

Newsletter July 2021

Welcome to the July 2021 newsletter from the Environmental Physics Group (EPG). In this edition we set out our proposed programme for 2021, invite you to contribute to our activities over the coming 12 months and introduce our committee members.

1 PROGRAMME FOR 2021

EPG Day 2021

Every year IOP funds each of its groups to hold events, talks, conferences and prizes. We are now planning our programme for 2021, which is necessarily somewhat different to recent years because of coronavirus-related issues.

Our key annual event is the EPG day and this year we have decided to participate again in the IOP “Physics in the Spotlight” week, which will be **held online in the week of 22 November**. This event was first held in person in October 2019 when EPG joined with the Physics Communicators Group to hold two events related to the importance of oceans on the world’s climate. Other groups participated in the week and held talks on a variety of subjects. The week was a great success with many attendees.

This year, with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) being held in Glasgow on 31 October–12 November 2021, IOP have decided to use the theme of “Net Zero” for Physics in the Spotlight, which will be held shortly after COP26. A working party from across the groups, including three members of the EPG committee, are planning the individual events for the week.

Within the EPG committee we have three suggestions for talks, all based on the need to take a complete view of specific human activities in order to ensure that improvements in one area of the activity are not counteracted by degradations in other areas. Our current suggestions are;

1. Achieving Net Zero within the aviation industry
2. Issues in achieving Net Zero in agriculture
3. How nuclear power can contribute to Net Zero and the issues associated with this.

We invite members of the group to suggest topics for the day – please contact the group committee through our dedicated email address: env@physics.org. We are particularly keen to encourage early career physicists to participate, to enable them to present talks in a welcoming event.

The committee believe that having an online event will enable many more of the group to attend than if it were held at the IOP building in King’s Cross – this was certainly the case for the 2020 EPG day.

When the details for the event are finalised IOP will make a general announcement and the committee will send out an email to all EPG members with a specific link to the IOP events website. And we are always looking for suggestions for new events, not necessarily related to Physics in the Spotlight, which would be very welcome: please contact the group committee on env@physics.org

IOP Statement on Climate Change

IOP generated a draft statement on Climate Change in March and this was circulated to all members of the Environmental Physics Group to invite comments and suggestions. The committee received a number of sets of comments from members which were then collated and returned to IOP. As a result IOP has updated its statement in line with the comments and feedback from the committee. IOP will be publishing the statement in coordination with the formal announcement of the Physics in the Spotlight event.

Photon 2022

IOP are now planning for Photon 2022, a biannual conference on research and development in optics and photonics, to which EPG has regularly contributed in the past. This will be a hybrid in-person and online event held in Nottingham in September 2022.

The committee invite EPG members to suggest topics for Photon 2022. EPG have typically contributed talks on the use of optical sensors for satellite-based earth observation, but we are looking for other suggestions as well.

The Photon 2020 event was held entirely online and the programme of events can be seen here, in order that you can gauge what the talks typically cover: [Photon 2020 \(iopconferences.org\)](https://iopconferences.org)

IOP Publishing inaugural Environmental Research conference

IOP Publishing (IOPP) is launching Environmental Research 2021 as a free-to-attend virtual conference for global stakeholders that will bring leading environmental experts together to share knowledge and address important challenges relating to the environment and sustainability.

Taking place between 15 and 19 November, Environmental Research 2021 will be one of the first major international scientific events taking place after the COP26. With live-streamed presentations from diverse voices, topical panel discussions, poster sessions and interactive networking opportunities, Environmental Research 2021 will unite a broad cross-section of communities extending to environmental and social scientists, engineers and policy influencers at all career stages.

The scientific programme is being developed by a distinguished group of academics and will focus on global environmental change relating to the climate, energy, infrastructure and sustainability, health and ecology.

Connected to *Environmental Research 2021*, IOP Publishing will also be hosting a satellite workshop in China on 13 and 14 November (chaired by Professor Jintai Lin of Peking University) that will focus on the specific theme of ‘Towards carbon-neutral sustainable development in China’.

Full details about the scientific programme and how to register for this free event will be announced in the near future. For further information please contact the conference organising team at ER2021@ioppublishing.org

The conference is aligned with IOPP’s expanding Environmental Research portfolio of open access journals that includes three publications:

- [Environmental Research Letters](#)
- [Environmental Research Communications](#)
- [Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability](#).

Other events for 2021

The committee are always looking for suggestions for new events, not necessarily related to Physics in the Spotlight, which would be very welcome: please contact Hugh Deighton, EPG chair, on env@physics.org

2 ESSAY COMPETITION 2021

The annual Institute of Physics Environmental Physics Group essay competition is now open. This year we have set the topic for the essay as “Net Zero” in line with the general EPG theme for the year.

The competition is open to all (IOP members or non-members, individuals or groups) with prizes in two categories: entrants in secondary education; and entrants studying for, or with, a degree. Entries should be accompanied by a short biography of the author(s). Prizes: Cash prizes of up to £200 plus a certificate, an invitation to present at the group’s annual meeting (see previous section) and consideration for publication. All entrants will receive free IOP membership for three months. Entries must be original and will be judged on writing quality and content. Entries and enquiries should be e-mailed to env.essay@physics.org. Further details can be found at:

[Environmental Physics Group annual essay competition | Institute of Physics \(iop.org\)](#)

Closing date: **30 November 2021**

3 EPG COMMITTEE

As with all IOP groups the Environmental Physics Group committee has three officers (chair, secretary and treasurer) along with a number of ordinary members, some of whom are co-opted because of their other affiliations or specialist skills. There is a list below of the current committee members and their roles. We can be contacted either through the general IOP Groups email address (groups@iop.org) or through our dedicated physics.org address (env@physics.org). We welcome enquiries from our members and we encourage all members to participate in the activities of the group.

Current committee members:

Chair	Dr Hugh Deighton, CSci CPhys FInstP
Secretary	Professor Alan Drew, MInstP
Treasurer	Dr Martin Sharkey, MInstP
Ordinary Member	Dr Julie Futcher, MInstP
Ordinary Member	Dr Martin Goodchild, CPhys MInstP
Ordinary Member	Professor Paul Harrison, FInstP
Ordinary Member	Dr Natalie Harvey, MInstP
Ordinary Member	Professor Helen Rogers, FInstP
Ordinary Member	Dr Stefan Smith, MInstP
Ordinary Member	Professor George Victor, CEng MInstP
Early Career Physicist	Mr Matthew Minter, MInstP
Early Career Physicist	Dr Tobias Thornes, MInstP
Co-opted Member	Dr Matt Wright (also a member of the Aerosol Society committee)
Co-opted Member	Dr Ilaria Meliconi (IOP Publishing)

Further details for the group and its committee can be seen at:

[Environmental Physics Group | Institute of Physics \(iop.org\)](#)

4 OTHER NOTICES

IOP have asked groups to remind members that travel bursaries and other grants are available to help with costs associated with attending conferences. These are called the Research Student Conference Fund and the Early Career Researchers Fund and details can be found at:

[Support and grants | Institute of Physics \(iop.org\)](#)

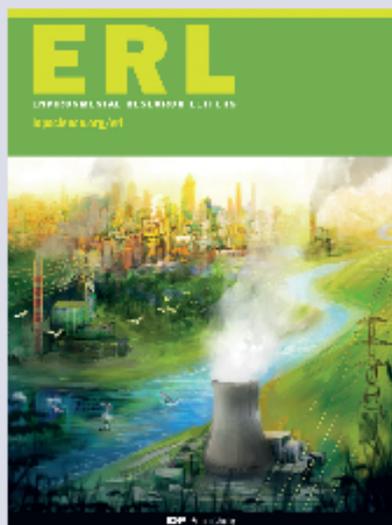
The committee look forward to meeting as many of the group's members as possible in the coming year and we cordially invite members to contact us with suggestions for events. As planning is completed for each event we will announce details via emails to members.

With best wishes

Hugh Deighton



Discover environmental science with IOP Publishing



OPEN
ACCESS

2019 IF
6.096

ELECTRONIC
ONLY

iopscience.org/erl



OPEN
ACCESS

INDEXED
IN ESCI

ELECTRONIC
ONLY

iopscience.org/erc

Helping to advance knowledge on the future direction of environmental research

Environmental Research Letters™

Environmental Research Letters (ERL) is a high-impact, open-access journal intended to be the meeting place of the research and policy communities concerned with environmental change and management. ERL is dedicated to bringing together intellectual and professional scientists, economists, engineers and social scientists, as well as the public sector and civil society, all of whom are engaged in efforts to understand the state of natural systems and, increasingly, the human footprint on the biosphere.

Environmental Research Communications™

Environmental Research Communications (ERC) is a new open access journal for the publication of high-quality research in all areas of environmental research. The journal does not make a subjective assessment on the potential future significance of a paper, instead it provides a rapid platform for communicating research that meets high standards of scientific rigour and contributes to the development of our knowledge of the environment. All types of results can be published in ERC, provided they contribute to advancing knowledge in their field, including incremental studies, negative results, null results, case studies, local research and replication studies.

For more information on these new publications, or any other IOP Publishing content, visit iopscience.org