ICN 2026 - Welcome to Edinburgh 10 -11 November 2026

We are delighted to invite the Innovation Circle Network members to Edinburgh. The event will focus on AI Data Centres and energy.

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER – refreshments, lunch and dinner included

13:00 – 14:00 | Arrivals, lunch together, Planning Aid Scotland office

14:30 – 17:30 | Meetings and discussions

14.30 Introductions
14.45 Overview of the work of Planning Aid Scotland and our current projects
15.15 ICN Project Updates
15.45 Break
16.00 Future projects and possible collaborations

17:30 – 18:00 | Formal ICN Meeting

19:30 | Dinner together, Howie's, Victoria Street (link for menu choices has been circulated)

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER – refreshments, lunch included

Morning | Meetings and discussions

9.30 Coffee and pastries
10.00 Anne Krippler *Energy consents and related issues in Scotland*
10.15 Q and A, General Discussion
10.45 Jenny Munro, RTPI, *Planning for Data Centres in Scotland*
10.55 Professor Wim Vanderbauwhede, University of Glasgow, *Data Centres in Scotland: Growth Drivers, Risks and Impacts*
11.25 Q & A
11.40 Comfort break
11.50 Andrew Aveyard, University of Edinburgh *Data Centre infra-structure requirements and their impacts*
12.05 Q and A, General Discussion, opportunities for collaboration

1 pm Lunch | Lunch together, Planning Aid Scotland office

2 pm | Guided visit of Edinburgh hosted by Invisible Cities, ending in a historic local pub (own dinner arrangements)

Biographies

Prof. Dr. Wim Vanderbauwhede received a PhD in Electrotechnical Engineering from the University of Gent, Belgium in 1996. He is Professor in Low Carbon and Sustainable Computing at the School of Computing Science of the University of Glasgow. His research focuses on estimating and reducing emissions from computing in general and generative AI in particular. His research has resulted in 200 refereed conference and journal papers. Before returning to academic research, Dr Vanderbauwhede worked as an IC Design Engineer and Senior Technology R&D Engineer in the Microelectronics industry.

Andrew Aveyard is the Energy Sector Lead for research and commercial engagement at The University of Edinburgh. His primary aim is to facilitate relationships between the University and Industry to enable the successful delivery of innovative energy projects and skills training, which are needed to support the Just Transition.

Andrew is skilled in facilitating relationships between people and companies, enabling successful delivery of innovative strategies and projects. He is responsible for: identification of projects with commercial benefits, development of strategic opportunities, fostering of partnerships with industry, initiating knowledge exchange, fostering mutually beneficial research collaborations and partnerships, understanding and leveraging research funding, negotiation of commercial terms, implementing contracts, and commercialization. He has grown strategic relationships with key partners in the energy sector and has facilitated co-creation between academics and industry partners developing ideas into funded projects across the range of specialisms at the University including; Offshore Wind, Hydrogen, Wave and Tidal Energy, Energy Network System Integration, CCUS, electrical transmission, Decarbonisation, Net Zero Buildings, Sustainability, and Circular Economy. Andrew is co-ordinating all the inter-disciplinary research that is being undertaken on Data Centres and their impacts, including the energy usage, the impact on Grid, opportunities for waste heat, water usage, the economic opportunity both local and national, and community benefits.

Jenny Munro works for the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as Policy, Practice and Research Officer in the Scotland team. During her time at the RTPI, Jenny has undertaken research into the impacts of the planning profession on women, coordinated the RTPI's rural planning research project, and led on a variety of policy initiatives. She is a Master of Urban Planning graduate from the University of Melbourne in Victoria Australia, where she was the recipient of the Dean's Honours Award and Ledgar Prize in Urban Planning. Jenny has previously worked as a planning consultant in Australia and has a particular interest in international knowledge and policy transfer.

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