

# A Carbon Neutral Society Action Month

Live Webinar Series

Every Week from May 12 to June 9 (Americas) / May 13 to June 10 (Asia and the Pacific), 2022

**<Call for Nominations of ECR Participants>**



## Overview

The "Carbon Neutral Society – Action Month" webinar series will highlight a range of research initiatives undertaken by APRU Universities with the common goal of preserving the global environment and achieving a sustainable society. It will focus on the "realization of a decarbonized society" as a means of combating climate change and establishing a sustainable society by bringing together a diverse group of experts and researchers from a variety of research fields to facilitate the exchange of ideas, discussion of potential cross-disciplinary approaches, and collaborative development of solutions.

It features keynote lectures, panel discussions and Q&A sessions with renowned experts, as well as interactive online activities. Through online activities such as moderated breakout room discussions, poster sessions and networking via virtual meeting tools, participants can generate new collaborative ideas for the next phase of their research collaborations.

## About the Webinar Series

Climate change is a critical global issue that affects both societies and industries, as the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021 recently reaffirmed.

It is crucial to take concrete steps toward a carbon-neutral society and to implement solutions that promote both sustainability and economic development. Increasing resource efficiency, reducing environmental impact, increasing disaster resilience, and decarbonizing society are just some of today's challenges.

To address these issues effectively and without jeopardizing people's well-being, we need to draw on the expertise of researchers from a variety of disciplines in order to build an efficient and sustainable society.

The five-week "Carbon Neutral Society – Action Month" webinar series, which will take place weekly in May and June 2022, is centered on the weekly changing four themes of "Alternative Energy", "Low Carbon Negative Emission", "Circular Economy", and "Social Innovation", all of which will explore potential cross-disciplinary approaches and develop solutions to realize a carbon neutral society and combat climate change.

The sessions will include an introductory lecture, a number of keynote lectures and Q&A sessions with renowned experts, panel discussions, and interactive online activities. Each panel will feature a moderated discussion among diverse experts with an opportunity for audience questions.

Participants can generate new collaborative ideas for the next phase of their research collaborations through online activities such as moderated breakout room discussions, poster sessions, and networking via virtual meeting tools.

The webinar's three primary objectives are as follows:

1. To bring together people from diverse fields who are committed to combating climate change and achieving a carbon neutral society.

2. To highlight various approaches for achieving a carbon neutral society that stem from various Japanese and international initiatives.
3. To continue building an international network with an emphasis on a carbon neutral society. In fact, this webinar series serves as a pilot for a longer-term program devoted to various aspects of global environmental preservation and the realization of a sustainable, decarbonized society. We are interested in learning how early career researchers and others with varying degrees of knowledge about environmental preservation (engineers and scientists, economics, social scientists, policymakers, community members, and educators, to name a few) can collaborate and share knowledge to help in the fight against climate change.

## Schedule

Week	Theme	US Pacific (PDT)	Hong Kong (UTC+8)	Japan (UTC+9)
<b>1</b>	<b>Introductory Lecture</b>	Thursday, 12 May, 6pm	Friday, 13 May, 9am	Friday, 13 May, 10am
	The Carbon Neutral Society – Action Month Webinar will begin with a keynote lecture and interactive panel discussion featuring globally recognized researchers and experts debating "Sustainable Development Goals and the Inclusive Wealth Index", posing questions and laying the groundwork for online activities and panel discussions that will take place throughout the webinar.			
<b>2</b>	<b>Alternative Energies</b>	Thursday, 19 May, 6pm	Friday, 20 May, 9am	Friday, 20 May, 10am
	One strategy for achieving carbon neutrality and reducing emissions is to offset emissions from one sector with emissions reductions in another. This can be accomplished through investments in low-carbon technologies such as alternative energy sources, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and others. This session will provide an overview of alternative energy research, discuss alternative energy sources such as hydrogen and biomass, and address the importance of alternative energy and how its use contributes to a carbon-neutral society.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Low Carbon Negative Emission</b>	Thursday, 26 May, 6pm	Friday, 27 May, 9am	Friday, 27 May, 10am
	Global warming and climate change require net zero emissions of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. However, merely reducing CO <sub>2</sub> emissions will not achieve carbon neutrality. Carbon neutrality is achieved by balancing carbon emissions and absorption from the atmosphere. There are numerous methods to capture carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere, which then must be stored. This session will discuss various technologies including negative emission technologies to achieve a "carbon-neutral society", and eventually a "beyond-zero society" in which the CO <sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere is permanently reduced. We will examine the role of carbon capture and sequestration, as well as other key technologies, in global energy transitions.			
<b>4</b>	<b>Circular Economy</b>	Wednesday, 1 June, 6pm	Thursday, 2 June, 9am	Thursday, 2 June, 10am
	Most climate action debates have concentrated on decarbonizing production systems and increasing energy efficiency. While important, these efforts fall short of addressing emissions that are deeply embedded in the materials and products flowing through the economy. Circular economy addresses these hidden emissions, helping to achieve carbon neutrality targets. In this session, we will discuss the benefits of developing a circular economy on a local and global scale as well as initiatives aimed at identifying new sources of energy and protecting carbon sinks. We will elaborate on how to engage stakeholders across value chains to generate innovations that support a resilient and low-carbon economy. The session will emphasize the critical role of circular economies in fighting climate change and achieving a carbon-neutral society.			
<b>5</b>	<b>Social Innovation</b>	Thursday, 9 June, 6pm	Friday, 10 June, 9am	Friday, 10 June, 10am
	Social innovation is the process of creating and implementing effective solutions to complex social and environmental problems in order to advance social progress. Often, solutions require active collaboration among stakeholders in government, business, and the nonprofit sector. In this session, we will invite panelists from a variety of fields to share their perspectives on the importance of social innovation, with an emphasis on education and governance, and to discuss effective approaches for moving toward a carbon-neutral society. The panel discussion will cover a variety of social impact topics, including education, next generation learning, governance and responsible leadership.			

\*Duration of each webinar : approximately 90 minutes.

## Activities (targeting early career researchers (ECR))

### **Program Outline:**

1. Keynote Lectures
2. Q&A Sessions
3. Panel Discussions
4. Interactive Activities (**ECRs are preferable participants**)

### **Call for Nominations of ECR Participants :**

Throughout the “APRU Carbon Neutral Society - Action Month”, activities geared toward early career researchers (ECRs) are scheduled at the end of each **week’s session**. This will be an excellent opportunity for young researchers to expand their network and seek out new collaboration opportunities. We look forward to welcoming many participants from all APRU member universities.

Please nominate a maximum of 3 passionate and motivated ECRs from your university **by April 7th (Americas), April 8th (Asia and the Pacific), 2022.**

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### **Scheduled Activities:**

**We strongly encourage your nominated ECR to participate in all of the activities listed below, including lectures and Q & A sessions.**

#### **<Week 1 & 4 - Online Networking>**

•Online networking sessions, which will take place on Week 1 and Week 4 via virtual meeting tools.

#### **<Week 2 & 3 - Poster Sessions> (Up to 15 presenters per week.)**

•Poster sessions, which will take place on Week 2 and Week 3 using ZOOM breakout rooms. We call for poster presentations addressing any theme related to the following topic. All disciplines are welcome to submit posters. We encourage researchers to be creative and to use graphics or other visuals in conjunction with fewer text in order to make their poster simple and understandable to a wider audience. Ensure that the poster includes the title and author(s) names. A separately written abstract is to be submitted beforehand. Based on the submitted abstracts, groups will be formed for each theme.

**Topic:** How can your research contribute to the realization of a Carbon Neutral Society?

We encourage you to draw on your own expertise to develop a solution to the challenge.

**Presentation Platform:** Zoom Meeting (Breakout Rooms)

※Submitted posters will also be posted on the APRU website during the webinar month.

**Poster Format:** PDF or PowerPoint Slide (1 slide only)

**Language:** English

**Word Limit:** None

※Upon reception of the registration form, we will contact presenters with further details on submitting posters. All posters should be based on the submitted abstract.

#### **<Week 5 - Wrap-up Discussion>**

•A Webinar Series Wrap-up Discussion will take place on Week 5 using Zoom breakout rooms. Here we will summarize and reflect on the discussions and what we have learned and gained over the five weeks, as well as discuss the possibility of a long-term program for ECR and other researchers that will continue to provide a platform for discussing potential cross-disciplinary approaches while expanding professional networks.

※ The registration information for general participants will be open in April.

**Enquiry:**

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Event Website: <https://www.apru.org/event/apru-carbon-neutral-society-action-month/>