



## **Bridging the gaps in our energy research**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, the University will be hosting a one-day event to highlight the activities of researchers, broadly involved in energy related work, across the University.

Aim of the day is to stimulate long-term culture change with respect to cross-disciplinary working within and beyond St Andrews University, to enable researchers to respond to new opportunities arising from the EPSRC Delivery Plan. The objectives are to:

- Initiate new, long-term collaborations between researchers across the EPSRC remit (within USTAN and non-academic partners);
- Stimulate innovative approaches to collaboration between disciplines; and,
- Increase the cross-fertilisation of ideas and the take up of advances across the boundaries between disciplines.

Specifically, we hope to:

- ‘Map’ energy-related research taking place across USTAN;
- Encourage interdisciplinary groups to form by working together on a mock (but likely) EPSRC funding call; and,
- Bring together academics, non-academics and funders involved in energy-related projects in the Fife area.

### **Who’s invited?**

If you undertake energy-related research, fund energy-related research or are would like to have a role in future energy-related research we would welcome you to come along, regardless of disciplinary background.

### **Further details**

The event will take place at the Hydrogen Office, Methil, Fife  
<http://www.hydrogenoffice.com/>, teas/coffees and lunch will be provided.

Transport will be organised to take people from St Andrews to Methil, departing from St Andrews at 0900 and returning by 1630.

If you would like to come, please RSVP to Dr Louise Reid ([lar9@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:lar9@st-andrews.ac.uk)) by 22<sup>nd</sup> May. A programme will be circulated nearer the time but the event will run between 1000 and 1530.

Funding for the event is provided by the EPSRC Strategic Partners ‘Bridging the Gaps’ initiative.

## **About the EPSRC**

The EPSRC's Energy Programme's mission is to position the UK to meet its energy and environmental targets and policy goals through high quality research and postgraduate training.

Their **current priorities** are:

- taking a whole systems approach to energy options, supply and usage
- ensuring a rapid exploitation through collaboration with ETI
- growing our portfolio in demand reduction and transport
- focusing our postgraduate training through energy themes
- continuing to support research in sustainable power generation and supply and alternative sources.

### **Priorities for the future include:**

Securing energy supply

- Fund world-class, speculative research to define future energy supply options, including nuclear fusion, hydrogen and renewables.

Low carbon innovation

- Work with Energy Technologies Institute, the Technology Strategy Board, Department of Energy and Climate Change and Carbon Trust through the Low Carbon Innovation Group to ensure deployment of alternative energy technologies is informed by physical, economic, social and natural sciences research.

Enhance understanding

- Enhance understanding of the social, environmental and economic implications of future energy options such as the sustainability of Carbon Capture and Storage.

Reduce energy consumption

- Help to reduce energy consumption and demand through the development of behavioural, governance, market and technological advances informed by a whole system understanding.

Generate new skills

- Build capacity of skilled people to deliver new energy futures through training and development of new researchers, policy makers and business leaders.

Build international partnerships

- Continue to build and sustain international links with key countries.
- RCUK funds a wide spectrum of energy research and training, bringing together investments across the research councils. Our portfolio is developed in partnership with industry and public sector organisations to provide an innovation chain with routes for development of our outputs.
- Our research is funded through activities that provide a managed approach to developing the portfolio, often with the formation of multidisciplinary consortia.