



PRESS RELEASE

7th July 2009

Young scientists battle to save planet earth at the British Geological Survey

Teams of young scientists and engineers will compete in an environmental science challenge (Energy Resources and Land Use Conflict) from 6 to 8th July 2009 at the British Geological Survey, Nottingham.

This three day environmental science challenge is aimed at young people who have an interest in sustainable natural resource exploitation and energy production, environmental protection and climate change, and who want to gain skills and experience in these areas of scientific research.

The world is consuming an ever-increasing amount of resources, but these resources will not last forever. The use of carbon-based fossil fuels, such as coal and gas, adds significantly to the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released to the atmosphere. This is a significant factor in climate change. Across the world, the different approaches to reducing CO₂ emissions range from the development of renewable energy sources, such as wind, wave and tidal power, or the use of biomass and nuclear energy. In addition, means of reducing the overall demand for energy are being sought, such as energy saving initiatives in homes and carbon offsetting. Emerging technologies such as carbon capture and storage and clean coal technologies are under development.



BGS © NERC

Four teams of young people will analyse scientific and technical information, using a PC and GIS software which will allow them to identify potential conflicts and provide measures to resolve them. Each team will produce a sustainable energy plan for a closed island society including a plan for CO₂ reduction which they will present to a panel of judges including James Strawbridge (BBC's "It's not easy being green"), and two senior scientists from BGS.



In addition, each team will construct a solar oven, which will be able to heat and cook basic foods. Dr Tom Moat, Natural England, will present the prizes on the Wednesday afternoon (8th July). The winners' prize has kindly been donated by QinetiQ, who are a leading international provider of technology-based services and solutions to the defence, intelligence, security and related markets predominantly in the UK and US.

Lord Tony Young of Norwood Green: Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships; Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills said:

"The proposed environmental skills competition I believe offers the potential to significantly raise the profile of the skills that we need in order to move towards a low carbon economy"

Energy Resources and Land Use Conflict - A skills competition for young Scientists and Engineers is organised by Worldskillsuk and the British Geological Survey (BGS), supported by Prospect, Semta, Cogent, Stemnet, Energy & Utility Skills and Unionlearn and sponsored by Natural England and Semta's TTF fund.

Ends

For further details or to arrange media interviews please contact:

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Notes for Editors

WordSkills UK

UK Skills is a not for profit organisation which champions skills and learning for work through competitions and awards. Established in 1990, UK Skills works to raise the profile of skills in the UK and oversee the UK's premier set of skills competitions, WorldSkills UK. UK Skills also manages the UK team entry to WorldSkills, the biggest skills competition in the world. Most recently UK Skills spearheaded the bid to bring WorldSkills to London in 2011. WorldSkills London 2011 will be a truly global showcase for skills and young people from across the world. UK Skills works on behalf of Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) to shine a spotlight on those who have made a difference to their organisation through training. For more information: www.worldskillsuk.org

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.



Supporters of the competition:

Prospect:	http://www.prospect.org.uk/
Semta:	http://www.semta.org.uk/
Cogent:	http://www.cogent-ssc.com/
Stemnet:	http://www.stemnet.org.uk/home.cfm
Energy & Utility Skills:	http://www.euskills.co.uk/
Unionlearn:	http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/
Natural England:	http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/
QinetiQ:	http://www.qinetiq.com/

Details of the participating colleges

Newcastle College, Newcastle upon Tyne. www.ncl-coll.ac.uk/

- With nearly 30,000 students at Newcastle College, you know you'll be in good company.
- Beacon status - one of only nineteen colleges awarded this status in the UK.

Dudley College www.dudleycol.ac.uk

- Participants will be three international Students from Zimbabwe who are organising a group called Renewable Thoughts