

April 2023

GO-Science Futures Toolkit

SAMI are very pleased to be awarded the contract to refresh the Government Office for Science Futures Toolkit. This valuable resource has been available for many years but GO-Science wanted it updated and made more accessible. The Toolkit describes how to use 13 different futures tools, and provides guidance on putting them together into “pathways”, as well as providing supporting advice on facilitation of futures projects.

As well as totally re-writing one or two of the tools, and introducing new ones like Verge, SAMI is working with design consultants Davydov to totally overhaul the visual image of the Toolkit, to make it more attractive and accessible when reading on-screen.

The project has been running for some weeks and will soon come to completion. When launched in the summer, the Toolkit will be generally available to the public.

Association of Professional Futurists: the 20th Anniversary celebration

Patricia Lustig will deliver a keynote session “**From Success to Significance**” at the APF anniversary event in Dubai at the end of the month, in conversation with Richard Hames. Including the themes of 'hope' and 'hearing the voices of the global south', the keynote will bring together two leading futurist thinkers in what promises to be a fascinating exchange.

Sustainable Innovation Pathways Framework

Contact Jonathan at jbs@samiconsulting.co.uk to discuss how this innovative combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches to the future of sustainability could be applied in your organisation.

Drivers of Change

Huw Williams' article on Drivers of Change and the Land Condition Community will appear in the journal Environmental Science in June. The article links SAMI's 6 global Drivers of Change with the European Environment Agency's 11 Global Megatrends.

Executive Education



We will be running our online course **“Understanding the Future”** again on 12th and 13th July. The course fee is £490 + VAT - discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. We also organise bespoke courses to suit specific clients’ needs.

For more information, please email us at training@samiconsulting.co.uk.

Futures Issues



Apple announced plans to design batteries using entirely [recycled cobalt](#) by 2025, as part of its effort to go carbon neutral by 2030. Cobalt is required in all lithium-powered batteries: an electric vehicle needs 22 pounds. Most cobalt comes from Democratic Republic of Congo, where allegations of child labour have been rife.

China’s top EV battery maker claims to have developed a battery with an [energy density of 500 Watt-hours/kg](#), enough to power a small aircraft. Liquid fuels such as petrol boast density of around 12,000 Wh/kg.

[Photocatalysis](#) – a process that mimics photosynthesis - offers a new more efficient way of generating green hydrogen which could operate at a local, decentralised level.

A novel modular component based on float glass and silica aerogel granules that is both translucent and insulating, is in effect a [glass brick](#). These allow the

construction of aesthetically pleasing and even load-bearing façade elements that enable a significant amount of daylight to enter.

[China has a global lead](#) in 37 out of 44 technologies covering fields spanning defence, space, robotics, energy, the environment, biotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI), advanced materials and key quantum technology areas. For some technologies, all of the world's top 10 leading research institutions are based in China, generating nine times more high-impact research papers than the second-ranked country (most often the US).

Our Blogs



We took a bit of a break around Easter, but our most recent blog explored [issues around the future of water](#).

If you'd like to receive reminders when our blogs are published, then [check the link on our website](#) or if you would like to write a blog for us, then please [contact us here](#).