

Evaluation of the Research Councils UK public dialogue on UK energy research

Final report appendices

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Appendices

- 1. Analysis of questionnaires from the regional workshops**
- 2. Analysis of questionnaires from the reconvened Summit**

Appendix 1

Evaluation questionnaire analysis

Research Councils UK energy dialogue regional workshops, June 2007

Birmingham, 9 June 2007: 29 participants; 28 completed questionnaires returned

Cardiff, 16 June 2007: 25 participants; 25 completed questionnaires returned

Oxford, 16 June 2007: 32 participants; 32 completed questionnaires returned

Total 86 public participants; total 85 completed questionnaires returned

1 How far do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

There was enough time to fully discuss the issues properly:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	14% (4)	64% (18)	11% (3)	11% (3)	
Cardiff	8% (2)	60% (15)	16% (4)	16% (4)	
Oxford	16% (5)	56% (18)	16% (5)	13% (4)	
Combined result	13%	60%	14%	13%	

The information provided was helpful and unbiased:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	43% (12)	57% (16)			
Cardiff	24% (6)	48% (12)	20% (5)	4% (1)	
Oxford	31% (10)	63% (20)	6% (2)		
Combined result	33%	56%	8%	1%	

I understood and could use the information provided:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	36% (10)	50% (14)	11% (3)		
Cardiff	20% (5)	80% (20)			
Oxford	31% (10)	56% (18)	13% (4)		
Combined result	29%	61%	8%		

I would have liked more information on the issues:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	36% (10)	36% (10)	11% (3)	18% (5)	
Cardiff	24% (6)	36% (9)	16% (4)	24% (6)	
Oxford	41% (13)	31% (10)	9% (3)	19% (6)	
Combined result	34%	34%	8%	20%	

I understand the purpose of the consultation:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	50% (14)	43% (12)	7% (2)		
Cardiff	36% (9)	64% (16)			
Oxford	38% (12)	56% (18)	3% (1)	3% (1)	
Combined result	41%	54%	4%	1%	

I understand how the results of the consultation will be used:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	50% (14)	43% (12)	7% (2)		
Cardiff	24% (6)	52% (13)	12% (3)	8% (2)	
Oxford	28% (9)	59% (19)	13% (4)		
Combined result	34%	52%	11%	2%	

I think that Research Councils UK will take the results of our discussions into account in deciding on future energy research:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	29% (8)	46% (13)	21% (6)	4% (1)	
Cardiff	24% (6)	36% (9)	36% (9)	4% (1)	
Oxford	19% (6)	41% (13)	38% (12)	3% (1)	
Combined result	24%	41%	32%	4%	

I learnt something I did not know before:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	64% (18)	29% (8)	4% (1)	4% (1)	
Cardiff	64% (16)	24% (6)	8% (2)	4% (1)	
Oxford	59% (19)	31% (10)	6% (2)		
Combined result	62%	28%	6%	2%	

Attending this event has helped me think more clearly about the issues:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	61% (17)	29% (8)	11% (3)		
Cardiff	56% (14)	28% (7)	8% (2)		
Oxford	50% (16)	47% (15)		3% (1)	
Combined result	55%	35%	6%	1%	

I enjoyed taking part:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	64% (18)	36% (10)			
Cardiff	68% (17)	28% (7)	4% (1)		
Oxford	72% (23)	28% (9)			
Combined result	68%	31%	1%		

I was able to say everything I wanted to:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	32% (9)	43% (12)	14% (4)	7% (2)	
Cardiff	40% (10)	40% (10)	8% (2)	12% (3)	
Oxford	52% (13)	47% (15)	3% (1)	9% (3)	
Combined result	38%	44%	8%	9%	

All participants were treated equally and respectfully:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	50% (14)	46% (13)	4% (1)		
Cardiff	60% (15)	28% (7)	12% (3)		
Oxford	63% (20)	37% (12)			
Combined result	58%	37%	4%		

No single view was allowed to dominate unfairly:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	36% (10)	57% (16)	7% (2)		
Cardiff	52% (13)	24% (6)	16% (4)	8% (2)	
Oxford	47% (15)	44% (14)	6% (2)	3% (1)	
Combined result	45%	42%	9%	4%	

There was a good mix of people:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	50% (14)	50% (14)			
Cardiff	52% (13)	36% (9)		8% (2)	4% (1)
Oxford	50% (16)	44% (14)	6% (2)		
Combined result	51%	44%	2%	2%	1%

I am more likely to get involved in these sorts of events as a result of attending this one:	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Birmingham	64% (18)	25% (7)	7% (2)	4% (1)	
Cardiff	60% (15)	24% (6)	16% (4)		
Oxford	53% (17)	44% (14)	3% (1)		
Combined result	59%	32%	8%	1%	

2 Has being involved in this workshop made any difference to what you think about energy research?

	Yes, a lot	Yes, a little	Uncertain	No, not really	No, not at all
Birmingham	43% (12)	46% (13)			
Cardiff	56% (14)	40% (10)		4% (1)	
Oxford	69% (22)	25% (8)	3% (1)	3% (1)	
Combined result	56%	36%	1%	2%	

Please say what made a difference and how it affected your views:

- "More complex than I thought. Will think more about wider issues and how to allocate finite resources" (Birmingham)
- "I didn't realise the small amount of funding available for research. I expected it to be small but not minimal" (Birmingham)
- "I did not fully understand the downside of the use of biomass for energy but now have a clearer view of its advantages / disadvantages" (Birmingham)
- "I heard other people's views on how they felt about energy research and it has made a big difference" (Birmingham)
- "Raising the profile of research into new types of energy" (Birmingham)
- "It helped me prioritise my thoughts" (Birmingham)
- "Just by being made aware of some issues I am now able to find out more and know where to look" (Birmingham)
- "Just the process of how it is done" (Birmingham)
- "I will think more in future about energy use around the home and environment" (Birmingham)
- "It has made me think much more about the need for this type of research" (Cardiff)
- "A difference has been made by the fact that information and problems were presented that I had not been fully aware of. It has caused me to consider the issues more carefully" (Cardiff)

"It widened my views on the problems and potential solutions of energy requirements of Britain in the 21st century" (Cardiff)
 "Thought about saving energy, production and how much is actually spent on research" (Cardiff)
 "It made me more aware of my own energy consumption and crystallised my views on energy production" (Cardiff)
 "I am far more aware of how money is spent and will take more interest in the issues around energy conservation and generation in future" (Cardiff)
 "I have been well informed and changed my views on issues that I previously thought I had a strong opinion on" (Cardiff)
 "Money is being wasted on research rather than doing" (Cardiff)
 "I realise that research is important to us" (Cardiff)

[Not changed] "Only because I already was aware and had views that haven't changed" (Oxford)
 "I know more now as it was explained in simple language" (Oxford)
 "Very interesting about energy research and how it works and where the real work in the future is" (Oxford)
 "I was not aware of the research council before" (Oxford)
 "How research is funded in %" (Oxford)
 "Helped me understand where the money is spent" (Oxford)
 "Awareness of energy issues and impacts on the earth. Thinking out of the box on a more global view" (Oxford)
 "Much more aware that there is a process independent of government and that priorities are being reviewed and evaluated" (Oxford)
 "Learning where the money goes raised my awareness of the difficulty in prioritising" (Oxford)
 "Surprised at how little spent on energy" (Oxford)
 "I have learned a lot about different fuel resources and how hard the researchers work" (Oxford)
 "I wasn't aware of research in nuclear fusion" (Oxford)
 "Finding out how much is spent on energy research and in my humble opinion should be increased substantially" (Oxford)
 "Energy is a problem, yes, but this workshop showed the solutions and how I can make a difference" (Oxford)
 "I intend to think more about my own energy consumption. I will research more into nuclear power to develop a greater understanding of a previously scary subject" (Oxford)
 "The statistics shown to us - especially about how money is spent. More types of energy options available than I realised" (Oxford)
 "I'm concerned that we don't spend enough on energy research and that the current research funding focuses so highly on nuclear" (Oxford)

3 What were the best / most successful aspects of the workshop?

Birmingham	
• Hearing / understanding others views	36% (10)
• Group discussions	18% (5)
• Learning (about energy)	14% (4)
• Taking part	7% (2)

"Exploring other workshop members views and reasoning"
 "Understand the views of others and realising why they had their views"
 "[first] open discussion; [second] prioritising budget"
 "How passionate people are about energy"
 "All of it. Well-presented, good communication, in depth knowledge of tutors"

Cardiff	
• Learning about energy (production)	20% (5)
• Exchanges between participants	16% (4)
• Group discussions	16% (4)
• Presentations	8% (2)
• Everything	8% (2)

"Best: presentation; most successful: the exchanges between participants"
 "Finding out all the different energy resources there are and could be"
 "The debates over spending priorities"
 "Group discussions, though the gradual introduction of information / statistics made these better"
 "The formal briefings"

Oxford	
• Others views	25% (8)
• Ideas / information	22% (7)
• Group discussions	22% (7)
• Energy efficiency / policies	13% (4)
• Discussion sessions	9% (3)

"Seeing how interested others were in all of it"
 "The end discussion session"
 "The last part - where we had to prioritise where funding should be spent"
 "Good interaction of strangers and the free flow of information"
 "Free exchange of views and impartial chairmanship"
 "The second and third group sessions. The approachability of the facilitators"
 "The structure of the day and the size of the groups. Getting people to apply stickers to indicate their priorities"
 "Contributing to future energy research issues and development"
 "The first session. Very relaxed. Fair. Everyone able to speak and be heard"
 "Some of the presentations were a bit rushed. We would have benefited from more information on certain areas to be better advised in our discussion groups"

4 What were the worst / least successful aspects of the workshop?

Birmingham	
• None	29% (8)
• Weak facilitation (poor control, etc)	18% (5)

"One poor workshop. Not in control and aims poorly explained"
 "Huge issues for a short while"
 "The first session was a waste of time and boring"
 "Late start"
 "Last session rather too diffuse and wide-ranging to make decisions"
 "Lack of time to carry on discussions due to irrelevant comments that were not related to the issue"
 "Dominating people"

Cardiff	
• None	20% (5)
• Having to make presentations	12% (3)
• Not enough knowledge to contribute	8% (2)

"A long session for a weekend"

"Not knowing enough about energy"

"Lack of prior information which might have made the session more productive. I recognise however that such information could be considered prejudicial"

"Not full info on everything"

"Me having to stand up and summarise the debate to the whole room"

"Grouping things by importance didn't reflect the whole group's view brilliantly"

"The feedback by individuals at the end was a curate's egg!"

Oxford	
• None	25% (8)
• Did not understand it all	6% (2)
• Rushed presentations on information	6% (2)

"Trying to get too much in the time available"

"Need to be more proactive in asking the least communicative member for their views - certain individuals tended to dominate at times"

"The 5-min presentations about social / home / transport etc were very rushed"

"Trying to get a group consensus - much disagreement so didn't really reflect people's views"

"Unable to expand on some issues due to lack of financial information"

"I still have a lack of understanding of certain issues"

"Maybe giving us a bit more of a context and telling us a bit more of how what we did today linked with the bigger picture - earlier in the day"

5 How satisfied were you with the workshop?

The information provided:	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Uncertain	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
Birmingham	71% (20)	25% (7)			
Cardiff	56% (14)	40% (10)	4% (1)		
Oxford	59% (19)	41% (13)			
Combined result	62%	35%	1%		

The way the event was run on the day:	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Uncertain	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
Birmingham	75% (21)	21% (6)			
Cardiff	72% (18)	28% (7)			
Oxford	78% (25)	22% (7)			
Combined result	75%	25%			

Overall satisfaction with the workshop:	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Uncertain	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
Birmingham	75% (21)	21% (6)			
Cardiff	68% (17)	32% (8)			
Oxford	78% (25)	22% (7)			
Combined result	74%	25%			

6 What was the most important benefit for you personally in taking part in this workshop?

Birmingham	
• Sharing / hearing others views	21% (6)
• Learning	18% (5)
• Information on energy	14% (4)
• Ability to explore the subject	11% (3)
• Chance to share own views	11% (3)
• Knowing views count / listened to	7% (2)
• Money	7% (2)

"Help everybody think better and open minds"

"Taking part in discussing very important issues"

"Information about new energies"

"Opportunity to discuss views, knowing that they will be taken into account"

"Ability to explore more of a subject I am very concerned about"

"Knowing that people's views do count"

"Opened my eyes to energy efficiency"

Cardiff	
• Learning / understanding	40% (10)
• Meeting / hearing others views	24% (6)
• Money	12% (3)
• Opportunity to give opinion	8% (2)
• Raised interest / awareness in energy	8% (2)

"A learning curve"

"More interested in the energy crisis"

"The opportunity to give an opinion and feel it is valued"

"As an electrical engineer, it was nice to hear other people's views of the industry"

"Learning a vast amount which I wouldn't have known"

"The ability to present my views ... enabled me to relax and listen to others' point of view ... also, able to ask if uncertain"

"Enlightening me considerably with respect to energy issues"

Oxford	
• Information / learning / knowledge	34% (11)
• Hearing others views	19% (6)
• Awareness of an important issue	16% (5)
• About research funding	8% (2)
• Being listened to	8% (2)
• Something will be done about energy	8% (2)
• Money	8% (2)

"The knowledge that something will actually be done about our energy situation"

"Awareness of a very important issue"

"Awareness of imminent threats to the environment and efforts to alleviate them"

"Reviewing my own opinions in the light of discussion with others"

"Understanding more about funding energy research"

"Made me feel what I had to say was important and that someone might actually care what the public thinks"

"I am pleased that my opinions may influence the direction of future funding"

"Having my views heard and listening to others' interesting points of view"

"Learning about how government money is spent on investing in our future fuel"

7 How important do you think it is to involve the public in discussing the future of energy research?

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important
Birmingham	79% (22)	18% (5)		
Cardiff	60% (15)	28% (7)	12% (3)	
Oxford	94% (30)	6% (2)		
Combined result	79%	16%	4%	

Appendix 2

Evaluation questionnaire analysis

Research Councils UK energy dialogue Summit, June 2007

Warwick summit, 30 June - 1 July 2007

Total 30 participants; 27 completed questionnaires returned

1 How far do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I enjoyed taking part	63% (17)	37% (10)			
I learnt something I did not know before	59% (16)	33% (9)	7% (2)		
Attending this event has helped me think more clearly about the issues	48% (13)	37% (10)	11% (3)	4% (1)	
I was able to say everything I wanted to	22% (6)	56% (15)	22% (6)		
All participants were treated equally and respectfully	59% (16)	33% (9)	7% (2)		
No single view was allowed to dominate unfairly	41% (11)	41% (11)	11% (3)	7% (2)	
The structure of the event enabled us to fully discuss the issues properly	18% (5)	56% (15)	11% (3)	11% (3)	4% (1)
I was clear about the purpose of each activity	22% (6)	56% (15)	15% (4)	7% (2)	
I think that Research Councils UK will take our discussions into account in deciding on future energy research	15% (4)	41% (11)	37% (10)	7% (2)	
I am more likely to get involved in these sort of events as a result of attending this one	59% (16)	41% (11)			

2 Which activity did you find the most useful and interesting?

Saturday morning budgeting (with £100 million / chips)	44% (12)
Sunday morning future scenario thinking	37% (10)
Saturday morning deciding on the factors for prioritising energy research	30% (8)
Saturday afternoon thinking about changing conditions (what ifs)	30% (8)
Sunday morning news headlines from 2050	4% (1)
Other: listening to other views in informal discussion	4% (1)

3 Which ways of working did you find most rewarding and interesting?

Working in small groups	74% (20)
Listening to experts	41% (11)
Attending the first workshop (in Birmingham, Cardiff or Oxford)	33% (9)
Whole group (plenary sessions)	33% (9)
Participants presenting back to the whole group	15% (4)
Completing the tasking pack at home	7% (2)

4 What did the experts provide that was most useful?

Answering specific questions	59% (16)
Taking part in small group discussions	41% (11)
Presentations to the whole group	30% (8)
Other: not patronising	7% (2)

Other:

"An unbiased opinion and spoke in layman's terms"

5 What were the best / most successful aspects of the event?*

Meeting others with range of views	33% (9)
Small group discussions	22% (6)
Information / clarification from experts	19% (5)
Everything	11% (3)
Learning	7% (2)

"Working as a group on possible spending of research budget"

"Asking the experts questions"

"When scientists were able to clarify specific points that I was uncertain about"

"All views / comments were listened to and treated with equal respect"

"The experts clearing up issues"

"Hearing wide range of views and expert information and discussions"

"Interacting with different people and learning so much"

6 What were the worst / least successful aspects of the event?*

Not enough time on each aspect of research	22% (6)
Lack of strong facilitation / control	11% (3)
None	11% (3)

"Discussing community based energy scenario of 2050"

"Inability (no matter how many times explained) to understand certain terms"

"Slight lack of control of participants who liked the sound of their own voices"

"Feelings there were hidden agenda. Mixed messages"
 "Occasional over-intensity of individual participants - a slight overbearingness"
 "Maybe the slide shows"
 "Being rushed for answers"
 "Organisational inefficiency"
 "Some group discussion tasks were too complex / detailed to handle successfully"
 "I would have liked longer on some discussions"
 "The exercise with the [hexagons]"
 "Possibly the days could have started a bit earlier at say 9.30 so we could finish a bit earlier, or had more time to ask expert questions"

7 What was the most important benefit for you personally in taking part in this workshop?*

Learnt a lot	41% (11)
Meeting others / hearing different views	22% (6)
Being able to contribute / play a part / voice opinions	11% (3)
Listening to experts	11% (3)

"Learning more about types of research. Meeting and exchanging opinions with other group members"
 "Getting views from other people, from different backgrounds, around the UK"
 "I got answers and a clear understanding of energy research"
 "Knowledge and awareness of participants' psyche. Listening to experts"
 "Encouragement to voice my opinions"
 "It gave me a bigger insight into climate change etc"
 "Able to answer some of my uncertainties"
 "Meeting some interesting people"
 "Being able to hear the views of people who make decisions on energy and the environment"

8 How satisfied were you with the event?

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Uncertain	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
The information provided	74% (20)	19% (5)	7% (2)		
The way the weekend event was run	74% (20)	26% (7)			
Overall satisfaction with the event	89% (24)	11% (3)			

9 How important do you think it is to involve the public in discussing the future of energy research?

Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not at all important
67% (18)	22% (6)	11% (3)	

* For results greater than 1