

# Climate and Finance Conference

## 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025



**Conference Theme:** *Climate, Finance, and the Energy Transition: Risks, Innovation, and Global Impact.* The conference aims to foster dialogue across disciplines, promote cutting-edge research, and surface actionable insights for navigating the fast-evolving energy landscape in a warming world.

### Conference Details:

- Date and time: 8:45-17:30, 5th November 2025
- Venue: ICMA Centre - Henley Business School, University of Reading, Whiteknights Campus, Reading RG6 6DL.

### Travel information:

- A taxi from Reading train station to the ICMA Centre takes about 7 minutes and costs approximately £8–10.
- Alternatively, local buses 20 and 21 run regularly from Reading train station to the campus. The journey takes about 10–20 minutes, depending on traffic.

### Contact

For questions, please contact: [s.varotto@icmacentre.ac.uk](mailto:s.varotto@icmacentre.ac.uk)

# Programme

8:45-9:15 **Registration**

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9:15-9:30 **Welcome** – Professor Adrian Bell  
Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Research (Prosperity and Resilience)

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9:30-10:00 **Keynote Speech**

**“Towards improved climate information for risk assessment in finance and energy”**

by **Professor Jason A Lowe** OBE, Chair in Interdisciplinary Climate Research, Priestley Centre, University of Leeds, and Principal Fellow/Head of Climate Services for Government at the Met Office.

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10:10-11:10 **Session 1: Climate Policy, Risk, and Energy Market Resilience**

This session explores how climate-related risks, market design, and policy frameworks interact with investment decisions and resilience in the energy-finance nexus.

- 1. Mechanisms used to inform investors on climate resilience and adaptation of energy infrastructure**  
Elizabeth Brock, AtkinsRéalis
  - 2. The role of decarbonization and digitalization in reshaping infrastructure investment and financing**  
Ikram Zakarya, Greencore Global
  - 3. Using weather patterns to inform energy and financial modelling**  
Lauren Burton, Met Office
  - 4. Decadal predictions for the European energy sector**  
Benjamin Hutchins, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading
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11:15-11:45 **Coffee Break**

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11:45-12:45 **Panel Session 1**

**Building the Bridge to Net Zero: Insights from the Seventh Carbon Budget and Clean Power 2030.**

Experts will unpack the latest emissions targets, highlight the policy and investment shifts needed to achieve a near fully decarbonised power sector by 2030, and examine how short- and medium-term goals form a critical bridge to long-term climate commitments.

Moderator: **David Wallom**, Professor of Informatics and Associate Director for Innovation at the Oxford e-Research Centre (Energy and Environmental Information and Communication Technology), University of Oxford.

Speakers:

- a. **Paul Ekins OBE** – Professor of Resources and Environmental Policy, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources. UNEP’s International Resource Panel member.
  - b. **Marcelle McManus** – Professor of Energy and Environmental Engineering, University of Bath.
  - c. **Jim Watson** – Professor of Energy Policy, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources and former UKERC Director.
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12:45 – 13:45 Lunch break

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### 13:45-14:45 **Session 2: Financial Modelling and Risk in the Energy Transition**

This session examines the intersection of finance, data analytics, and climate economics, focusing on how quantitative models capture firm performance, default risk, and resilience in the energy transition.

Presentations:

1. **Energy costs and default risk in green mortgage securitisations**  
Alfonso Dufour, ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading
  2. **Future-proofing the energy transition – embedding resilience in energy finance**  
Domenico Villano, University of Florence
  3. **Analysing firms’ stock performance during extreme heatwaves**  
Haitong Jiang, ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading
  4. **Energy transition and European firms’ default risk**  
Guglielmo Visentin, ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading
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### 15:00-16:00 **Panel Session 2**

#### **Weathering the Storm: Building a Resilient Energy System in a Changing Climate**

As climate extremes intensify, ensuring the resilience of the UK’s energy generation and transmission infrastructure is more urgent than ever. This panel will explore the intersection of physical climate risk, insurance markets, and private/public adaptation spending, drawing on insights from the upcoming Climate Change Risk Assessment 4 (CCRA4). Speakers will examine how to future-proof the grid, mobilise investment in resilience, and design insurance and regulatory frameworks that protect critical infrastructure while supporting net zero goals.

Moderator: **Theresa Löber**, Head of Climate Project Team, Bank of England and Met Office.

Speakers:

- a. **Deborah Petterson**, Director of Resilience and Emergency Management at the National Energy System Operator (NESO).
  - b. **Stefán Smith**, Professor of Energy Systems and the Built Environment, University of Reading
  - c. **Swenja Surminski**, Professor at the Grantham Research Institute/LSE and Managing Director Climate Marsh McLennan, Appointed Member of UK Committee on Climate Change (mitigation and adaptation committees).
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## 16:00-16:30 **Reflections, Award and Closing**

### **Reflections on the day:**

- David Brayshaw, Professor in Climate Science and Energy Meteorology, Meteorology Department, University of Reading
- Simone Varotto, Professor of Finance, ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading
- Emily Wallace, Meteorological Advisor at the National Energy System Operator, Fellow in Weather and Climate Extremes and Impacts at the Met Office and Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde

### **Met Office Early Career Better Together Award**

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16:30-17:30 Coffee – Networking

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