



# **A Sustainable Countryside?**

## **Regulating New Technologies for Food Farming and Ecology**

**21 September 2011**

## About the conference

**Date:** 21 September 2011  
**Time:** 9.30-16.30  
**Venue:** Newcastle Law School, 21-24 Windsor Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU  
**Registration:** <http://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=2097>

Our countryside faces major - and competing – challenges. These include the need to respond to climate change while also ensuring food security.

Climate change presents a major challenge to delivering a sustainable future for our countryside, and for sustaining viable rural communities in a 'living' countryside. The increasing use of new 'clean' technologies in energy production, and in the production of food (including biotechnology, cloning techniques and nanotechnology), is one response to this challenge. But as elements of climate change adaptation and mitigation policy, new technologies also themselves pose significant challenges for sustainable governance.

Implementing changes in farm-based energy production, and in arable and/or livestock production systems, presents multiple challenges for sustainable development. It also poses significant challenges for sustainable governance, including the need to accommodate within a vision of a 'sustainable' countryside the varied functions of modern 'multi functional' agriculture – food production, sustaining economically viable rural communities, and protecting biodiversity and landscapes.

This one day conference will address important issues in developing – and then implementing – a vision for a 'sustainable' countryside and for sustainable rural communities.

Key note speakers will address several overarching themes. What is a 'sustainable' countryside? How do we balance the demands of making the changes in land use required by climate change adaptation and mitigation, while also ensuring food security? And how do we reconcile these objectives with the continuing protection of biodiversity and precious landscapes?

The three panel themes will address key challenges for the future regulation and governance of our countryside: (i) climate change policy and its implementation, (ii) new technologies in the energy sector, including farm-based energy production, and (iii) new technologies in food production. The conference will conclude by addressing how these might be reconciled in an integrated policy framework for the future.

***Themes; Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Biotechnology, Energy***

## Programme

9.30am **Registration**

9.45am **Welcome**

Professor Paul Younger, Director, Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability  
Professor Chris Rodgers, Head, Newcastle Law School

10.00am **'A Sustainable Countryside' - Key Themes, Problems, Objectives for Law and Governance**

***Keynote speakers:***

- Bryan Endres, Professor of Agricultural Law, University of Illinois, USA
- László Máthé, Bioenergy Coordinator, WWF International
- Patrick Begg, Rural Enterprises Director, The National Trust

*continued overleaf*

## Programme (continued)

1.00pm **Buffet lunch**

2.00pm **Panel discussion (including afternoon tea at 3.30pm)**

**Panel speakers:**

**Climate change**

Dr Jeremy Franks,  
Newcastle University

Navraj Singh Ghaleh,  
Edinburgh University

Professor Chris  
Rodgers, Newcastle  
University

**Biotechnology**

Professor Maria Lee,  
University College  
London

Ms Ludivine Petetin,  
Newcastle University

Thijs Etty, Vrije  
University Amsterdam

**Energy**

Professor Lynda  
Warren, Aberystwyth  
University

Professor Dermot  
Roddy, Sir Joseph  
Swan Centre for  
Energy Research,  
Newcastle University

Stephen Dow,  
Dundee University

4.30pm **Plenary and concluding remarks**

## How to register

Participation is free but registration is required. To register, please visit:

<http://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=2097>.

For further information on the conference, please contact Dr Ole W Pedersen (ole.pedersen@ncl.ac.uk) or Professor Chris Rodgers (c.p.rodgers@ncl.ac.uk)

## Location

The conference will take place at Newcastle Law School, 21-24 Windsor Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

21-24 Windsor Terrace is **Building 38** on the plan of the campus which can be found at [www.ncl.ac.uk/about/visit/printablemaps/map-campus.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/about/visit/printablemaps/map-campus.htm).

## Enough, For All, Forever:

This event is part of a series of activities taking place throughout 2011 to celebrate Newcastle University's world-leading work on sustainability. For more information, see [www.ncl.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sustainability).

**Enough,**  
for all,  
**forever**