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Newsletter

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Share of £39m energy efficiency research funding

SEG researchers at Sussex have been awarded a share in the £39m funding for research into cutting carbon use and greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Dr Steve Sorrell will head the Research Centre on Innovation and Energy Demand, one of only five new research centres on End Use Energy Demand (EUED) jointly funded by the Research Councils UK Energy Programme (RCUK). The Sussex centre involves an interdisciplinary team of social science researchers from the Sussex Energy Group, the University of Manchester and the University of Oxford. The Centre aims to use a range of techniques to examine how 'low-energy innovations' develop and diffuse, how they can be encouraged and what impact they are likely to have on UK energy demand and carbon emissions.

UKERC report: Shale gas could increase global gas resources by 50%

The Energy Security Unit of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission has released a major new report on the role of Shale gas and how it could increase global gas resources by some 50%. The study was led by Dr Steve Sorrell and a team of energy experts, and formed part of a larger study of unconventional gas resources by the JRC. It highlights the limitations in currently available resource estimation methodologies, and finds that technically recoverable resources of shale gas may be half as large as those for conventional gas. The full JRC report Unconventional Gas: Potential Energy Market Impacts in the EU, is available to download [here](#).

Sustainability Transitions Workshop

Mari Martiskainen, PhD Researcher at SEG, organised a two-day Workshop on Sustainability Transitions on 15-16 November 2012 at Sussex. The idea for this event originated at a much smaller meeting in Helsinki and has since developed from a small visit into a two-day workshop with over 30 participants including researchers from Sussex, Aalto University, the Finnish Environment Institute and Helsinki University with shared interests in sustainability transitions, and highlighted various possibilities for interdisciplinary research in the future.

Low Carbon Energy for Development Conference

On 9-10 September 2012, the second international workshop of the Low Carbon Energy for Development Network (LCEDN) was hosted by SPRU. Titled 'Transitions to low carbon energy systems: which pathways to energy access for all?', the event united researchers, policy makers and practitioners from developed and developing countries who reflected on the outcomes and implications of Rio+20. The focus was on ways in which low carbon development can be used to address concerns around energy access, poverty reduction, human development and economic growth that need answering to meet the UN goal of "sustainable energy for all".

SEG in shale gas debate

Professor Jim Watson, Director of SEG, has published a new blog on 'Why gas can't solve the UK's energy woes' on the Green Alliance website. It addresses the changing role of gas and its limitations in a UK context, and discusses renewables, energy efficiency as well as the need for carbon capture and storage technology.

Jim Watson made Research Director of UKERC

Professor Jim Watson, Director of SEG, has been appointed Research Director of the UK Energy Research Centre. The Centre, funded by Research Councils UK, carries out world-class research into sustainable future energy systems. It is the hub of UK energy research and the gateway between the UK and the international energy research communities.

Critique on oil report

Dr Steve Sorrell has published a response to a report on Oil: The Next Revolution by Harvard's Leonardo Maugeri, who claims that the world is entering an 'oil glut' and forecasts global production capacity growing by a record 18 million barrels/day over the next eight years. Contrary to this view, Dr Sorrell argues that Maugeri's forecasts are based upon flawed assumptions about the rate of decline of production from existing fields, and that it fails to provide adequate justification for his optimistic estimates, misrepresented the estimates made by others and made some very elementary mathematical errors. Steve's critique has been covered in the 10 August edition of Science magazine and by the journalist David Strahan and can be read in full in a [blog post](#).