

Hodson, M., and Marvin, S., (2005), *Re-Imagining Tees Valley in the Post-Industrial*, UKSHEC Social Science Working Paper No. 4, SURF Centre, University of Salford. A revised version has been submitted to *Environment and Planning A* (abstract only).

Abstract

This paper analyses attempts to develop a hydrogen economy in the Tees Valley in the North-east of England. In doing this we broaden out understandings of the development of a hydrogen economy from a dominant way of addressing such processes in terms of economic cost and technical capability issues related to hydrogen economy developments (see Hodson and Marvin, 2004a). Instead we conceptualise the production of a hydrogen economy in terms of the mutually shaping relationships of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies to the ‘contexts’ of their development – here the Tees Valley. In particular, through an earlier process of conceptualisation (Hodson and Marvin, 2004b) we highlight a series of three key issues to be addressed in understanding these mutual relationships: (1) the importance of the ‘re-emergence’ of regions and the relationship to issues of technology and governance; (2) regional representations and issues of context; (3) and the performance of regional hydrogen economies, through infrastructure development. In addressing these themes – and drawing on issues raised in this previous paper – we ask: (1) How is the development of a hydrogen economy in the Tees Valley represented in terms of a ‘vision’? (2) How and why is this vision produced and what interests are included and excluded? (3) How does the vision relate to attempts to develop a hydrogen economy on the ground and what key issues are raised? We address these questions through drawing on a series of interviews with and observations of key stakeholders in this development and also utilising documentary evidence. In doing this we outline the processes through which a re-imagining of the Tees Valley via hydrogen economy development is produced, how and why and highlight a series of issues which arise from the re-embedding of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in particular contexts. From this we make tentative suggestions around questions of what is ‘transferable’ from the Tees Valley context but suggest and encourage that more work is undertaken in different contexts to compare and contrast issues arising from specific hydrogen economy developments.