / Fudan University), member of our Leverhulme International Network, and Professor Simon Joss (University of Westminster).

- [Read the article](#) in the *Journal of Cleaner Production* (or email [Simon Joss](#) for a complimentary copy)

## Doctoral Research Opportunities in the International Eco-Cities Initiative

Robert Cowley, one of our Doctoral Researchers, has been selected to present his project on *Eco-Cities: Technological Showcases or Public Spaces?* at the [Next Generation Research](#) public event at the University of Westminster on Wednesday 11 March, from 5pm onwards. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you are interested in studying for a PhD in an urban sustainability-related topic with us, you may wish to apply for one of two fee-waiver studentships currently offered by the University of Westminster's Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. Fees will be paid for three years to two candidates who meet the entry criteria and submit the best research proposals. The awards will take effect from September 2015, and are available to UK and EU applicants only. Please note that the closing date for applications is 5pm 11 March 2015 (applications involve completing a UKPASS application form and adding a short research proposal).

- [Contact Simon Joss for more information about how to apply and to discuss your proposed research project](#)

## Seminar: Critical Research on Chinese Eco-Cities

Please join us at a forthcoming seminar on 'Critical Research on Chinese Eco-cities: A Walk through Tianjin and Caofeidian Eco-cities', on Wednesday 1 April (5-7 pm) at the University of Westminster. In a joint paper, Dr Federico Caprotti (King's College London) will reflect on Tianjin Eco-city, arguably China's most high-profile eco-city project to date, using the narrative tool of a walk through the city, while Simon Joss (University of Westminster) will mobilise the analytical perspective of 'techno-city' to discuss the fledgling Caofeidian International Eco-city initiative in Hebei province. The event forms part of the Spring 2015 programme of seminars being organised by the University of Westminster's Contemporary China Centre.

- [More information and see the full list of seminars in the series](#)

## Seminar: The Future of UK Policy and Standards for Low and Zero Carbon New Homes

This event, taking place on Wednesday 22 April 2015, 4:30pm - 6:00pm, at the University of Westminster, will present and discuss the results from new RICS Research Trust-funded research on the future of low and zero carbon homes in the UK. Dr Dan Greenwood (University of Westminster) and Dr Alina Congreve (University of Hertfordshire) will give a pre-election presentation of their findings. Through a series of in-depth case studies and interviews with national stakeholders, the project has analysed the challenges, tensions and opportunities for the housing sector following significant policy changes.

- [Find out more and book a place at the event](#)

## Call for Papers: Ecocity World Summit 2015 in Abu Dhabi

The next Ecocity World Summit will take place in Abu Dhabi (UAE), 11-13 October 2015, with Simon Joss included among the keynote speakers. This will be the first time the Summit is taking place in the Middle East. The overall conference theme is 'Ecocities in Challenging Environments', with a special focus on hot and arid climates. The call for papers is now open, with abstracts invited from academics, practitioners, and other interested parties (with a submission deadline of 15 April 2015).

- [Visit the conference website](#)

## LinkedIn Discussion Forum

The 'International Eco-Cities Forum', our online discussion board, now has over 380 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

Please see the [International Eco-Cities Initiative website](#) for further information and to sign up for news and events.

---

[Like us on Facebook](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#) | [Send to a friend](#)

*Copyright © 2015 University of Westminster, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

The University of Westminster is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. Registration number: 977818  
England. Registered Office: 309 Regent Street, London W1B 2UW.

This message and its attachments are private and confidential. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and remove it and its attachments from your system.