

Project LEO Newsletter



Welcome to Project LEO

August 2019, Issue 1



Maximising prosperity of local energy systems

Welcome to our Project LEO Newsletter. Project LEO stands for Local Energy Oxfordshire. Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO) will explore how the growth of decentralised renewables, battery storage, electric vehicles and demand-side response can be supported by a smarter and more flexible power grid. Project LEO is “one of the most wide-ranging and holistic smart grid trials ever conducted in the UK”. The three-year scheme will cost £40 million, of which the government will contribute £13.8 million through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

Why Oxfordshire?

Oxfordshire was chosen as the location due to the significant constraints on the electricity network in the area as well as the progressive attitude of the local authorities and the thriving community energy scene. The electrical network and communities of Oxfordshire create the perfect environment for all the project partners to understand the value of new markets, technologies and solutions.

We are delighted that the UK government has provided the final piece of funding for Project LEO. This will provide crucial research and learnings, accelerating the transition to new local energy systems and the move to a smart, flexible, low-carbon future.

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Meet the team



UK Research
and Innovation



The LEO team conducting the trial includes numerous partners.

The Low Carbon Hub will develop and manage a portfolio of local generation and demand projects. Academics from the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University will collect and analyse data to create a new model for mapping and planning the local energy system. Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council will provide key infrastructure including intelligent street lighting, EV chargers and heat networks. Origami and Piclo will trial innovative business models while delivering energy trading, aggregation and flexibility services through their respective platforms. Nuvve will provide vehicle-to-grid and smart EV chargers and EDF Energy will offer innovative energy services to customers.



Osney Hydro

Barbara Hammond
Low Carbon Hub



Barbara's 25-year career in sustainable development and energy spans across sectors. She is a pioneer in developing local, collective responses to climate change, being founder and director of Low Carbon Oxford, a city-wide partnership of leading corporations committed to reducing carbon emissions, and founder and director of West Oxford Community Renewables Ltd and Osney Lock Hydro Ltd.

Benjamin Mousseau
EDF Energy



Benjamin has been working for EDF R&D for 10 years, first in in Germany in electric mobility and urban simulation for local authorities. He was then Director of the EDF Lab Singapore focusing on Smart City and Micro Grids activities. Benjamin is now Smart Energy Applications manager in EDF Energy R&D, focusing on new energy services.

Professor Rajat Gupta
Oxford Brookes University



Rajat is Director of Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development at Oxford Brookes University. He has led interdisciplinary research on evaluating the impacts of low carbon communities and smart storage of solar electricity (Innovate UK ERIC project). In LEO, Rajat is co-lead of work stream 4.1 on system learning and planning using spatial data.

Meet the team (continued)..

Llewelyn Morgan
Oxfordshire County Council



Llewelyn leads a service area within Oxfordshire County Council encompassing transport, planning policy and strategy and early-stage scheme development. He has also built Oxford Science Transit, leading on developing a more innovative mobility strategy, which includes MaaS (mobility as a service), analytics and autonomous vehicles as part of the future solutions.

Malcolm McCulloch
Oxford University



Malcolm founded the Energy and Power Group at Oxford University in 1992. The group's focus is to develop innovative sustainable energy technologies and systems for both energy access in Africa and integrating renewable generation into existing grids in the UK. He actively develops the next generation of impactful researchers.

Kelsey Devine
Piclo



Kelsey is the Project Manager for Piclo, WP2 lead. Kelsey has over five years of experience working in both project management and business development within the renewable energy industry. Prior to Piclo, Kelsey worked on the development of low carbon district energy projects in Vancouver, Canada, managing the commercial aspects

Mairi Brookes
Oxford City Council



Mairi Brookes is the Sustainable City Manager at Oxford City Council. Her team's mission is to accelerate the reduction of city-wide carbon emissions and the improvement of air quality in Oxford by working with and for the council's partners.

Stevie Adams
SSEN



Stevie is a Senior Project Manager, working on the Future Networks team at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks; he has worked with SSE since 2001 in a number of different roles. He has led the delivery of a number of innovative SSEN projects including the NINES Project on Shetland, and the Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Project.

Paige Mullen
Nuuve



Paige specializes in the integration of electric vehicles onto the electric grid as a form of flexibility. Previously, Paige worked at Tesla Motors, and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) on vehicle grid integration. She holds a bachelor's in Environmental Science and an MBA from University of Denver and Tongji University, Shanghai.