

Dr. Louise Ellis

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A corporate sustainability specialist with wide ranging project and research experience in policy and strategic advice, due diligence, risk assessment and corporate governance, environmental assessment and management and regulatory compliance. Additional research interests in sustainable development, policy decision-making, political science and the role of business in governance.

Key skills include:

- new postgraduate programme development
- research linking theory and practice
- working with different types of stakeholders, both private and public sector
- integration of sustainability risks into a business framework
- building multi-stakeholder partnerships
- project management
- providing environmental and CSR governance advice at project and corporate levels

Professional Experience

September 2002 to date. Lecturer, University of Leeds, Sustainability Research Institute

Research

My main research areas are sustainability policy-making and corporate social responsibility, with a particularly interest in the relationship between the two areas. Current research includes the assessment of the impact of the economic recession on the actions and language of corporate social responsibility. Recently completed research programme (as Lead Researcher) includes an evaluation of the preparedness of organisations in the Yorkshire and the Humber for the introduction of the Carbon Reduction Commitment. This research also involves an assessment of the effectiveness of the Carbon Trading Yorkshire Initiative along with the identification of the future need for business support in the transition to a low carbon economy.

I have completed joint research with the School of Politics and International Studies: which investigates the role of multinational corporations in UK sustainable development policy. This research combines the political theories of power relations with post-modernist perspectives on discourse. This theoretical approach forms the basis of an analytical framework which is applied to UK sustainable development policy, including the review of the UK strategies for sustainable development and climate change, identifying how business as a policy actor informs the development of sustainability policy in the UK.

I am part of the organising committee for the Corporate Responsibility Research Conference.

Research and Practitioner Papers:

Ellis, L. (in preparation) 'A Monopoly of Legitimacy: Corporate Activity and Sustainable Development Policy'.

Ellis, L., Gouldson, A., Harwatt, H., and Kerr, N. (in preparation) 'Business Perspectives on the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy'

Harwatt, H., Gouldson, A., Ellis, L. and Kerr, N. (in preparation), 'Pathways to a Low Carbon Economy: Business Perspectives and Policy Options'

Gouldson, A., Harwatt, H., Ellis, L. and Kerr, N. (in preparation) 'Pathways to a Low Carbon Economy: Ground-truthing the Models'

Young CW, Ellis L, Figge F, Hahn T (in preparation) 'Moving to eco-sufficiency to create a transformative sustainable business model'.

Ellis, L. and Bastin, C. (2011) Corporate social responsibility in times of recession: changing discourses and implications for policy and practice. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, n/a. doi: 10.1002/csr.25

Ellis, L. and Gouldson, A. (2010) Complementing the Policy Mix. The carbon reduction commitment could be a significant step forward in 'innovation friendly' policy. *The Environmentalist*, 95, 14-15.

Ellis, L. (2007) Who Influences Policy? Analysing Actor Influence on UK Sustainable Development Policy *International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development* 6, 1, 36-52

Conference Papers

Ellis, L. and Bastin, C. (2009) *The Economic Downturn and the Language and Action of Corporate Social Responsibility*, Corporate Responsibility Research Conference, University of Vaas, Finland, 7 – 9 September 2009

Young, W. and Ellis, L. (2008) *Sustainable Advertising or Greenwash?* Presented at Sustainable Consumption Research Exchange Conference, Brussels, March 10-11 2008.

Ellis, L (2005) *The UK Government's Consultation Process relating to the Review of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and wider Sustainable Development Policy*, presented at The 11th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference, Helsinki, Finland, 6 -8 June 2005

Ellis L (2004) *A Model of Influence: Multinational Corporations in UK Sustainable Development Policy*, presented at *International Conference on Sustainable Development Policy*, Manchester 29-30th March 2004

Mahi, P. and Ellis, L. (2000) *Quality of Life and The Environment*, presented at the 2nd World Congress on Environmental Management, New Delhi 2-3 June 2000.

Ellis L (1999) *The effect of UK and European environmental policy on the electricity generation market*. Presented at Power Inc conference, Brighton, February 1999.

Ireland, M. and Ellis L. (1998) *Theoretical and Empirical Relationships between NO_x and NO₂*, NSCA Dispersion Modelling Workshop London June 1998

Mason, D. and Ellis, L. (1998) *NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) Syndrome*, presented at Power, Coal and Environment, Moscenicka Draga, Croatia, 20 – 22 May 1998

Teaching

My prime teaching responsibility is that of programme co-ordinator for the MSc Sustainability (Environmental Consultancy) course. The programme is the first of its kind, providing an innovative blend of academic content and professional skills. This role includes the development of the course, management and direction of marketing, curriculum design, pastoral care of students, liaison with external teachers, coordination and setting of all forms of assessment and management of student placements. The extensive use of practicing professionals in the delivery of this programme promotes excellent knowledge transfer relationships. Subject teaching includes issues and cases in corporate social responsibility, the regulatory planning context of environmental projects and project and stakeholder management.

Other teaching and management responsibilities have included; level 1 Personnel Tutor and Learning and Communications, level 2 Environment and Business and Environmental Auditing, level 3 Sustainability and Business, MA Case Studies in Sustainable Business.

External projects

I continue to develop my consultancy and external project portfolio through her work in the School, SRI and BOSS. In addition through my role as Director of External Partnerships I help develop and facilitate new collaborations between the School and external organizations and businesses.

Recent external projects include:

Independent review of compliance against the equator principles of a proposed gold mine, undertaken on behalf of the private finance house. This project involved liaising with the project company, technical expertise and consultancy partners in order to ascertain if the proposal project was in line with the Equator Principles prior to financial agreement.

National judge for the annual Chamber Awards 2010, Green Business Category, invited to the judging panel by the British Chamber of Commerce.

October 2000 to 2003 Deloitte, Sustainability Business Services, Manager

As a manager within Deloitte Sustainability Business Services, with prime responsibility for energy and utility clients, I have played a major role in the development of the CSR, risk assessment and due diligence service line. This has involved profile awareness raising both internally and externally, providing client focused solutions, production of briefing papers and the development of marketing material. Through my work I have enhanced my technical experience through the integration of business focused issues and developed my management skills.

February 1998 to September 2000 Mott MacDonald, Power Development Division, Brighton – Environmental Consultant.

Primary responsibilities included due diligence, risk assessment, regulatory compliance, environmental assessments including public consultation and stakeholder involvement and environmental audits. I also completed policy and strategic studies, with particular reference to sustainable development, for a of client groups including private investors, international funding agencies, commercial banks, governments, utilities and developers. I completed projects world-wide including Kenya, Turkey, Bangladesh, Abu Dhabi and Romania.

October 1996 – February 1998 Sir William Halcrow and Partners (previously Southern Water Technology) - Environmental Scientist.

In my role as an environmental consultant my work included; environmental assessment of pipeline schemes upgrade scheme and new works, development of links with statutory and non-statutory consultees, advisor to BP on the role of environmental audits within the oil industry and wastewater operation and process audits.

5 months on site project manager designing and developing an anaerobic digester hydrosphere. Throughout this period I had to liaise with the client on a daily basis.

Education

2002 - 2008 University of Leeds, PhD in the Sustainability Research Institute and the School of Politics and International Studies

1995 - 1996 University of East Anglia. MSc Environmental Impact Assessment and Auditing.

1992 - 1995 University of Brighton. BSc (HONS) Environmental Sciences

Professional Status and Training

Associate Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

PRINCE2 Project Manager

ESRC Scholarship, Evidence-based policy summer school.