

Transition strategies for infrastructure provision in Great Britain

Date: Wednesday 29th February 2012
Timing: 16.30 start, 18.00 finish
Location: Herbertson Room, OUCE, School of Geography and the Environment, Oxford.
<http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/contacts/#findus>

Background

National infrastructure systems (energy, transport, water, waste and ICT) in advanced economies face serious challenges. The National Infrastructure Plan (NIP), the first iteration of which was published in October 2010 and the second in November 2011, acknowledges that a step change is needed in the level of investment in UK infrastructure, to secure our future energy supply, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and drive forward economic growth. These reports, as well as others such as the 2011 Engineering the Future and 2009 Council for Science and Technology reports, identified significant vulnerabilities, capacity limitations and a number of national infrastructure components nearing the end of their useful life. They also highlight serious fragmentation in the arrangements for infrastructure provision in the UK. There is an urgent need to reduce carbon emissions from infrastructure, to respond to future demographic, social and lifestyle changes and to build resilience to intensifying impacts of climate change.

The transformation of national infrastructure must be efficient whilst minimising the associated risks, and will need to be underpinned by a long-term, cross-sectoral approach to understanding national infrastructure performance under a range of possible futures. The ITRC will provide the theoretical research, models and practical decision support tools to enable strategic analysis and planning of a national infrastructure system fit for the 21st Century.

This seminar will introduce the work of the ITRC and disseminate the results from the first of its three cycles of integrated assessment across the 5 year programme. It will:

- provide an overview of the ITRC, its stakeholders and industry partners and the innovative approach to co-production of integrated transition strategies
- disseminate the results of the recently published “Fast Track Analysis” which scopes possible futures for infrastructure in the UK, the drivers for change and the sources of uncertainty
- present an overview of early parallel activities in the ITRC including development of a spatial multi-sector national modelling framework
- update on how the ITRC will be continuing its research programme and the next steps

Agenda

16.30 Introduction to the Work Programme and outputs of the UK Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium

Prof Jim Hall, Director of Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University

16.40 Harnessing stakeholder and partner participation in the co-production of transition strategies

Ben Kidd, ITRC Programme Manager, Oxford University

16.50 ITRC complex systems concepts, methodologies and the modelling framework

Alex Lorenz, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University

17.10 ITRC Fast Track Analysis – emerging messages about UK National Infrastructure

Dr Justin Henriques, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University

17.30 Discussion session

18.00 Close



For further information on the ITRC, and to download the report *“A Fast Track Analysis of strategies for infrastructure provision in Great Britain”*:

please go to www.itrc.org.uk

