



(Research on Lifestyles, Values and Environment)  
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH

## **FORTHCOMING SEMINAR**

**Monday 8 March, 2010, 1300-1400**

45b AZ 04  
University of Surrey

**Ben Shaw**

Head of Environment Group, Policy Studies Institute and Secretariat  
Green Fiscal Commission

**The Political Feasibility of Environmental Tax Reform - the work and findings of the Green Fiscal Commission.**

The Green Fiscal Commission was set up in 2007 to investigate the social environmental and economic impact of a major shift towards green taxation. What would happen if green taxes formed 20 per cent of UK tax revenues instead of the seven per cent they currently do?

The Green Fiscal Commission published its final report in October 2009 – *The Case for Green Fiscal Reform* - which included the results of a major economic modelling exercise and deliberative work with members of the public exploring responses to green fiscal reform. The report also explored important issues normally raised as reasons for not taking forward green fiscal reform such as the distributional and competitiveness impact of tax reform.

The central message of the final report is that green fiscal reform emerges as a crucial policy to get the UK on a low-carbon trajectory; help develop the new industries that will both keep it there and provide competitive advantage for the UK in the future; and contribute to restoring UK fiscal stability after the recession. However, implementation of a significant programme of green presents faces significant political challenges.

Ben Shaw will discuss the work of the Commission, its main findings and the political challenges of taking this agenda forward.

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