



sciencewise NEWS

December 2008

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New Sciencewise-ERC project

Deliberative public dialogue on low carbon/energy solutions for households and communities

Over the next six to nine months a group of Government departments will be cooperating to consult on a range of policies to progress the UK Government's objectives of increasing energy security, tackling rising energy prices, and moving to a low carbon economy. These policies include increased levels of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency measures (domestic and non-domestic), decarbonising the UK heat market, improving building standards, product standards and transport policy.

Impact on households and businesses

Once adopted by Government, the policies will come together as a key part of the delivery plan for meeting the carbon budgets set to be announced in June 2009 in response to the Climate Change Bill and in meeting the UK's share of the EU Renewable Energy and other 2020 targets. To achieve these targets, people and businesses will need to accept, support and – in some cases – act to take up new renewable, low carbon and energy efficient technologies. Some of the measures required will be applicable to individual dwellings and commercial properties, while others will need to be implemented at the street, neighbourhood or wider community level.

Ensuring the public can have a say

Sciencewise-ERC has agreed to provide funding to the Interdepartmental Low Carbon Economy Engagement Working Group (IEWG) for a public dialogue project to establish public views, aspirations and concerns on low carbon/energy solutions for households and communities. The focus of the work is on households in communities and involves a series of deliberative dialogues. There are a number of reasons for this approach:

- Many of the policy measures that Government is currently considering will have an impact on communities and local authorities
- Household interventions, if implemented at neighbourhood level, may be more cost effective by bringing economies of scale
- There is some evidence to suggest that there may be a relationship between decisions made in the home and those made in the community

The project will start in December 2008 with a series of public dialogue events in selected regions across the UK and will culminate in a large-scale, integrated public/stakeholder event in March 2009. The discussions with households will look at the measures and propositions that are currently being explored by Government and will complement the formal public consultations on any proposed policies. The outcome of the work will inform UK Government on how it might deliver low carbon/energy policy measures that encourage uptake by householders and communities in a way that is cost and carbon effective.

The IEWG consists of:

- DECC - Department of Energy and Climate Change
- BERR - Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
- Defra - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- OCC - Office of Climate Change
- CLG - Communities and Local Government
- DfT - Department for Transport

Sciencewise-ERC to publish an essays collection on dialogue in science and technology

Over the last decade, the UK has moved from being seen as a technocratic laggard to one of the most progressive countries in the world in terms of how it governs science and emerging technologies. To celebrate this achievement, Sciencewise-ERC will be publishing a collection of essays in early 2009.

The collection will present the latest and best thinking on public dialogue and engagement within science and technology and will comprise essays by leading thinkers and practitioners. Furthermore, it will be a landmark analysis and 'state of the art' of the last five years of public dialogue within science, and will look forward to the next few years. It will provide evidence of dialogue's successes and illustrate the lessons learned about the limitations of dialogue. It will also mark the achievements of the Sciencewise-ERC as an initiative and the distance travelled by UK policy makers in embedding dialogue into their work.

This collection will be targeted at an audience of senior civil servants, policy makers, MPs and the emerging community of public dialogue practitioners and thinkers. The essays will hopefully also be read by members of the public, scientists, science communicators, students and others interested in democracy and the role of science in society. The collection will reflect upon and update the string of policy documents that have made the UK a world leader in public dialogue with science.

Contributors include

Deidre Hutton
Ortwin Renn

Andy Stirling
Andrew Acland

Ian Irwin
And others

With an introduction co-written by Jack Stilgoe and Kathy Sykes

New Sciencewise-ERC project

Sciencewise-ERC joins up with the Technology Strategy Board to drive Britain's green motoring revolution



New initiatives to put Britain at the forefront of a green motoring revolution by encouraging a mass market in electric and hybrid cars have been announced. With the potential to create up to 10,000 new British jobs and help preserve many thousands more, this comes as part of wider Government plans to make the most of the low carbon economy, with estimates that around a million 'green' jobs could be generated by 2030.

The Technology Strategy Board's Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform is the key delivery agent for these new initiatives. With initial funding from the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the Department for Transport and the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, the Platform aims to promote Low Carbon Vehicle research, development and demonstration in the UK. It aims to reduce carbon from domestic and international vehicle markets faster than 'standard market driven' introduction of low carbon vehicles.

The Sciencewise-ERC will assist the TSB to undertake a series of public dialogue initiatives to ensure the views of the public are taken into account in the development of Government policy in this area. Sciencewise-ERC will offer expert advice and guidance on designing and running a dialogue process, as well as contributing funds for these activities. To view more information please visit: www.innovate.org.uk go to the Innovation Platforms and then click on Low Carbon Vehicles

Annual Conference



Sciencewise-ERC will be celebrating its first annual conference since becoming the Sciencewise Expert Resource Centre (ERC) in May 2008. The

event is being held on **18 February 2009 in London**, with key speakers including the Sciencewise-ERC Ambassador Lord Robert Winston and Professor Kathy Sykes. We hope it will offer the perfect environment for people to network and share their experiences of dialogue.

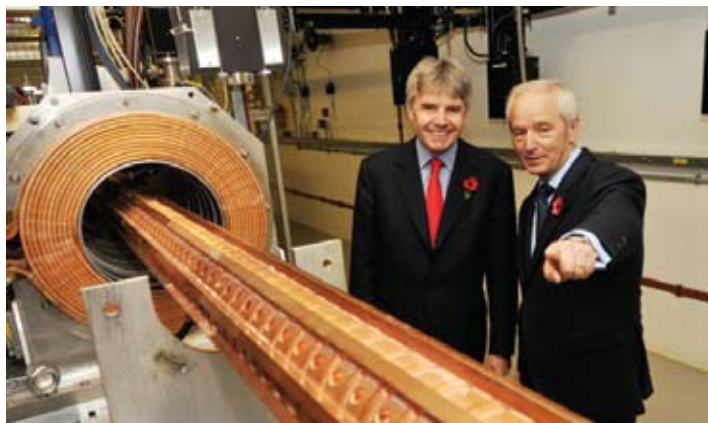
The conference will see the launch of the first Sciencewise-ERC awards. The awards are to recognise the progress made in helping policy makers commission and use public dialogue to inform policy decisions in emerging areas of science and technology.

In early 2009 details of the awards and how to take part will be posted on the Sciencewise-ERC website. The event will also showcase the work carried out on the six strategic research topics throughout the year.

For more information visit, www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/strategic-work-streams

Consulting and Campaigning

Developments at DIUS



Lord Drayson (left) at Diamond Light Source on the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire. Professor Gerd Materlik (right), CEO of Diamond, explains how the electrons in the light beam gain energy.

October 2008 saw the completion of the Science and Society consultation and the appointment of Lord Drayson as Minister and champion for science. Both events should generate new ideas and activities for increasing public engagement with science in the New Year. The responses to the consultation are currently being analysed with a view to developing a UK Strategy for Science and Society to be published in 2009.

“We’ve had a good response”, says Project Leader Jackie Hinton. “The consultation was designed as a series of questions and some of these have generated more interest and feedback than others. For instance, the most popular topic was about the teaching of science in schools and the part that teachers, scientists, but also the media and business, have to play in demonstrating the excitement and relevance of science. Interest about the role of the media and also in ethical issues was also quite high.”

The consultation received over 200 organisational responses (where sometimes the response was a combined one from more than one organisation) and 220 individuals. Overall there were 3,200 individual question responses. The next stage will be to test out some of the emerging issues and potential solutions by holding events and workshops and putting more information on the consultation website

<http://interactive.dius.gov.uk/scienceandsociety/site/>

The recently appointed Minister of State for Science and Innovation, Lord Paul Drayson (whose post has been set at Cabinet level) has described the longer-term aim of the strategy.

“We enjoy a real competitive advantage in the UK through our willingness to engage in genuine public dialogue on science, and that’s one reason why the Government is going to such lengths to ensure we have an effective science and society strategy.

“This goes beyond general scientific literacy. When people understand how scientists operate, when they trust the businesses and policy makers who apply scientific insight, the appetite for bold new technologies increases. Our ability to address the major issues like climate change, global security and disease is enhanced. Our democracy grows stronger.”

With a background in Production Engineering and a PhD in Robotics, Lord Drayson was Chairman and Chief Executive of PowderJect, a company which he founded and built into one of the world’s leading vaccine companies. Having been made Baron Drayson of Kensington in 2004, he has subsequently worked in ministerial posts at the MoD and the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, taking leave of absence from the Government to compete in the American Le Mans Series in the United States.

Lord Drayson sees part of his role to improve the public perception and appreciation of science as a force for economic and social good as well as a fascinating area in which to work and develop a career. He is keen to stress both aspects of science, stating at the launch of the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car at the Science Museum in October his hope that “this iconic British project will encourage the next generation of scientists and engineers, as we will depend on them to find solutions to everything from climate change to growing population pressures...Science and engineering offer some of the most fulfilling, well paid and interesting careers on the planet.”

He is also keen that other examples of science and engineering that might be currently below the radar of the media play their role in energising public interest and involvement. Work is now in hand within DIUS and in collaboration with partners to develop a more strategic approach to promoting science – Watch this space!

“Diamond’s x-rays are around 100 billion times brighter than a standard hospital X-ray machine and 10 billion times brighter than the sun. With a wide range of scientific uses, the facility helps in the fight against illnesses such as Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, osteoporosis and cancer.”

Project update

Assessing the Public Perception of Industrial Biotechnology



As announced in the September newsletter, the Sciencewise-ERC recently agreed to provide funding to the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) for a project to 'Assess the Public Perception of Industrial Biotechnology

(IB)'. IB is the application of bioscience for the processing and production of chemicals, materials and energy. This project is important as the issue of public opinion was highlighted by the BERR-facilitated Industrial Biotechnology Innovation & Growth Team (IB-IGT) as a key factor in how IB develops.

The project is now well underway and will be completed in December 2008. The public dialogue activities delivered by Opinion Leader Research and 3KQ were developed to allow intensive discussion of a range of issues under the wide-ranging umbrella of IB and the chemicals-using sector.

Two initial citizens' group meetings were delivered in Manchester and London involving 24 people at each who were introduced

to the basic issues surrounding IB and the chemicals-using sector. A single group of 24 citizens was then re-convened in London. The agenda for this second stage was steered by the issues, questions and concerns raised at the initial meetings. At this event participants were exposed to a wide range of perspectives on different aspects of IB and chemicals including bio-fuels, genetically modified organisms, bio-plastics, land-use, bio-refineries and specialty chemicals. In addition, a total of 16 expert speakers from Government, industry, academia and NGOs were available for public participants to talk to and answer questions from the citizens to inform their deliberations.

A final report will be produced in January 2009 setting out the project methodology, context for the research, and the citizens' views on the social, economic and environmental threats and opportunities offered by IB. One of the funding criteria for Sciencewise-ERC projects is that the public dialogue is to be fed into policy, and the IB project is a good example of this. The report from the dialogue process will be considered by the IB-IGT and used to inform its final report which will be published in spring 2009. This report will outline the strategic view for the future of IB in the UK and also report on what the innovation & growth challenges are for its future competitiveness.

The report will be available on the project pages on the Sciencewise-ERC website once it has been published.

Public and Stakeholder Dialogue on Stem Cell Research

Outcomes and Implications

17 December 2008,

One Great George Street, Westminster, 4-7pm

The outcomes and implications of this work, part funded by the Sciencewise-ERC, will be presented at an event on 17 December at One Great George Street in Westminster. This is a unique opportunity to hear more about people's opinions on the science and ethics of stem cell research. The findings of this study will feed into future policy decisions and communications activities. The Minister of State for Science and Innovation, Lord Paul Drayson, will attend the event.

Other speakers include:

- Dr Darren Bhattachary, Director, BMRB
- Professor Douglas Kell, Chief Executive, BBSRC
- Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Chief Executive, MRC

Stem cell research has transformed our understanding of developmental biology, providing the potential to advance healthcare in a number of areas - from the identification of new drug targets to the promise of regenerative medicine. For research

to flourish though, it is important to understand and be responsive to wider social aspirations and concerns on the science.

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Medical Research Council (MRC) approached Sciencewise-ERC for funding in 2007 to find out more about people's views on stem cell research. Together, the BBSRC and MRC commissioned a consortium, led by the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB), to carry out the largest ever public and stakeholder dialogue on stem cell research in the UK.

Dialogue activities took place in summer 2008 and over 200 members of the public took part in workshops which ran simultaneously in London, Cardiff, Bristol, Newcastle and Edinburgh. In addition, nearly fifty stakeholders from fields such as science, medicine, industry, ethics and religion were interviewed. The stem cell dialogue looked at:

- The UK vision for stem cell science
- People's views on the sources of stem cells, clinical applications and potential therapeutic benefits
- Perceived social and ethical issues surrounding stem cell research

The report will be available on the project pages on the Sciencewise-ERC website once it has been published.

DNA Citizens' Inquiry

the participant's perspectives



The project was based around a panel of 30 people, who met five times, in two locations - Birmingham and Glasgow - over four and a half months. The inquiry involved a range of engagement strategies to support participants and encourage ownership of the process by them. Through agenda setting dialogue, role-play, mind-maps, systems thinking models and group discussions, the panellists grew in knowledge and confidence throughout the process. The project produced two reports, one written by the participants themselves.

Hameeda Hurd, who was 49 at the time of the inquiry and worked as a community development officer, said the whole process had been “fantastic”. “We were a very diverse group of people and the way they developed the week to week sessions, you couldn’t envisage it being put into this brilliant report - it really does reflect our view points.

“Each session allowed us to develop our knowledge. They brought in expert witnesses and we could also ask for specific witnesses, which was extremely useful.”

Another participant, Javed Aslam, 24, a youth development officer, also found the process valuable: “It was a long process, but to be involved in the whole DNA thing was very interesting - for me, everything we did was a result. It was really successful.”

Some of the main recommendations of the report included:

- a nationwide public awareness campaign about the National DNA Database, reaching all sections of the population and including the powers of the police to take DNA samples
- information about police powers to take a DNA sample should be given to people from whom DNA samples are taken
- an independent body with broad membership should be set up specifically to oversee the National DNA Database
- an education campaign in schools about DNA and its potential uses.

The Forensic use of DNA Citizens' Inquiry is one of the projects co-funded by Sciencewise-ERC. The project was commissioned by the Human Genetics Commission (HGC) and delivered by Vis-à-Vis Research Consultancy Ltd. It aimed to find out people's views on the forensic use of DNA, particularly in relation to the information held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD). A key aim of the Citizens' Inquiry was to provide a forum where a diverse group of United Kingdom citizens could communicate informed views to policy makers, the HGC, on the current and future use of DNA for forensic purposes.

There were divided opinions among the group about the timescale for which DNA samples should be kept, although a majority of participants felt they should be kept proportionate to the seriousness of the crime committed.

Hameeda Hurd said she was concerned about the high proportion of young black males on the database:

“If they are not proved guilty of anything, I think they should get rid of that person’s sample from the database.”

This concern was reflected in the view of the majority of participants, who concluded that the samples should be destroyed and profiles removed from the database when a suspect is not proceeded against or an accused person is not convicted at the conclusion of criminal proceedings.

One of Javed’s concerns was the very young age of some of those being entered on the database: “Some were as young as eight, who were getting put on the database for petty things, which shouldn’t go on the database, and certainly not for life.”

The Citizens' Inquiry marks the beginning of a phase of broader consultation and evidence gathering for the Human Genetics Commission, which will lead to a report containing the Commission's advice to Ministers, to be published in early 2009.

For more information about Sciencewise-ERC and the funding of projects, visit www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

To find out more about The Forensic use of DNA Citizens' Inquiry, visit www.hgc.gov.uk

Dialogue and engagement expertise at the ERC



The Sciencewise-ERC has a team of Dialogue and Engagement Specialists (DES) who provide practical expertise on how to carry out dialogue. They help to formulate, develop and monitor ERC-funded projects. The team also provides advice and guidance via the helpline, not just to policy makers but to everyone interested or involved in engagement and dialogue on national science and technology policy issues.

The team consists of a range of experts with practical experience of delivering and advising on public dialogue and engagement in science and policy areas including biotechnology, climate change, energy, GM, health, privacy and data, and transport.

Their collective engagement expertise includes Government networking, facilitation at both national and local level, process design, translation of outputs into policy language, evaluation, working with media, policy advice, capacity building, conflict management, academic writing and dialogue delivery.

The services offered by the DES team include:

- Expert advice on public dialogue and engagement
- One-to-one mentoring with policy makers wanting to understand more about dialogue and deciding whether and how to do it
- Full support and monitoring of ERC-funded projects
- Leading the Strategic Research Topics, which are addressing key barriers to the uptake of public dialogue

Policy makers interested in using this service are asked to call the Sciencewise-ERC helpline on **0870 190 6324** or send an e-mail to enquiries@sciencewise-erc.org.uk and we will put you in contact with one of our specialists. The helpline is also available to anyone interested in dialogue such as science communicators and the public.

Drop in for Dialogue

The Drop in for Dialogue sessions for policy makers continue to be held on the third Monday of every month. The sessions are designed to help policy makers carry out better, more appropriately timed dialogue.

Several sessions have been held already. In September, Andrew Acland, a Sciencewise-ERC Dialogue and Engagement Specialist, gave a presentation on designing engagement processes, and in October, Nigel Eady, Science in Society Officer at the BA, shared his knowledge on managing the Sciencewise-ERC-funded project, community x-change. Feedback from the sessions has been very positive. One policy maker commented: "It was useful to meet individuals working in a similar field to me." Another one, who attended the session on evaluation, said he had gained "understanding of key considerations in evaluating consultation / engagement activities" by attending the session and said he would recommend it to colleagues.

Each session starts with a presentation, followed by lunch and an open discussion. One-to-one mentoring sessions will be available with dialogue experts before and after the presentation and discussions, to give policy makers the opportunity to discuss policy issues and potential dialogue projects. Please note that these sessions must be pre-booked.

The Drop in for Dialogue sessions are held at Futurefocus, part of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) headquarters at 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET. To register, please contact the Sciencewise team via the website or call the helpline on **0870 190 6324**. For information on various events in public engagement and science, check out the events calendar on www.sciencewise-ERC.org.uk

Upcoming sessions are:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 15 December | Technology for Mass Dialogue |
| 19 January | Working with experts in public dialogue |
| 23 February | Organisational readiness |

“ I gained understanding of key considerations in evaluating consultation/engagement activities and would recommend it to colleagues. ”

Policy maker who attended the evaluation session

Meeting the challenges of dialogue in science and technology policy-making

A workshop to explore and test emerging solutions



The Sciencewise-ERC is undertaking in-depth studies into six areas that pose particular challenges when planning and delivering public dialogue. The results of this research will help policy makers in central Government departments and agencies by developing ways to address those challenges, including the production of practical tools and guidance. It will also contribute towards embedding good dialogue practice into Government policy-making processes.

The six research topics being examined are:

- Assessing organisational readiness for undertaking dialogue and other engagement
- Effective use of experts
- Mass engagement
- Evaluating public dialogue
- Science communicators and the media
- Citizen involvement

On 29th October a group of around 50 participants and the six research topic leaders met at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster for one of the most invigorating, creative and ground-breaking events Sciencewise-ERC has hosted so far. Practitioners and policy makers already experienced in public dialogue were invited to push the boundaries of our current knowledge by adding their input to the six research topics currently being undertaken by members of the Sciencewise-ERC Dialogue and Engagement Specialist (DES) Team.

After initial context-setting, each participant chose two topic areas and attended extended workshops. Then in the final plenary, observations were shared to enable all involved to hear some of the headline insights.

The DES's leading the research topics were very pleased with the level and quality of the input they received. One DES said that it was great to go away with one mind-changing thought

from a workshop and on this occasion they came away with 50! Participants, for their part, were excited to find out what was going on and how they can keep in touch with developments and pilot activities.

If you have a particular interest in any of the six topics mentioned above, you can still take part in the work by contacting the relevant DES. Some streams, such as 'Assessing organisational readiness' and 'Citizen involvement' are actively looking for people to become involved in the research topics.

To find out how you can participate in further work please contact the Sciencewise-ERC team by e-mailing enquiries@sciencewise-erc.org.uk. Information on individual research topics is available in the policy section of the Sciencewise-ERC website. The results of all the research topics will be available in March 2009.

On 29th October a group of around 50 participants and the six research topic leaders met at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster for one of the most invigorating, creative and ground-breaking events sciencewise-erc has hosted so far.

Future events



Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**



Sciencewise-ERC Annual Conference

Sciencewise-ERC will be celebrating its first annual conference since becoming the Expert Resource Centre in May this year. The event on February 18 will include speakers such as the Sciencewise-ERC Ambassador, Lord Robert Winston, and Professor Kathy Sykes. More information on page 2.



Darwin200

Darwin200 is a national programme of events celebrating Charles Darwin's scientific ideas and their impact starting on his two hundredth birthday on 12 February 2009. This includes a Darwin exhibition in the The Natural History Museum that is open until 19 April 2009. The celebrations began on 1 July 2008, 150 years since Darwin and Wallace announced the theory that rocked science and society, and will continue until 24 November 2009, the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. For full events listing please visit www.darwin200.org/events/index.asp



International Year of Astronomy

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. Already now, 132 countries are involved and well over 140 are expected to participate eventually. For information on what is happening in the UK please visit www.astronomy2009.co.uk



National Science and Engineering Week

NSEW takes place at various venues all over the UK from 6-15 March. This extended week is an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in science, engineering and technology activities. Visit the BA website to find out about events happening in your area:

www.the-ba.net/the-ba/Events/NSEW/WhatsOn/index.htm

Seeking Projects in Priority Areas

The Sciencewise-ERC has funds available for projects that feature public dialogue in science and innovation policy decision making. Grants are available to Government departments and agencies for dialogue projects that fit with the Guiding Principles for Public Dialogue in Science and Innovation.

Projects are commissioned directly with policy makers in line with priority areas for engagement in science and innovation. Grants are awarded to 'commissioning agents', i.e. Government departments and agencies, to procure and manage their own dialogue and engagement projects, with support and guidance from the ERC. Grants are provided for a proportion of the total project cost and there must be a financial contribution and active commitment from the commissioning department. Grant funding is available until the end of March 2009 and projects are expected to fall into the following categories:

- Large scale projects with Sciencewise funding of £200k - £300k, typically lasting for a minimum of 12 months
- Medium sized projects with Sciencewise funding of £100k - £200k, typically lasting up to 12 months
- Smaller scale projects with Sciencewise funding of £30k - £100k, typically lasting up to six months

Funds will be allocated to projects on a case-by-case basis in line with DIUS priorities and after consideration of a business case, prepared in consultation with the Sciencewise-ERC.

We would like to hear from you if you would like to discuss your ideas for dialogue projects further. Please contact

Louise de Rome, Sciencewise Projects Manager
Tel: 0870 190 3678

or through the ERC helpline at
enquiries@sciencewise-erc.org.uk.

The Sciencewise-ERC, funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills (DIUS), helps policy-makers commission and use public dialogue to inform policy decisions in emerging areas of science and technology. It consists of a comprehensive online resource of information, advice and guidance, together with a wide range of support services aimed at policy-makers and all the different stakeholders involved in science and technology policy making, including the public. The Sciencewise-ERC also provides co-funding to Government departments and agencies to develop and commission public dialogue activities. For further information please go to:

www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk

Email: enquiries@sciencewise-erc.org.uk

Helpline: 0870 190 6324

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