



**Medical
Research
Council**

MRC ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SEMINAR SERIES

UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) has set a target of a Net Zero position by 2040 and therefore MRC has embarked on a programme to transform its operations and facilities to become environmentally sustainable and, of course, Net Zero.

Over the past 2 years MRC has progressed initial steps towards this target and has found good practice in many areas – particularly in Higher Education, but also in business and government departments. It has been recognised that research operations are complex and subject to significant constraints however it is also clear that the progression of science and environmental sustainability must work in parallel. It should not be a choice of one or the other.

To engage in a wider discussion and to gain commitment by the MRC community to share our ambition, a series of seminars is being developed that aims to look at all relevant areas in which environmental sustainability can be tackled. It is aimed to be an opportunity to learn from what is happening elsewhere, knowledge share and create support networks.

The first seminar in the series looks at the estate and facilities.

SEMINAR 1 - ESTATES

The seminar is structured to look at challenges and solutions. In our first session speakers will focus mainly on what the future research estate must be capable of, what the constraints are, and also what Net Zero buildings are and how they can be achieved. In our second session we will look at solutions. Each session will be followed by Q&A. Lunch and time for networking will conclude the seminar..

SPEAKERS

Francis Crick Institute – TBC

The Crick's mission is discovery without boundaries. It strives to understand more about how living things work, to help improve treatment, diagnosis and prevention of human disease, and generate economic opportunities for the UK. The Crick has more than 2,000 staff and students using their wide-ranging knowledge and expertise to work across disciplines and explore biology at all levels, from molecules through cells to entire organisms.

The Crick is the outcome of a merger between MRC's National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) and Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute (LRI) and named after the UK scientist Francis Crick in recognition of his contributions to understanding the genetic code, the key to understanding how living things work.

At the Crick, research is conducted at the forefront of biomedical research using cutting edge technology and complex facilities to support activities.

Colin Dingwall, SRO, Science Capability in Animal Health Programme, DEFRA

Colin Dingwall has been Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for DEFRA's Science Capability in Animal Health (SCAH) Programme, the redevelopment of DEFRA's main animal health science laboratory at Weybridge, since 2020. A graduate of the UK Government's Major Projects Leadership Academy, he has led major projects across central and local Government and the NHS, including leading cross Government portfolios of Covid-19 response projects (2020) and preparation for no-deal EU Exit (2019), the cross NHS Costing Transformation Programme to improve management of £70bn cost base (2015-18), and leading the modernisation of the UK's system of Voter Registration (2010-15).

Colin is originally from West Lothian, Scotland, and graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2000, with an MSc from University of London in 2013.

Dr Owen Landeg, Senior Net Zero Delivery Lead, NHS England & NHS Improvement

[To follow]

Chris Brierley, Head of Corporate Affairs, Active Building Centre

Chris was recruited by Active Building Centre in June 2021, initially to lead ABC's COP26 fringe event, but soon his talents were put to greater use as the company's strategic lead for communications and stakeholder engagement. Chris brings with him a wealth of communications experience from a variety of backgrounds. A talented multi-media broadcaster with the BBC for over a decade with highlights including covering the Floods of 2007 and the 2009 Expenses Scandal. Chris served as Gloucestershire's first Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for over four years where he led on the PCC's communications and engagement strategy from dealing with crisis communications to campaigns. He also played a key role in developing the vision and strategy of the PCC as well as the day-to-day work of governance of the police service.

Chris is passionate about the climate change agenda and believes in the power of people and organisations in delivering real change. Since arriving at ABC, he's overseen the revamp of the company's website and brand as well as working to showcase ABC's impact in driving the net zero agenda.

Dr Stephen Holmes, Head of Capital Projects, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology

After gaining a PhD from the University of Sheffield, Stephen moved to Cambridge in January 2000 to begin a Post-Doctoral placement at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB). After 5 years at the research bench, Stephen moved to a role on the client side of the design project for the new LMB building. Having progressed through the design, procurement and construction phases, in 2012 Stephen became the Soft-Landing Manager coordinating the initial phase of occupation.

In 2019, Stephen became the Head of Estates for the LMB overseeing all hard and soft FM functions and the delivery of capital projects.

Richard Walder, UK Science & Tech Sector Director, Buro Happold

Richard leads Buro Happold's UK Science & Technology team and has extensive experience of designing and delivering a range of laboratory facilities with a strong focus on sustainability. His projects range from the Quadram Institute which incorporates large scale ground source heat pump array, to the BREEAM Excellent Rated Michael Uren Biomedical Hub and numerous commercial laboratory schemes including Europe's largest multi-let life sciences facility which is targeting BREEAM Outstanding and aims to be Net Zero Carbon. Across these projects, Richard employs his understanding of scientific processes to find opportunities for energy and carbon reduction appropriate to the building use.

Jake Williams, Associate Director, Buro Happold

Jake is an Associate Director in Buro Happold's Building Physics team and has extensive experience in the field of environmental design, carbon reduction, energy and building simulation. He has worked closely with a number of major scientific organisations to help them to develop net zero carbon pathways for their estates. He has worked on numerous schemes where he has analysed operational data and used this to determine tailored plans for decarbonisation specific to the research activities and scientific needs across the estates. In parallel with this, Jake is an advocate for developing high-performance building facades in terms of both energy and carbon.

Dr Ian Mell – University of Manchester, Reader in Environmental & Landscape Planning

Ian is one of the UK's leading academic researchers working on Green Infrastructure planning, urban greening, and landscape policy examining the relationship between policy/practice in the discussion, development and evaluation of urban greening. This provides scope to evaluate the changing landscape of planning policy and its impacts upon the delivery of sustainable or meaningful places.

Ian's work focusses on issues of Green Infrastructure financing, the role of perceptions in sustainable cities, and the influence of various actors on the decision-making process for environmental management. Part of this process is developing a better understanding of how rhetoric and delivery differ in the planning and management of cities.

Ian has received funding from NERC, the Valuing Nature project, RTP1, Defra/Natural England and the Newton Fund to support. He has also worked with UN Habitat and the Landscape Research Group.