

Policy Impact Unit – Update

February 2024.



[A bumper month for the Circular Economy Centre for Construction Materials!](#)

PIU are incredibly proud to support the [Circular Economy Centre for Mineral-Based Construction Materials](#). This week, Scotland's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee published their [Stage 1 Report](#) on the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill – **which referenced oral and written evidence provided by the Centre (with PIU support) no less than ten times**. There are significant recommendations, including how the Scottish Government can go further on construction, and we look forward to providing an update on the response in due course.

The **Centre's work was also cited by DEFRA this week as being instrumental in demonstrating British expertise and success in Circular Economy**, as the [UNECE](#) selected the [UK to establish the worlds first UN backed Centre for Circular Economy Research](#) with UCL named as one of five institutions who will lead the new Centre from April 2024. Huge congratulations to [Julia Stegemann](#) and team for this monumental achievement.

Next month, PIU are delivering the next instalment of our 'Futures Fourm' Series – in partnership with the Centre. If you work in Circular Economy or Construction and are interested in finding out more about the event (on 21st March) please get in touch.

PIU's February highlights also included...

- [Dr Leonie Tanczer wins 2024 UKRI FLF Impact Award](#) including £10k prize! PIU supported the application and work closely with Leonie on impact activities – huge congratulations!
- New Project! PIU met with the wonderful Emily Kostas this month as we officially begin our policy support for her [UKRI FLF Seaconomy](#) research, we scoped initial policy opportunities for developing the UK's Seaweed Bioeconomy.
- Delivered a Policy Impact session for [IHE's Impact Fellows](#).
- Presented outline options for a Policy Engagement Strategy to the Festival of Engineering Policy Engagement Advisory Board, and confirmed outline plans for the flagship (policy) launch event at the House of Commons on 15th July. If you are interested in working with us on the [Festival of Engineering](#) please get in touch, or submit your ideas [here](#).
- Submitted posters highlighting Faculty research and policy recommendations to [DLUHC](#), which will be displayed throughout their estates as part of National Sciences Week
- Met with Home Office analysts and policy leads to discuss provisional results of new [Gender and Tech Research Group](#) study, and organisers of a Strategic Hackathon taking place next month to inform Met Police approach to tech abuse – and how this could be informed by UCL research.
- Published a [blog for World Cancer Day](#) focused on decreasing the cost, and increasing availability, of advanced cancer therapies – highlighting the groundbreaking work of the [FTHM Hub](#) (whom we also delivered a policy update to, this month.)
- Initiated a new policy project for [STeAPP MPA](#) students

Opportunities



- **PIU are delivering a Policy 101 Masterclass at the AI Centre on March 26th**, alongside Dr Leonie Tanczer. This will include tips, tricks and live examples for how to approach policy engagement and amplify your research. **Open to staff and PHD students from Faculty of Engineering, sign up here for [in person tickets](#) or to join [online](#).**
- PIU are delivering a seminar for the international #NoMore conference to combat domestic and sexual violence, on March 5th – tickets are available [tickets are available here](#)
- DSIT have published new [Areas of Research Interest](#) – Artificial Intelligence, Diital Connectivity and telecoms, Cyber Security and Digital Identify, Data, Digital Infrastructure and much more. If you are interested in learning more, or with support in submitting evidence (from FES) please reach out.
- UCL Public Policy have highlighted multiple secondment opportunities with DHSC, for experts in Quantum technologies or Engineering Biology. Contact PIU or Alice Tofts at UCLPP for further information if you are interested. Funding is available, contract periods and types are flexible.
- A new [UK - Canada AI Safety Researcher Exchange Programme](#) is now open for applicants; [the Department for Business and Trade have an open call for early career researchers](#) to submit policy-relevant research – with a £10k prize available; FCDO have 6 open calls for rapid reviews in areas such as the effect of interventions

to build climate resilient health systems, effectiveness of school feeding, women's rights in Africa and [more](#) – deadline 22nd March.

- New POSTNotes open! Including [Diet, nutrition and cancer](#), [Supply of semi-conductors](#), [The hydrogen backbone, 6G – Next generation mobile communication technologies](#), [Cybersecurity of the metaverse](#), and [Public health impacts of heat and humidity](#). If you would like to discuss what POST Notes are or PIU support please get in touch.

STeAPP Public Policy

Congratulations to STeAPP's [Arthur Petersen](#) in being appointed as [Chief Scientific Adviser to the Dutch Delta Commissioner](#), and [Jean-Christophe Mauduit](#) in his appointment as co-chair of the European Union working group on '[Building capacity for EU science diplomacy](#)'.

In other STeAPP news,

- [Neil Morisetti](#) Presented findings from the [STeAPP Emirates Mars Mission evaluation](#) at the **World Governments Summit, and briefed a UK Minister of State** on the place of Science, Technology and Engineering in informing / shaping policymaking, with focus on changing climate and biodiversity.
- [Geoff Mulgan](#) Contributed to discussions on whole of government innovation, AI and science with the **European Commission's Innovation, Digital, Joint Research Centre, and the CEPS thinktank**; visited **Amsterdam Open Research** to discuss place based interaction of research, policy and problem solving, delivered a session with MP's in the Australian Parliament, and engaged the **German federal government and Bangladesh government** on the new [Institutional Architecture Lab](#)
- [Roser Pujadas](#) presented a talk on *AI: A socio-technical perspective* to the **Catalan Academy of Sciences**, as well as the **Green European Foundation**
- [Lucas Somavilla](#) and [Yacob Mulugetta](#) Contributed to delivery of a **Kenya Climate Compatible Growth** annual policy workshop on energy and transport decarbonisation pathways, and published a policy perspective piece on [development transitions for fossil-fuel producing low- and middle-income countries](#).
- [Adam Cooper](#) Designed a navigator tool to explore local and national opportunities for academic engagement via a [CAPE fellowship](#) at the

Government Office for Science, and organised a roundtable with **DESNZ, DfT, National Highways and Royal Academy of Engineering** on [Laurent Liote](#)'s PhD findings on [engineering advice](#) for policy.

- [Ine Steenmans](#) contributed to a UK **Open Innovation Team** study of the future of civil service competencies, Organised a one-day '[How to make better futures with systems approaches](#)' event for the **Operational Research Society** at the Birmingham Science Museum, and commenced an evaluation of UK Government Line Management training for the **Government's Skills and Campus Unit**.
- [Erica Thompson](#) met the **Bank of England** to discuss climate models and scenarios for prudential regulation, contributed to workshops, stakeholder engagement, and an [Editorial](#) for **The Lancet Commission** on Strengthening the Use of Epidemiological Modelling, and presented work on model risks to an audience of senior **pensions actuaries and lawyers**.
- [Itegbeyogene Ezekiel](#) Completed a [science diplomacy mentorship](#) program for UCL under- and post-grad students.
- [Mai Idris](#) designed a systems mapping workshop with Liberating Knowledge and **Healing Justice London** for the [Health and Radical Justice Lab](#).

Thank you!