

# Cross-Government Briefing on Geoengineering of 7 March 2011

LWEC Geoengineering Meeting  
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JAMES MARTIN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL

# Overview

- Background
- Attendees
- Objectives
- Outputs

# Background

- Increasing interest in geoengineering
- Knowledge of efficacy, costs, and environmental and societal impacts at a low level
- Need for safeguards at national and international levels
  - Research and development
  - Assessment frameworks
  - Governance and regulation

# Attendees

- Chris Bradley (FCO)
- Ben Caldecott (DECC)
- Andrew Chalmers (DECC)
- Alison Conboy (DECC)
- Dr. Jolene Cook (DECC)
- Prof. Richard Darton (University of Oxford)
- Dr. Ana Delgado (Defra)
- Owen Dowsett (RCUK)
- Philip Earl (Defra)
- Nick Grout (GO Science)
- Jan Kiso (DECC)
- John Kraus (FCO)
- Tim Kruger (University of Oxford)
- Jonathan Lartice (Defra)
- Prof. Tim Lenton (UEA)
- Prof. David MacKay (DECC)
- Dr. Nafees Meah (DECC)
- Andrew Parker (Royal Society)
- Prof. Nick Pidgeon (Cardiff University)
- Prof. Steve Rayner (University of Oxford)
- Prof. Catherine Redgwell (UCL)
- Dr. Chris Sear (DECC)
- Prof. John Shepherd (Royal Society)
- Philip Stamp (Defra)
- Dr. Andrew Stott (Defra)
- Dr. Chris Vivian (CEFAS)
- David Warrilow (DECC)
- Dr. Phil Williamson (RCUK)

Apologies: Dr Jim Penman (DECC)  
Tom Perriment (BIS)  
Prof Julian Savulescu (University of Oxford)  
Prof Robert Watson (Defra)

# Objectives

- To create a forum for discussion on geoengineering between policy advisers and academics, with particular emphasis on the development of governance frameworks;
- To ensure an understanding of geoengineering across Government;
- To update policy advisers on the developments in the technical and governance aspects of geoengineering;
- To explore how the UK can build on its position as one of the leaders in the development of geoengineering governance;
- To explore possible options for governance and international regulation of geoengineering, with particular emphasis on next steps.

# Outputs

- Clarify the UK's overall geoengineering research and development strategic aims
- Assess future research budget. Much less than climate/alternative energy budgets. Royal Society recommended £10m per year for ten years
- Are there any “quick wins” that could be yielded from primary research?
- Assess governance situation globally – coordinate UK efforts with Europe
- Align UK government's position ahead of IPCC, CBD and UNFCCC meetings
- Consider the issues of geoengineering and short-lived forcings together
- Learn from parallel governance issues with previous new technologies (nuclear, GMOs, nanotech)
- Consider how such a forum between policy-makers and academics could operate on an ongoing basis