

Realising the Transition? Addressing the challenges of low carbon energy and development in Africa

Royal Society, London, February 3rd 2015

The workshop will examine how and with what consequences pathways to low carbon development are emerging and being contested in sub-Saharan Africa. With issues of access to clean energy services, broader questions of development, and the challenges of responding to climate change, new geopolitical alliances and forms of infrastructure investment are being established as a means through which to foster energy development across the region. These drivers are leading to the emergence of multiple energy transitions, from those focused on the expansion of fossil fuel economies to those which have sought to foster the growth of low-carbon energy systems.

Realising the Transition will explore the ways in which these transitions are unfolding in different African contexts and their implications for development and environmental goals. It will present the findings from the ESRC funded *The Rising Powers, Clean Development and the Low Carbon Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa* project led by Durham University and the University of Sussex together with papers from international research experts working in the field. The workshop will provide a space for fostering dialogue between the research, practice and policy communities concerned with the issues of low carbon energy and development in Africa and offer insights on the new approaches required to realise future transitions.

Final Programme

8.30 – 9.00 *Arrival, registration and coffee*

9.00 – 10.45 ***The Rising Powers, Clean Development and the Low Carbon Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa***

Chair: Harriet Bulkeley, Durham University

The Rising Powers and Southern Africa's Energy Transitions - Marcus Power, Durham University and Peter Newell, University of Sussex (20 minutes)

The Rising Powers in Mozambique: high-carbon partnerships? - Josh Kirshner, Durham University (10 minutes)

Renewable procurement in South Africa: international trends and the role of rising powers - Lucy Baker, University of Sussex (10 minutes)

Reflections and Discussion: Invited practitioners reflect on key themes followed by discussion

10.45 – 11.15 *Coffee/Tea and Exhibition*

11.00 – 12.45 **Political Economies of Energy Transitions**

Chair: Marcus Power, Durham University

Electricity, dams and technology choice in East Africa: A window into political change - Chris Gore, Ryerson University, Canada (15 minutes)

Chinese overseas dams in Africa - Frauke Urban, SOAS, University of London and Giles Mohan, The Open University (15 minutes)

China's clean energy investment in Southern Africa: political will or market force? - Wei Shen, China Three Gorges University (15 minutes)

Roundtable Discussions: key issues and agendas

12.45 – 13.30 *Lunch*

13.30 – 15.00 **Low Carbon Transitions for Development?**

Chair: Adrian Smith, University of Sussex

Brazil and opportunities for low carbon transition in Africa - Marcelo Poppe, Centre for Strategic Studies and Management, Brasilia (15 minutes)

Pro-poor pathways to low carbon development: Lessons from off-grid solar electrical services in Kenya - Rob Byrne and Dave Ockwell, University of Sussex (15 minutes)

"Off the grid: notes from a forgotten island": Documentary film by Produced by Meghna Gupta (Soul Rebel Films) and Durham University

Roundtable Discussions: key issues and agendas

15.00 – 15.30 *Coffee/Tea and Exhibition*

15.30 – 16.30 **New Directions for Policy and Practice**

Chair: Peter Newell, University of Sussex

A series of interventions from practitioners and plenary discussion on the key issues and agendas in addressing low carbon transitions and development in Sub-Saharan Africa