

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

20-21 May 2026
Edinburgh Futures Institute
University of Edinburgh
1 Lauriston Place,
Edinburgh, EH3 9EF

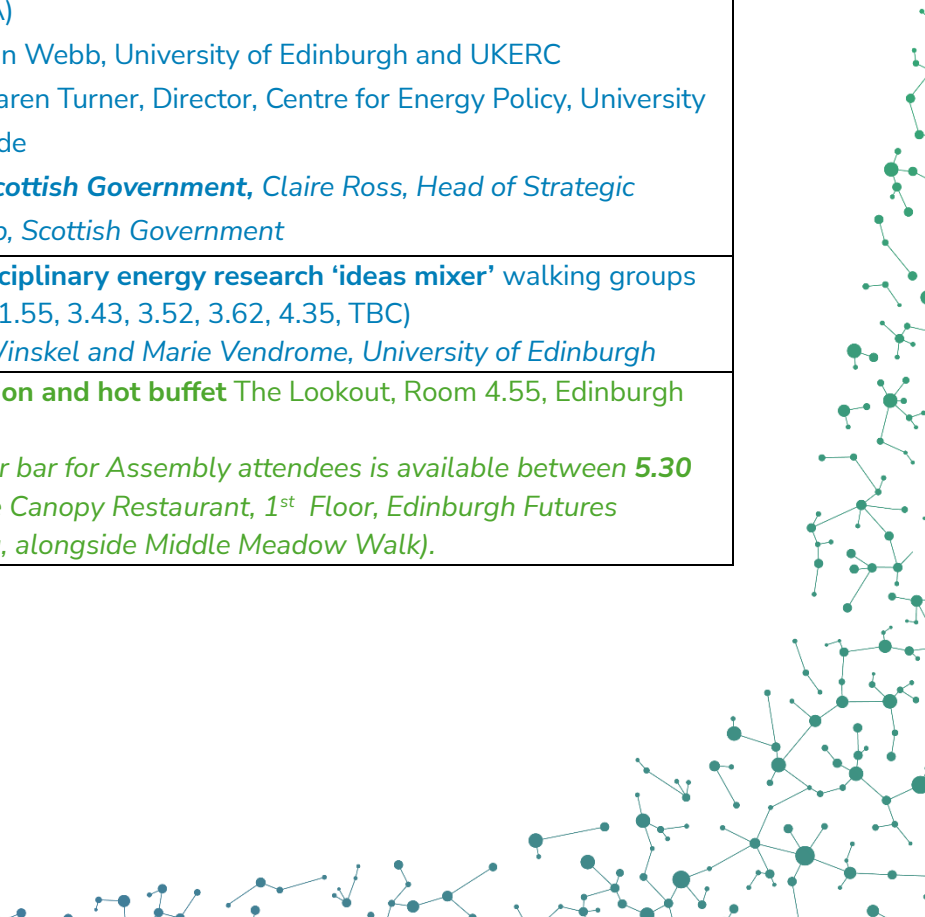
Day 0: Tuesday 19th May: pre-Assembly Workshop for ECRs

15.00-17.00	<p>Early Career Researchers (ECRs) workshop, Room 1.52 (with refreshments from 3pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Facilitated session on 'Establishing Your Research Niche' • Interdisciplinary research integration in UKERC • ECRs at the Annual Assembly
19.00-21.00	<p>Evening reception for all Assembly attendees with drinks and nibbles Luckenbooths, 329 High Street, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1PN</p>

Day 1: Wednesday 20th May

09:00-09:30	<p>Arrival Refreshments, Edinburgh Futures Institute, Room 1.55</p>
09:30-10:00	<p>Session 1 Welcome, UKERC Introductions and Updates <i>Chair: Mark Winskel, University of Edinburgh and UKERC</i> 10 min overviews, 5 mins Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Gross, UKERC Director, Imperial College London • Jessica Bays, UKERC Operations Manager, Imperial College
10:00-11:00	<p>Session 2 UKERC Research Introductions and Updates, Part 1 <i>Chair: Aliya Tskhay, University of Strathclyde</i> 10 min overviews, 10 mins Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 4: Affordability, Justice and Economic Impacts Jess Britton, University of Edinburgh • Theme 1: Delivering Energy Infrastructure, Keith Bell, University of Strathclyde • Theme 3: Geopolitics, Energy Security & Resilience Caroline Kuzemko, University of Warwick
11:00-11.20	<p>Break Edinburgh Futures Institute, Room 1.55</p>
11:20-12:20	<p>Session 3 UKERC Research Introductions and Updates, Part 2 <i>Chair: Ruiyang He, University of Cardiff</i> 10 min overviews, 10 mins Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 2: Operating a Highly Renewable and Largely Electrified Energy System James Dixon, University of Strathclyde • Public Engagement Observatory Jason Chilvers, University of East Anglia • Theme 5: Responsive Research Jamie Speirs, University of Strathclyde
12.20- 13.20	<p>Lunch The Lookout, Room 4.55, Edinburgh Futures Institute</p>

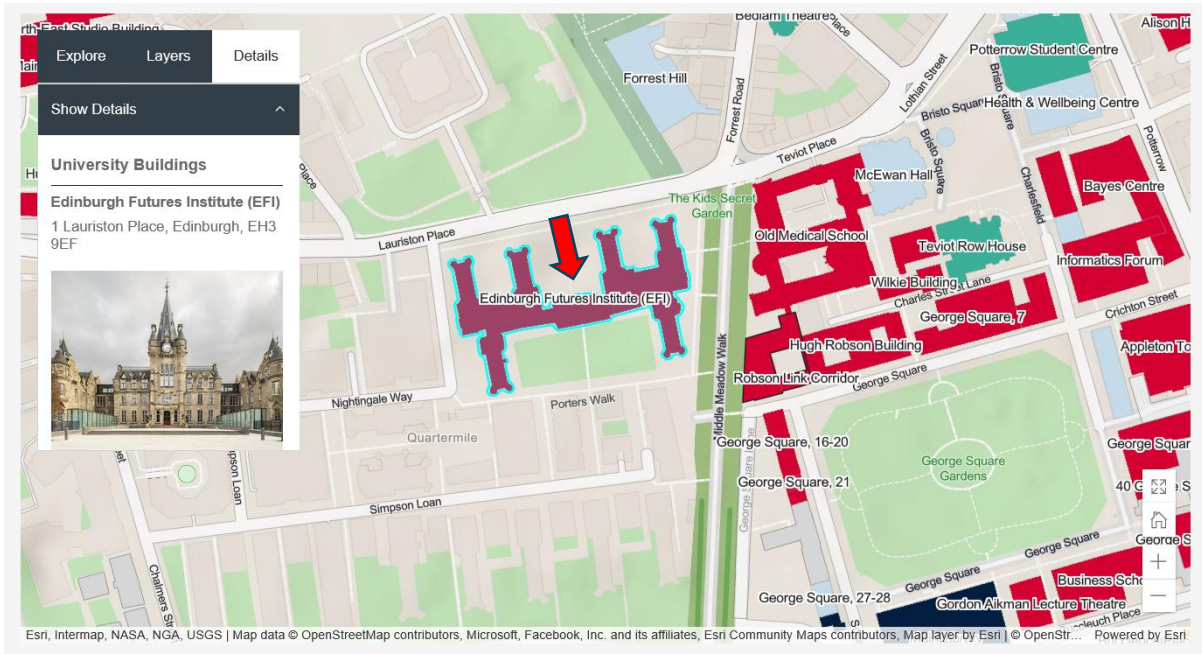
13:20-15:10	<p>Session 4 Energy Policy Priorities and Challenges: insights from UKERC 12 mins panel discussion, 15 mins Q&A Chair: Mark Winskel, University of Edinburgh and UKERC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK energy transition and geopolitical crises (Gavin Bridge, Louis Fletcher, Caroline Kuzemko) • Public engagement and anti-net zero populism (Nick Pidgeon, Rachel Coxcoon, Tom Hargreaves, Steve Hall and Matthew Lockwood) • Bringing down energy bills (Will Blyth, Kaylen McClusky, Richard Carmichael, Antonios Katris) • Energy infrastructure and strategic planning (Graeme Hawker, Callum MacIver, Jake Barns, Jan Webb)
15.10-15.30	<p>Break Edinburgh Futures Institute, Room 1.55</p>
15:30-16:45	<p>Session 5 Energy Policy Priorities and Challenges: policy and stakeholder perspectives Chair: Rob Gross, UKERC Director, Imperial College London</p> <p>UK Government perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Shanks [recorded], Minister for Energy, UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero <p>Energy Supply and Infrastructure Panel (30 Mins; 5 mins comments per panellist, 15 mins Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niall Murphy, Head of Public Affairs (Scotland), SSE • Robin Cathcart, Senior Policy Manager, ScottishPower • Simon Gill, independent consultant, The Energy Landscape <p>Energy Demand and Use Panel (30 Mins; 5 mins comments per panellist, 15 mins Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Copeland, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, National Energy Action (NEA) • Professor Jan Webb, University of Edinburgh and UKERC • Professor Karen Turner, Director, Centre for Energy Policy, University of Strathclyde <p>Reflections from Scottish Government, Claire Ross, Head of Strategic Energy Projects Hub, Scottish Government</p>
16.45-17.30	<p>Session 6 Interdisciplinary energy research 'ideas mixer' walking groups (or breakout rooms 1.55, 3.43, 3.52, 3.62, 4.35, TBC) Introducers: Mark Winskel and Marie Vendrome, University of Edinburgh</p>
18.00-20.00	<p>Networking reception and hot buffet The Lookout, Room 4.55, Edinburgh Futures Institute An over-the-counter bar for Assembly attendees is available between 5.30 pm and 9 pm at the Canopy Restaurant, 1st Floor, Edinburgh Futures Institute (East Wing, alongside Middle Meadow Walk).</p>



Day 2: Thursday 21 May

08.45-09.00	Day 2 welcome, refreshments, Edinburgh Futures Institute, Room 1.55
09:00-09.40	<p>Session 7 UKERC Research Introductions and Updates, Part 3 <i>Chair: Jessica Bays, UKERC Operations Manager, Imperial College</i> 5 mins talks; 5 mins Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and reflections on Assembly Day 1 (ECR rapporteurs) • UKERC ECR network update (Stephen Agyeman, Strathclyde University and Louis Fletcher, University of Warwick) • Energy Data Centre (Peter Holt and Jim Halliday, STFC & UKERC) • UKERC's Reformed National Pricing (RNP) Forum (Phil Heptonstall, Imperial College and UKERC)
09.40-10.40	<p>Session 8 Interdisciplinary research integration in UKERC <i>Chair: Rob Gross, UKERC Director, Imperial College London</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (Mark Winskel, University of Edinburgh) (5 mins) • Reporting back on the Day 1 'ideas mixers and Theme views on research integration (Deputy Research Theme Leads) (6 x 5 mins) • Open Discussion and Next Steps (25 mins)
10.40-11.00	Refreshments, Edinburgh Futures Institute, Room 1.55
11:00-11:45	<p>Session 9 Keynote on Clean Power 2030 Mission <i>Chair: Keith Bell, University of Strathclyde and UKERC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel Macrae, Deputy Director Clean Power 2030 Unit, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, UK Government, with Q&A
11:45-12.55	<p>Session 10 Panel discussion: whole systems energy research and research exchange <i>Chair: Jess Britton, University of Edinburgh and UKERC</i></p> <p>Whole Systems Energy Research (35 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerard Davies, Senior Portfolio Manager, EPSRC, on the new UKRI research strategy and whole energy systems research (10 mins) <p><i>Discussion panel (5 mins comments per panellist, 15 mins Q&A)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart Galloway, University of Strathclyde and energy research theme lead, ClimateXChange • Jon Gibbins, University of Sheffield and Director, UK Carbon Capture and Storage (UKCCS) Research Centre <p>Energy Research Knowledge Exchange (35 mins) <i>(5 mins comments per panellist, 15 mins Q&A)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sasha Maguire, Head of Energy & Climate Change Analysis, Scottish Government • Niall Kerr, Senior Analyst (Energy and Environment) Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICE) • Natasha Madeira, Business Development Manager, Scottish Partnership in Energy and Engineering Research & Innovation (SPEERI) • Ian Watt, Climate Policy Advisor, UK Government Office for Science (GO-Science)
12.55-13.00	Wrap-up, thanks and close, Rob Gross, UKERC Director
13:00-14.00	Lunch The Lookout, Room 4.55, Edinburgh Futures Institute
14.00-17.00	<p><i>Internal research theme meetings for UKERC researchers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 4, Room 3.62; Theme 5, Room 3..52; Theme 2, Room 3.43

Location and arrival: the UKERC Annual Assembly 2026 is being held at the Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI), which is located on the University of Edinburgh's central campus, approximately 15 minutes' walk from Waverley train station. Please enter the building using the main entrance on Lauriston Place (see red arrow below). The UKERC Assembly meeting rooms will be signposted within the building. Registration and welcome will be in the main meeting room, Room 1.55. Note that the EFI main entrance on Lauriston Place is on Level 2; to reach Room 1.55, you need to descend one level. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/maps/maps?building=0450>



The **pre-Assembly evening reception** with drinks and nibbles is from 7pm on 19th May, at Luckenbooths, 329 High Street, Royal Mile, opposite St. Giles' Cathedral <https://luckenboothsedinburgh.co.uk/> We look forward to welcoming you there!

