


Energy and Climate Change

Owen Dowsett, Research Directorate, ESRC



Our Mission

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.
- to promote and support high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training in the social sciences;
 - to advance knowledge and provide trained social scientists who meet the needs of users and beneficiaries, thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the UK, the effectiveness of public services and policy, and the quality of life;
 - to provide advice on, and disseminate, knowledge; and promote public understanding of the social sciences.

Energy, Climate Change and the ESRC

ESRC Strategic Plan – 2005-2010

■ *Energy, the Environment and Climate Change* is one of seven strategic challenges.





The **New ESRC Strategic Plan** will reflect ongoing commitments to:

- develop interdisciplinary whole systems research and research capacity in the areas of energy security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- work with key stakeholders to ensure co-ordinated effective action through, for example, the multi-agency Living With Environmental Change Programme and the Research Council's Energy Research Programme;
- and identify important connections between this research area and other central challenges prioritised by the ESRC.



The Need for Interdisciplinarity

- 
- A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light blue, and dark blue.
- Professor John Beddington – The Perfect Storm
 - *Energy Demand* – an increase of 50% by 2030
 - *Food Demand* – an increase of 50% by 2030
 - *Water Demand* – an increase of 30% by 2030
 - The need to increase production and accessibility accordingly is combined with the requirement to adapt to, and mitigate, further climate change.
 - The prospect of a ‘perfect storm’ necessitates research that is:
 - high quality;
 - interdisciplinary;
 - and co-ordinated.

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, composed of several horizontal segments in shades of orange, yellow, light blue, and dark blue.

Through large-scale investments, cross-Council working, and strategic partnerships with external bodies, the ESRC is committed to facilitating the necessary interdisciplinary research in the areas of energy, the environment, and climate change, and to ensuring that social science is embedded in research initiatives in this area.

Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research

■ Some ongoing examples:

- Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society
- Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
- Rural Economy and Land Use Programme
- Cross-Council Energy Research Programme
- UK Energy Research Centre
- Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy
- Climate Change Leadership Fellows
- UK Transport Research Centre

- Living With Environmental Change Programme
 - A ten-year (2007-2017) interdisciplinary Programme worth £1 billion
 - 20 core partners ensuring co-ordination of interdisciplinary research
 - ESRC leading on Objective F
 - Social Science embedded across Programme objectives



New Developments

- Plans for further interdisciplinary work on energy and climate change:
 - Research Centre on Sustainable Behaviours (with Defra and other partners)
 - Energy and Communities
 - Carbon Capture and Sequestration
 - Security and Equity (fuel poverty)
 - Low Carbon Vehicles (with TSB)
 - Plate-Marginal Settings (with NERC)
 - Economics of Ecosystems Services (with Defra)

- There have also been recent changes to ESRC rules and guidance on *responsive mode* funding more generally. These are geared to encourage:
 - Innovative research;
 - Interdisciplinary research;
 - and greater research Impact.



Contact Details

For further details, please contact:

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the page, composed of several colored segments: orange, yellow, light green, light blue, and dark blue.

Owen Dowsett

Research and Development Manager

01793 444189

Owen.Dowsett@esrc.ac.uk

Paul Rouse

Associate Director of Research

01793 413058

Paul.Rouse@esrc.ac.uk