

Low Carbon Heating Research Network Inaugural Meeting



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Assembly Room at ECCI – Wednesday 20th January 14:00-16:30 (Lunch at 13:00)

The main aim of the first meeting is for the interested researchers to meet and to find out about the low carbon heating and cooling research across the University. We will have very short overview presentation from each interested research group to start sharing our separate research efforts. This will form the basis for future more focused workshops with the aim of forming collaborations. Furthermore, the University's large diverse estate and range of heating systems has great potential to serve as a "living laboratory" for collaborative research projects. Ultimately, it is envisaged that the network will foster connections and stimulate collaborative research projects and will be a focal point for low carbon heating research in Edinburgh for the period of this project and beyond.

Context

Heating is responsible for over 50% of the total energy demand in Scotland and currently most of this is provided through gas boilers. Until recently research and policy focus has been on the decarbonisation of electricity but this is shifting to include also the decarbonisation of heat. In order for Scotland and the UK to fulfil their greenhouse gas reduction targets, a transition to virtually zero-carbon heating is necessary. This challenge is multi-dimensional and includes building-level technological change and innovation, replacement and reconfiguration of energy networks, non-traditional business models and shifts in energy governance. Thus the deployment of low carbon heating is not only a technical problem but faces issues of uncertainty and social coordination, and requires a supportive political, legal and financial framework. Accordingly applied research in this area requires a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort.

Preliminary agenda

- 1:00 Lunch and ECCI Carbon Chat Room COP21 reflections
- 2:00 Introduction to the Low Carbon Heating Research Network
- 2:15 Guest speaker – Ragne Low, ClimateXChange Programme Manager
- 2:45 Very short presentations from the present research groups
- 3:30 Round table discussions