
Leading Innovation in Wales: Navigating the startup frontier

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Speaker Biographies

Dr. David Gold, CEO and Founder, Ecodetect



Ecodetect CEO and Founder, Dr. David Gold, is an accomplished environmental leader with over a decade of proven expertise at the intersection of science, technology, and data in the energy sector. David has proven expertise in marine biology, offshore energy and business development, and has built, inspired, and managed high-performing teams in delivering high-impact initiatives mitigating environmental risks. David is passionate about collaborative scientific research and technical innovation to combat global sustainability challenges, and is committed to combating biodiversity loss and climate change through innovative solutions.

Guto Davies, Head of External Affairs, Green GEN Cymru



Guto Davies is an experienced external affairs and policy professional with a career spanning policy development, business development, stakeholder engagement, political advisory, advocacy, and strategic communications. He is currently the Head of External Affairs at Green GEN Cymru, where he leads the business's external engagement strategy to support the delivery of major energy infrastructure projects across Wales.

Before moving into an in-house leadership role, he served as Director of Policy at the ACE Group, working closely with government and multidisciplinary engineering consultancies across the built and natural environment. Earlier in his career, he worked as a Senior Advisor at Natural Resources Wales, the environmental regulator, and held multiple roles in the Welsh Parliament, including Assistant to the Welsh Government's Chief Whip.

He holds qualifications in governance, sustainability, and commercial awareness from the Open University and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR). In 2024, he was

appointed an Honorary Associate of Bangor University, and in 2025 became Chair of the Board of Trustees at Conwy Mind.

Emma Bell-Davies CMgr FCMI, Events Lead, CMI Wales Board



Emma has been a member of CMI since 2016 when she gained Chartered Manager status. Educated in Bristol and Manchester Universities she's currently a Coach at Corndel, delivering transformational leadership and management courses to senior business leaders across multiple sectors in the UK.

Previously she worked as the Head of the Exploration & Development in an energy consultancy, where her team of geoscientists helped their clients find energy resources globally. Emma has extensive strategic leadership experience and is passionate about helping people to become the best leader they can be. Emma is a Senior Practitioner coach

accredited with EMCC and holds a Level 7 Coaching and Mentoring qualification through ILM.

Emma joined the board in the Communications and Social Media lead and now is the Events Lead, she plans, organises and hosts the CMI Wales events in diverse topics from workplace wellbeing, employability, leading through change, and leadership topics.