



NET PRESENTATION:

# Beyond Cities

## Community Action for Transition to Sustainable Living

**Chris Cook**

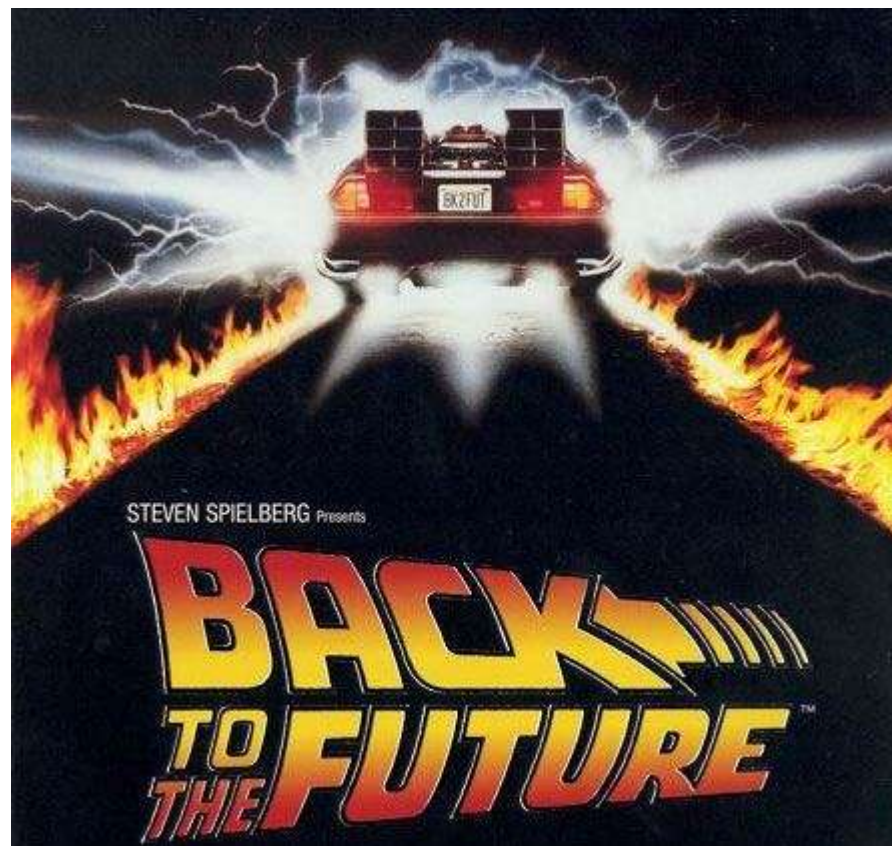
**Glasgow 23rd April 2015**



**Institute for Security  
& Resilience Studies**  
University College London



***“21<sup>st</sup> Century questions do not have 20th Century answers”***





# Introduction - Resilience

Resilience - *the enduring power of a body or bodies for transformation, renewal and recovery through the flux of interactions and flow of events*

Resource Resilience – keeping the lights on

Human Resilience – building capacity & capability

Financial Resilience – financial system which does not come two hours away from collapse



# Introduction – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Questions

What are the operating principles of a sustainable society?

What are the protocols & frameworks within which these principles may be made manifest?

What instruments are necessary within such frameworks?



# Introduction – Research Methodology

Review of current global policy to identify successful operating principles, protocols and instruments

Review of historic protocols and instruments

Action-based research:

**Micro** - proof of concept at community level

**Macro** – eg Caspian Energy Grid initiative

**Systems Thinking** - if resilient Micro is networked outcome should be resilient Macro



# Resource Resilience – Case of Denmark

Since 1980 Denmark's GDP rose 78%

Energy use has been stable

Carbon fuel use has declined significantly

*How did Denmark achieve this?*



# Resource Resilience

## Least Carbon Fuel Cost principle

- minimum carbon fuel input for a given output of electricity, heat or power
- investment in renewables, heat, transport, energy efficiency
- distinct from least DK cost (or least \$, € or £ cost)



## Emerging Outcome - **Natural Grid**

- decentralised/distributed energy
- knowledge & knowhow base: Vestas the biggest global wind turbine company in country of 6m people
- trend to energy security and energy independence
- not forgetting.....reduction in carbon use





# Linlithgow Natural Grid (LNG) – Phase 1

**Aim:** Linlithgow to become independent in energy

**Means:** application of least carbon fuel cost principle

## Catalyst

- Mainstreaming Innovation academic input
- CARES funded study carried out by Dr Mohammed Imbabi of Aberdeen University



# Linlithgow Natural Grid - Initial Study

Objective 1 – map energy use in Linlithgow Cross

Objective 2 – identify & prioritise viable least carbon fuel cost interventions leading to energy descent



# Survey Target Area 2013

Linlithgow Cross Buildings Survey, TL-CARES Project





# Systemic Funding Problem

Denmark's fiscally robust local government guaranteed finance of renewables & funded heat infrastructure

UK intermediated 'for £ profit' market economy

- renewables compete with profitable marginal energy
- energy efficiency reduces energy sales

So if private sector **won't** & public sector **can't**, how can renewables & energy savings be funded?



# Linlithgow Natural Grid – Phase 2

Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI) Smart Accelerator programme

Development of community-based instruments & protocols to accelerate community energy projects

Instruments - Prepay Energy Credit

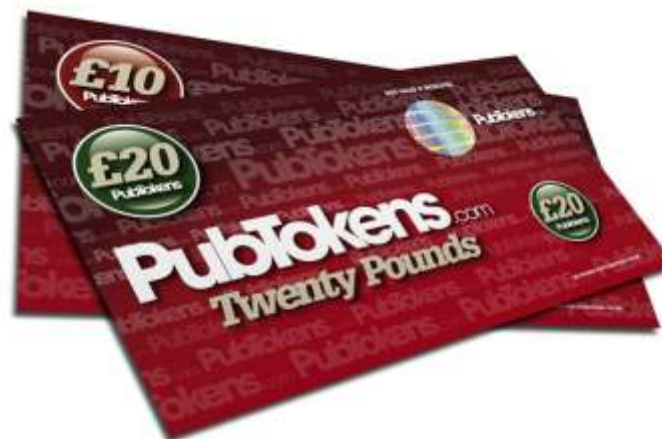
Protocols - Energy Partnership & Energy Pool



# Instrument – Prepay Credit



Tax





# Tax Prepay

**Tax Prepay** – credit returnable in payment of taxes

**Tax Return** – 'stock' part of tally stick returned to Treasury

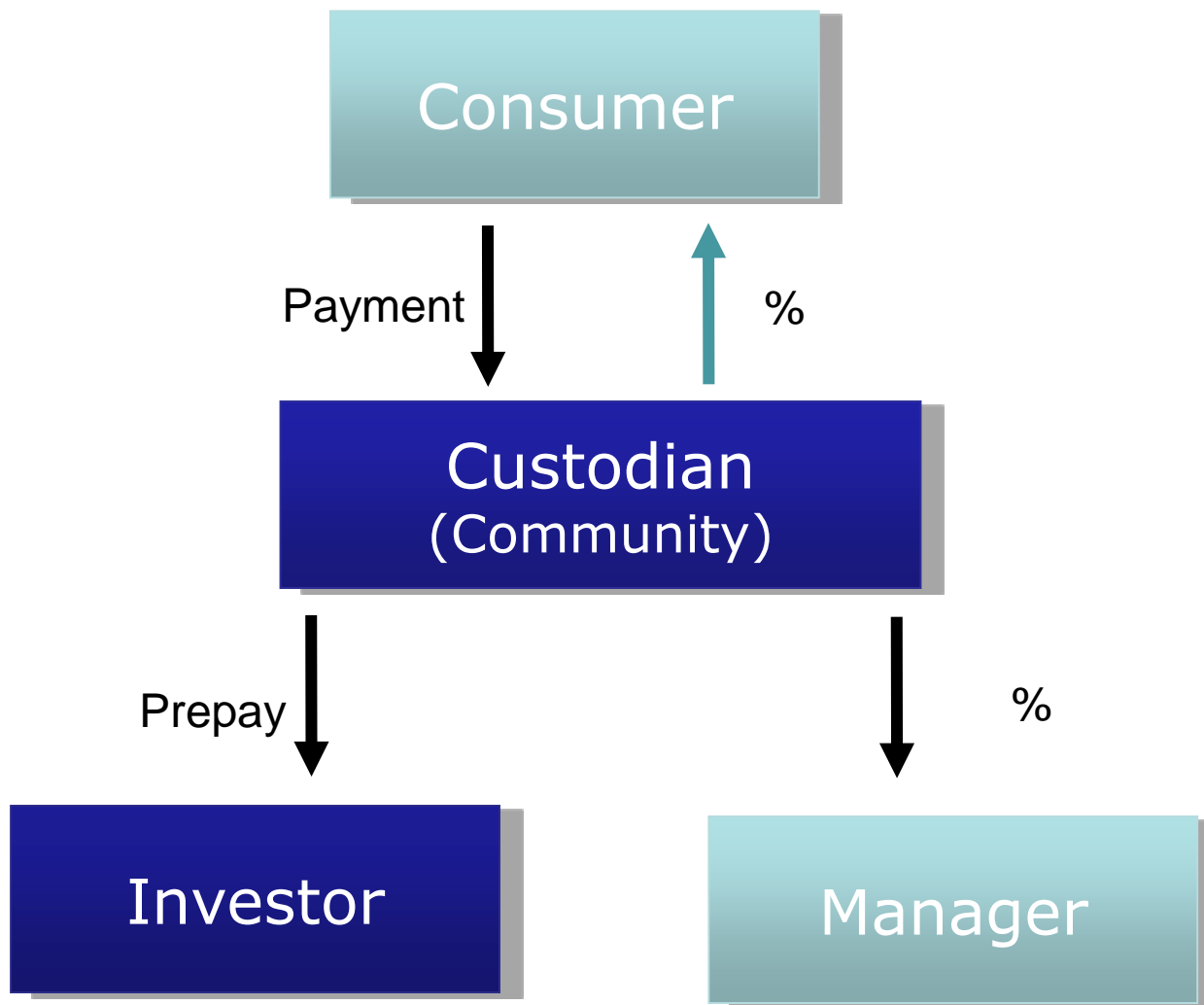
**Rate of Return** - rate over time at which stock is returnable for cancellation

eg Prepay £8 for £10 tax - £2 profit 25% pa rate of return  
- not fixed - depends on existence & quantity of flow





# Protocol - Energy Partnership





# Energy Partnership – Energy as a Service

**Social Contract** - relationship-based not transaction-based;  
costs transformed to revenue shares

**Neutrality** – removes ego and politics

**Collaborative** - stakeholder interests aligned

**Sustainable** - all have interest in minimising cost over time



# Energy Prepay – the Value Proposition

## Community

- sells value of future energy production or savings
- interest-free energy loan until credit cancelled by return vs supply or repurchase from energy savings

## Consumer

- prepays for energy and locks in price



# Energy Prepay – the Value Proposition

## Investor

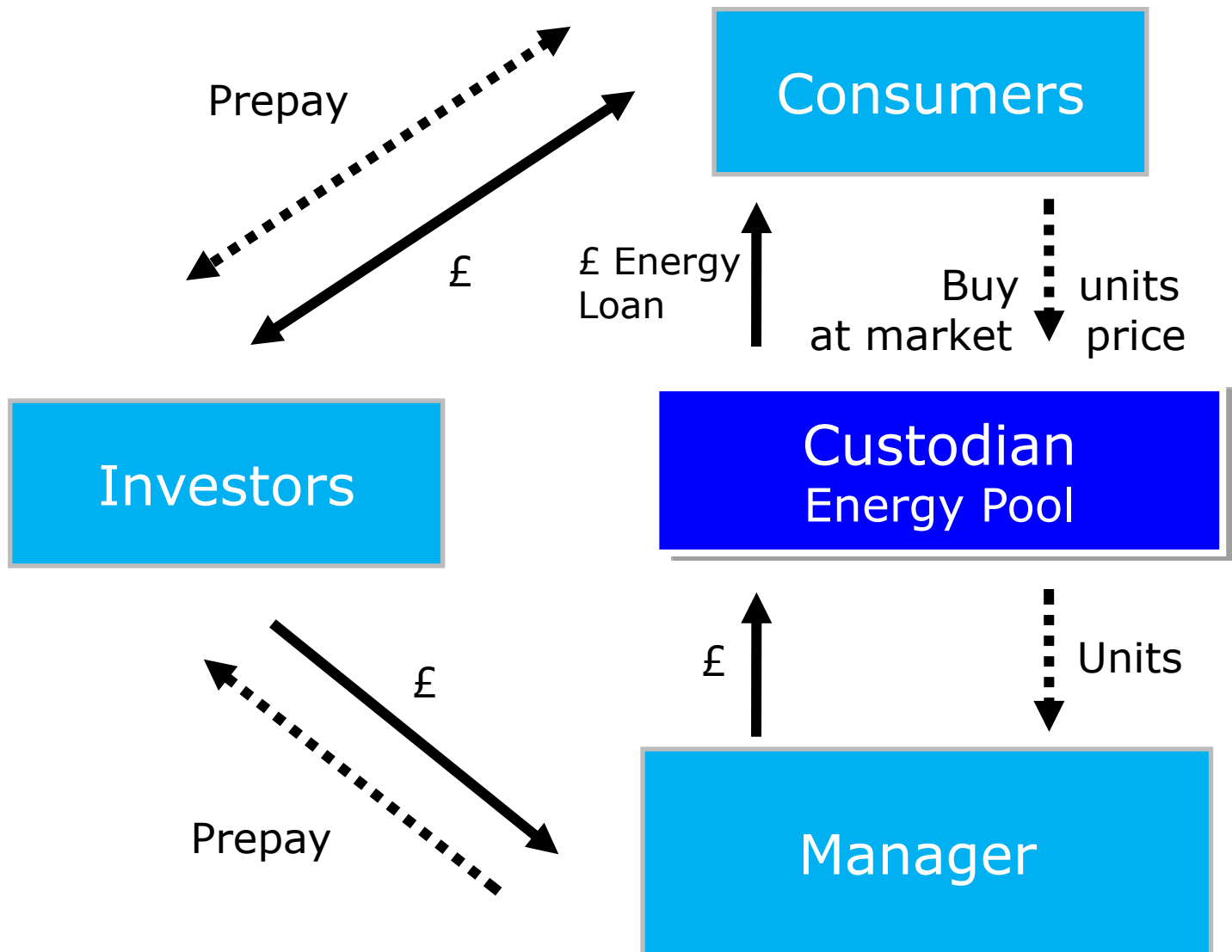
- **Energy Loan** investment directly “Peer to Asset”
- Consumers buy credits from Investors at best price below physical energy price & return against supply

## Manager

- shares in gross revenues or production
- interests aligned with Investor
- no 'Principal/Agency' problem



# Protocol - Energy Pool **Clearing Union**





## Next Steps

*Q1: Based on your current research or practice, what potential future research in your area and/or multidisciplinary research should follow?*

A. Implementation of protocols and instruments in two Linlithgow proof of concept locations:

- Linlithgow Energy Park – business oriented
- Vennel Energy – community oriented



## Next Steps

*Q2: How the outputs of your research and/or practice could support social innovation, i.e. engagement of community groups or individuals in applying the research or practice outputs to contribute to more sustainable living?*

A. Subscription of the community to the aims of Linlithgow Natural Grid via subscription to the protocols

NB. More expensive carbon fuel becomes, the more £ profit there is in saving it – reduced CO<sub>2</sub> use follows



## Next Steps

*Q3: What dissemination routes would enable faster understanding and application of new knowledge not only by businesses and industry, but also by communities and entrepreneurial individuals?*

A. Cascading local community engagement for older generations plus social media for younger generations  
Suitably crafted documentaries and reality TV  
Community level events & engagement





## Next Steps

*Q4: Who might be potential enablers of knowledge dissemination to the population – government and its agencies, local authorities, community groups, media, online knowledge platforms, etc. ?*

A. Cadre of local & neighbourhood energy developers to lead development & disseminate best practice

Developer Guild approach: apprentice, journeyman, master ?

Paid out of energy production & reduction



# Next Steps

*Q5: What governance frameworks and partnerships should be developed to support social innovation?*

A. Collective risk sharing – Guarantee Society

Associative production sharing – Capital Partnership

**Nondominium** governance

No stakeholder has dominant rights: stakeholders have veto rights on matters which concern them



## Next Steps

*Q6: What 'big data' do communities and innovators need to enable development of innovative solutions in your area of research or practice?*

A. Energy production & use data.

Geospatial data.

Resource data – especially water

Transport use data



## Next Steps

*Q7: What tools should be developed for different users to enable the application of a systems approach in decision-making on governance, planning, infrastructure systems and development of innovative solutions?*

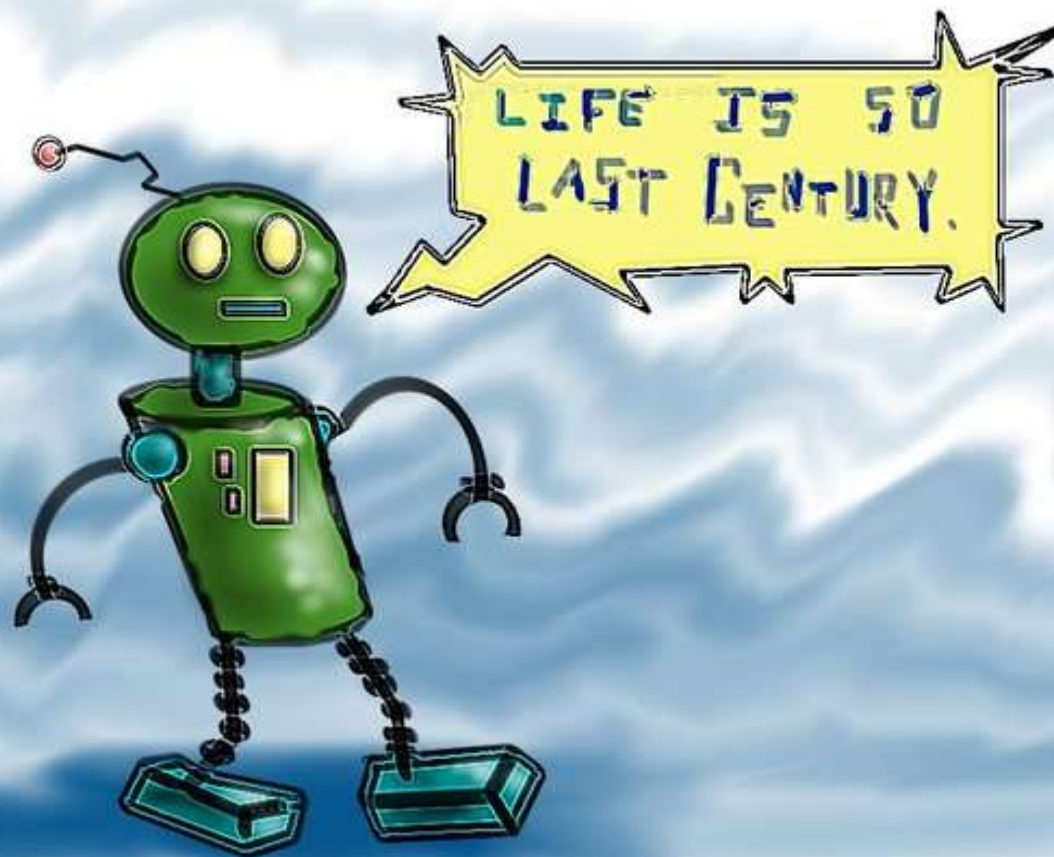
A. Innovative use of graphic design & 3D representations

Online decision making tools - liquid democracy

Social engagement



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century questions do not have 20<sup>th</sup> century answers.....



*C. 2005*



.....21<sup>st</sup> century answers pre-date modern finance

