

MEGS IV Annual Conference, Public Engagement with Energy

12 & 13 September 2013, Holywell Park, Loughborough University

Public Engagement is of vital import if we are to ensure public acceptance of novel energy technologies and business models in the future. Major research funders now expect public engagement to be part of their programmes. Industry has to enter into a dialogue with policy makers and the public in relation to their plans for the deployment of new energy technologies. All of this ultimately impacts on the application of your research now and in the future.

This year's MEGS conference will focus on giving you the skills and knowledge that you need in relation to this vital area. It will include:

- Media training to equip you with the skills you need to get your message across clearly
- Input from academic experts working on public engagement with energy
- Input from funders about why public engagement is now an expected part of their programmes
- Examples of public engagement from active energy researchers
- Input from government departments and policy organisations
- Information about how you can get involved in public engagement

Confirmed speakers include:-

- Tim Grout-Smith and Lily Poberezhska, Media Players International (ex-BBC journalists) providing media training to include:
 - How to get your ideas across
 - What makes a good story?
 - Identifying media friendly elements in your research
 - Staying on message in an interview and dealing with hostile questions
- Dr Gavin Sailsbury, EPSRC
- Dr Paul Upham, University of Leeds; the engagement of civil society actors in energy technology RD&D
- Prof Patrick Devine-Wright, University of Exeter; public engagement with renewable energy technologies
- Dr Chris Jones, University of Sheffield; public perceptions of, and responses to, energy generating technologies
- Cathy Brown, STEMNET; the STEM Ambassadors scheme
- DECC public engagement team

The conference will be highly interactive and there will be a **poster competition** for all student delegates with valuable prizes up for grabs.

Registration:

- **Free of charge** for all MEGS students and staff within the Universities of Birmingham, Loughborough and Nottingham
- Please go to <http://megsivannualconference.eventbrite.co.uk> by **31 August 2013**
- **Free accommodation** for MEGS students outside of Loughborough will be provided on a first come first served basis.
- **Transport:** Loughborough University is easily accessible by train, bus and car. For specific directions please see the map of the campus.



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