Local Low Carbon Industrial Strategies

Peter Taylor\(^1\), Jonathan Busch\(^1\), Tim Foxon\(^2\), Julia Steinberger\(^1\)

\(^1\)University of Leeds and \(^2\)University of Sussex

*Low Carbon Societies Research Network 11\(^{th}\) Annual Meeting*
*ENEA Headquarters, Rome, 18-19 October 2019*
• Clean Growth Strategy (October 2017)
• Industrial Strategy (November 2017)
• Amendment to Climate Change Act for a net-zero target (June 2019)

“I want to … underline the enormous industrial opportunity for us that is emerging from the global transition to a low carbon economy - and how it will benefit us right across the UK.”

- Claire Perry, Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, 2017

“a new approach to government … stepping up to a new, active role that backs business and ensures more people in all corners of the country share in the benefits of its success”

- HM Government, 2017
1. Theoretical Framing

Ecological Economics + neo-Schumpeterian Economics

Research Process

• Case studies
  ➢ Interviews with stakeholders in Humber region and Styria

• Knowledge exchange
  ➢ Workshop between practitioners in Humber region and Styria

• Policy co-creation
  • Secondment to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Strategic objectives for low carbon industrial strategies

- Promote innovation in low carbon technologies, business models and practices
- Action to manage energy demand as well as supply
- Enable flexibility for systemic change
Five elements for designing policy

- Defining and enabling low carbon industrial missions
- Creating markets with demand-pull
- Shaping markets by identifying opportunities and rewarding success
- Stimulating investment
- Embedding learning approaches in governance
Low-carbon industrial development does not decarbonise industry

- Policy is focused on industrial development
- The Climate Emergency also requires sunsetting strategies
- Just Transition – vested interests mobilise dependent communities
Intermediary Organisations

- Important functions for innovation ecosystems
- New: formal cluster organisations and climate commissions
- Existing: re-orienting from ‘declining’ industries
- No evidence of sunsetting functions
Does the reorienting of intermediaries away from fossil industries contribute to sunsetting?

1. Undermining social licence & political influence?
2. Providing routes for Just (job-to-job) Transitions?

Do climate intermediaries have the needed transformational potential?

2. Partners are often anchor institutions
2. Reflexive ‘radicalisation’ of institutions?
Thank You!