



Supergen



Bioenergy

Annual Assembly
Programme 2020

16-17 November, online

Dear Attendee,

Thank-you for registering for the Supergen Bioenergy Hub Annual Assembly 2020.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to bring our network together to showcase what the Hub and its partners have achieved, despite the challenging circumstances that Covid-19 has presented. We have scheduled an exciting line up of speakers and sessions for you over the course of the two days and we hope you can join us for as many of the sessions as possible. This programme outlines the schedule for the assembly and contains the links you need to access our online sessions, hosted on Blackboard Collaborate.

As ever, the move to online conferencing platforms also brings with it new technical challenges, however we have done our best to ensure you have as seamless an experience as possible. If for any reason you are having difficulty accessing sessions please check the Blackboard 'instructional guide' sent alongside this programme, and if that doesn't help, please get in touch by emailing supergen-bioenergy@aston.ac.uk and we will assist you where we can.

Supergen Bioenergy Hub

About the Supergen Bioenergy Hub

The Supergen Bioenergy Hub works with academia, industry, government and societal stakeholders to develop sustainable bioenergy systems that support the UK's transition to an affordable, resilient, low-carbon energy future. The hub is based at Aston University under the direction of Professor Patricia Thornley and management is undertaken by representatives of the core academic institutions. The hub is funded jointly by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and is part of the wider Supergen Programme.



Early Career Researcher Forum

09:00-12:00 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

During the Early Career Researcher (ECR) Forum we will be learning about the new SHARE Committee structure, hearing from an alumnus of SHARE about what skills government are looking for, focus on secondments, and hear from Insights on topics such as self-awareness and relationship building during their seminar session.

Session Chair: SHARE

Speakers

Carly Whittaker - SHARE alumnus and Principal Sustainability and Compliance Specialist (Department for Transport)

Andrew Welfle - Completed a secondment at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (University of Manchester)

Amna Bezanty - Projects Development Manager (Kew Projects Ltd)

Kathy Maycock - Learning Experience (Insights)

Lindsay Munro - Product Manager (Insights)

Networking Lunch

12:00-13:00 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

During the lunch break this session will be open for attendees to join and meet other attendees prior to the assembly opening at 13:00 GMT.

Assembly Opening

13:00-14:00 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

During the opening of the Hub Assembly, we will hear from Hub Director, Patricia Thornley who will introduce the Hub and its aims, followed by a presentation from Peter Coleman, Head of Land Use and Bioenergy Science (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). We will then hear the views of our leading Hub Topic Group (TG) researchers on the UK biomass strategy, in discussion with Patricia and Peter.

Following the session, a poll will be launched so we can hear your views on which points raised in the opening discussion are the most important for the future UK biomass strategy.

Session Chair: Patricia Thornley

Break

14:00-14:15 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

During this break the link to the poll will be shared on the Blackboard chat, and the agenda for the afternoon will be explained.



Topic Group 2 and Topic Group 4 Sessions are **being run in parallel**, please choose which to attend and recordings for all sessions will be provided following the assembly.

Monday 16 November

Topic Group 2

Pretreatment and Conversion

14:15-15:45 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

During this session we will hear from our Topic Group 2 on the Hub's latest work and projects in the pretreatment and thermal conversion of biomass and wastes for energy and fuels. We also welcome presentations from Kevin Chown, Kew Technology Ltd and Dan Green, Wessex Water and UK Water Industry Research.

Session Chair: Tony Bridgwater

Speakers

Tony Bridgwater – TG2 Lead (Aston University)

Silvia Tedesco – Hub Flexible Funding Project (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Helen Daly – TG2 Researcher (University of Manchester)

Pedro Verdía – TG2 Researcher (Imperial College London)

Scott Banks – TG2 Researcher (Aston University)

Kevin Chown – Chief Operating Officer (Kew Technology Ltd)

Dan Green – Head of Sustainability and Innovation at Wessex Water (UK Water Industry Research)

Topic Group 4

Systems

14:15-15:45 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

Focusing on sustainability, Topic Group 4 will update us on Hub research in the Systems area, with guest speakers Carolina Grassi, Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials and Constance Miller, Global Bioenergy Partnership delivering presentations on sustainability assessments and indicators. This will be followed by a panel discussion guided by the results of a poll.

Session Chair: Mirjam Röder

Panel Chair: Rob Holland

Speakers

Mirjam Röder – TG4 Lead (Aston University)

Andrew Welfle – TG4 Researcher (University of Manchester)

Carolina Grassi – Business Development Lead, Latin America & Sector Lead: Ground Transport (Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials)

Constance Miller – Programme Advisor (Global Bioenergy Partnership)

Rob Holland – TG4 Representative (University of Southampton)

Break

15:45-16:15 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

Take a break with us, as Sara Kearns of MarthasMoonYoga takes us through some simple yoga techniques to help you relax and reset.

International Energy Agency (IEA) Bioenergy Roundup

16:15-17:15 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

We will hear the latest updates from Tasks 33, 37 and 45 of the IEA Bioenergy Technology Collaboration Programme, in a session chaired by Hub Director, Patricia Thornley.

Speakers

Berend Vreugdenhil - Task 33 Lead (Gasification of Biomass and Waste)

Jerry D Murphy - Task 37 Lead (Energy from Biogas)

Zoe Harris - Task 45 UK Lead (Climate and Sustainability Effects of Bioenergy within the broader Bioeconomy)

Hub Poster Session

17:15-18:00 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

This is a chance for Hub project partners and members to showcase their latest work in a series of quickfire presentations.

Session Chair: Katie Chong

Speakers

Jade Lui – University of Glasgow

Stavros Michailos – University of Sheffield

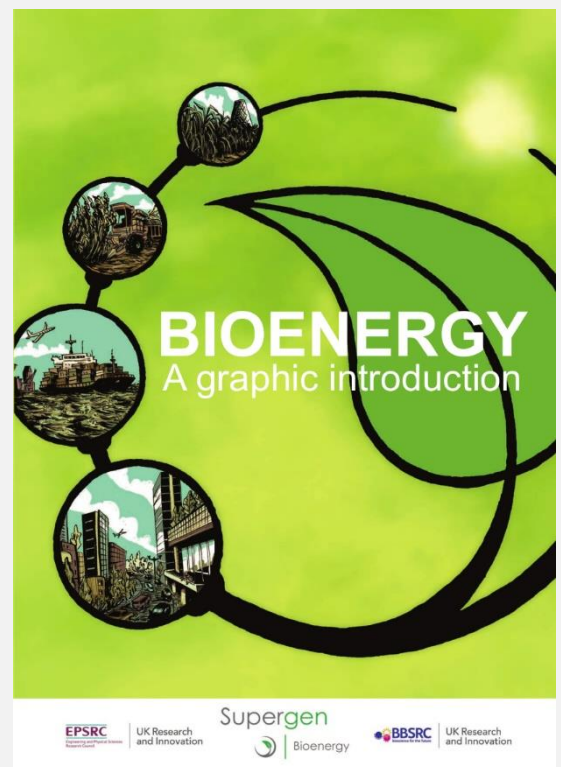
Matt Pearce – Founder, 350 Solar Technologies Ltd

Mark Barrow – University of Warwick

Why not take a look at our bioenergy comic?

This graphic novel covers what bioenergy is, why we should use it, what people worried are about when we talk about bioenergy and how to ensure a future with bioenergy will be sustainable.

Click the front cover below to read more!



Topic Group 1 and Topic Group 3 Sessions are **being run in parallel**, please choose which to attend and recordings for all sessions will be provided following the assembly.

Tuesday 17 November

Topic Group 1

Resources

09:00-10:30 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

With focus on feedstocks and land use, Topic Group 1 will update us on their latest work and then welcome guest speakers Bren Hodkinson, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Stuart Roberts, National Farmers Union to present. The session will also include discussion time and a chance for you to engage with our Resource Topic Group.

Session Chair: Iain Donnison

Speakers

Iain Donnison – TG1 Lead (Aberystwyth University)

Rebecca Rowe – TG1 Representative (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)

Naveed Arshad – TG1 Researcher (Aberystwyth University)

Bren Hodkinson - Agrilclimate, Bioenergy and Agri-Food Chain Directorate (Department Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Stuart Roberts – Deputy President (National Farmers Union)

Topic Group 3

Vectors

09:00-10:30 GMT

[Session Link](#)

Outline

The Topic Group 3 session will focus on the potential use of hydrogen as an energy vector. We are pleased to be joined by Chris Manson-Whitton who will relate some of Progressive Energy's recent industrial experiences, and Mark Sommerfeld who will highlight some of the Renewable Energy Association's reflections from a policy perspective. Topic Group 3 research investigating the significance of the context in which hydrogen is used on its resultant carbon balance will be introduced.

Session Chair: Marcelle McManus

Speakers

Marcelle McManus – TG3 Lead (University of Bath)

Chris Manson-Whitton – Director (Progressive Energy Ltd)

Mark Sommerfeld – Policy Manager (Renewable Energy Association)

Sam Cooper – TG3 Researcher (University of Bath)

Break

10:30-11:00 GMT

Outline

During this break the successful winner of the assembly quiz will hopefully be announced (pending results)!

Hub Flexible Funding Project Poster Session

11:00-12:00 GMT

Session Link

Outline

Showcasing the latest work projects funded by the Hub's flexible funding, Hub Project Manager Emma Wylde will present on the funding awards made to date, and then chair the poster session. Projects on E-bio-fuel, algae-based biomethane, catalytic hydrothermal reforming and optimisation of bioenergy pathways will be presenting, in addition to a tour of the new Supergen Bioenergy App!

Session Chair: Emma Wylde

Speakers

Bing Xu – Heriot-Watt University

Tanja Radu - Loughborough University

Jude Onwudili – Aston University

Andrew Welfle – University of Manchester

Fatih Gulec – University of Nottingham

Assembly Close – Next Steps

12:00-12:30 GMT

Session Link

Outline

Hub Director Patricia Thornley will be in conversation with Mike Colechin, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the UKRI Energy Programme, discussing perspectives on developing effective industrial academic collaborations to address challenges in bioenergy deployment, and reflecting on the key topics and themes from the assembly.

Funding Opportunities

Open: Flexible Funding Challenge Call (Deadline 30 Nov 2020)

Launched October 2020 for 2 projects of £100k each, focusing on the areas of anaerobic digestion and substitute gases, global land use change, algae and marine feedstocks.

Open: Supergen Fellowships (Deadline 18 Dec 2020)

Launched October 2020 for up to two Supergen Bioenergy Fellowships, please get in touch with supergen-funding@aston.ac.uk if you are interested in applying.

Open: Rapid Response Funding (Next review 21 Dec 2020)

Up to £25k per project is available to carry out research with high immediate impact, generally involving industry.

Coming Up: Further Flexible Funding Challenge Call in 2021 for 2 additional projects of £100k each

Hyperlinks

Below are the hyperlinks to each session, provided in case "Session Links" in the above programme do not function for you. Copy and paste the link into your Google Chrome browser directly if you are having issues joining.

16 November

Early Career Researcher Forum

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/56fc53e6ec6646fd9bc66d07af0733f4>

Networking Lunch

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/436f051506a04470a8bdd87e2fc358fd>

Assembly Opening

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/4626976de27f476ab916043e3a610511>

Break

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/4626976de27f476ab916043e3a610511>

Topic Group 2 Session

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/2666eed7883441a9b8cdd5bf38926a7c>

Topic Group 4 Session

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/e1a64394d2f640daa6d1aa83657985af>

Break – Yoga

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/b3dc440fd64a43c69da3bee2fe2452d2>

IEA Bioenergy Roundup

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/b3dc440fd64a43c69da3bee2fe2452d2>

Poster Session

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/b3dc440fd64a43c69da3bee2fe2452d2>

17 November

Topic Group 1 Session

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/f01395991cad4145a9ba2deb2280271f>

Topic Group 3 Session

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/b575a895a8114c4a99729adece31237f>

Break

Time included in previous session links

Funded Project Poster Session

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/ffd32e69196d430f9a52ec71fdddea88>

Assembly Close – Next Steps

<https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/ffd32e69196d430f9a52ec71fdddea88>



Explore options for the production of sufficient feedstock to support the UK bioenergy system without negatively impacting food production and whilst maximising local environmental and global climate benefits. **(Topic Group 1)**



Identify and select preferred bioenergy pathways, appropriate energy vectors and determine how these fit within a wider biorefinery strategy to reduce carbon, reliance on fossil fuel and improve national and regional resilience. **(Topic Group 3)**



Develop new pre-treatment and conversion technologies that support the Hub's vision for UK bioenergy. **(Topic Group 2)**



Identify and evaluate impacts of the UK's bioenergy sector that maximise the benefits of bioenergy to the energy trilemma of affordability, resilience and carbon reductions and deliver wider ecosystem benefits. **(Topic Group 4)**

Evaluate of the role and impact of selected bioenergy pathways at appropriate deployment scales on the energy system and interfacing sectors. **(Case Studies: Topic Groups 1-4)**

Thinking of working with the Hub? Get in touch with us at supergen-bioenergy@aston.ac.uk

