

# International Eco-Cities Initiative

## May 2014

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: next workshops

Join us in Brighton, Görlitz, London, Shanghai and Vancouver for our new series of workshops hosted as part of our Leverhulme International Network. Having previously taken stock of diverse 'eco-city' frameworks (through a comprehensive global survey) in Part 1 of our multi-centre initiative, the current phase of our activities now focuses on how individual eco-city frameworks are applied in specific local and policy contexts, and what lessons can be drawn from this on-the-ground experience. Together, the workshops cover a broad range of frameworks, from BREEAM Communities to LEED ND, and from One Planet Living to the Reference Frameworks for Sustainable Cities, applied in different institutional, national and cultural contexts.

- [Further information about the workshop programmes](#)

## Research article: the English eco-town initiative

This research article discusses the policy genesis and evolution of the English eco-town initiative. As a major new initiative launched in 2007 under the previous UK government, up to ten eco-towns were originally planned for England; following the change of government in 2010, the initiative has since been scaled back and redefined as a series of local projects. Using a multilevel governance perspective, the article analyses the dynamics resulting from the changing governance landscape, and how these have shaped the conceptualisation of eco-towns over time. The paper, published in April 2014, is part of an open-access special issue on 'The Governance of Adaptation' of the Journal of Ecology & Society.

- [Open-access special issue of Ecology and Society](#)

## Doctoral research project: urban resilience

Urban resilience is one of the latest fashionable topics discussed internationally in academia, politics and consultancy. The concept addresses the challenge of cities and their future development in times of high complexity and uncertainty. But how exactly should 'urban resilience' be understood, and what are we to

make of the growing application of this natural science/engineering concept in social policy? These and related questions are addressed in Martin Stumpler's doctoral research. The project – post-riot Institutionalisation of Regeneration Efforts in Deprived Urban Areas: Towards 'More Resilient Communities'? – uses a neo-institutional framework to develop an innovative socio-political perspective on urban resilience. The empirical research consists of a case study of Tottenham, London, where the English riots of 2011 originated. The project is supported by the Leibniz-Dresden Graduate School (Dresden, Germany); it is supervised by Professor Karl Lenz, Institute of Sociology, Technical University Dresden, and Professor Simon Joss, University of Westminster.

- [Read Martin's blog on urban resilience and the Tottenham riots](#)

## Partner profile: Martin de Jong—TU Delft

Martin de Jong is Professor of Public Policy at both Delft University of Technology (Netherlands) and Harbin Institute of Technology (China). He currently also acts as Vice-Director of the South China University of Technology/TU Delft research centre for Urban Systems & Environment in Guangzhou, China. Martin has published extensively on topics of cross-national policy learning, transport infrastructure development, eco-city initiatives, and evolutionary approaches to the administrative sciences and policy-making in China. In recent years, he has been actively involved in eco-city development in China, and has been a co-author of a report to the Shenzhen city government on establishing a Low Carbon City in Longgang district. Martin co-ordinates our Leverhulme International Network workshop series in China.

- [Martin de Jong's web profile](#)

## Research essay: Eco-City Discourses

This paper by doctoral researchers Elizabeth Rapoport and Anne-Lorene Vernay discusses six recent eco-city initiatives using discourse analysis. The authors suggest that there is a great deal of diversity among projects labelled as eco-cities; therefore, it may be useful to consider the eco-city as an ambition or objective which there will be multiple ways to achieve. An earlier version of this paper was discussed at our ESRC Research Seminar series; the full paper was subsequently presented at the Management and Innovation for Sustainable Built Environment conference, 20-23 June 2011, Amsterdam (NL), and is published here with the authors' permission.

- [Read the paper by Elizabeth Rapoport and Anne-Lorene Vernay](#)

## LinkedIn Discussion Forum

The 'International Eco-Cities Forum', our online discussion board, now has over 280 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.

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