

# Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education



## Virtual Evidence Gathering Meeting: Priority 1 – Mobilising the HE and FE voice for influence and impact

**Date:** 6th March 2020 – 13:00 – 14:30 -

[https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms\\_single\\_event.php?event\\_id=6912](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=6912)

**Lead Commissioners:** Chair: **Professor James Longhurst**, Assistant Vice Chancellor, University of the West of England & EAUC Trustee and Commissioner for Climate Commission; **Manveer Gill**, Student, University of Warwick and Student Commissioner for Climate Commission; **Iain Patton**, CEO, EAUC and Steering Group for Climate Commission

### Invited Expert Witnesses:

| Name                         | Organisation  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh | Director - Centre for Climate Change & Social Transformations (CAST), University of Cardiff |
| Paul Manners                 | Director – Policy, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE)               |
| Professor Rupert Read        | Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of East Anglia                                |

### What is the need?

That the sector is mobilised for influence and impact both internally and externally. By internally we mean influence within UK higher and further educational institutions. By externally we mean influence on wider society.

### Key questions:

- What are the key messages for HE and FE to lobby?
- How do we engage with other countries?
- How do we lobby and influence?
- How do we influence and mobilise key stakeholders including students and Governors?

### Suggested solutions:

- Map and create clear messages from leading climate research centres/institutes which can be used to influence Governments
- Show the impact and reach of HE and FE with combined statistics
- Use partners to lobby Vice Chancellors and Principals
- Create institutional and individual actions
- Engage with governing associations such as Committee of Chairs (CUC) and Education and Training Foundation (ETF)
- Empower students through carbon literacy training (maybe subject to additional funding) and working with Youth Voice Partners to provide opportunities for students to gain influencing skills
- Utilising existing alumni networks as a communication channel

### Key Reading:

- Teach the Future - <https://www.teachthefuture.uk/>
- Carbon Literacy - <https://carbonliteracy.com/>
- HE Governors Guide - [https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/a\\_guide\\_for\\_governors](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/a_guide_for_governors)
- Climate Emergency Framework - <https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/cef>

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## Key Expert Witness – Biographies:

### **Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh - Director - Centre for Climate Change & Social Transformations (CAST), University of Cardiff**

I am Professor of Environmental Psychology, and Director of the UK Centre for Climate Change & Social Transformations (CAST). My expertise lies in public perceptions, communication, engagement, and behaviour (change) in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation. I have led or participated in numerous research and consultancy projects examining public attitudes and behaviour change in relation to climate change, energy, transport, consumption, water, food, conservation, and new or controversial technologies (e.g., smart grids, electric vehicles, unconventional fossil fuels). I have been awarded both a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant (CASPI) and a Consolidator Grant (MOCHA) on low-carbon lifestyle change. I am Lead Author for IPCC WGII assessing European climate change impacts and adaptation. I also sit on the National Assembly for Wales' Climate Change Expert Reference Group and am partner coordinator for the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

### **Paul Manners - Director – Policy, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE)**

Paul is the Associate Professor in Public Engagement at the University of the West of England, and a founding Director of the [National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement \(NCCPE\)](#). The NCCPE was established in 2008 to support universities to embed innovative approaches to involving the public in their work.

Paul has a Master's in Education, and a long track record designing and delivering engagement and culture change projects for organisations including the BBC, where he worked for 18 years. He trained as a secondary English teacher and after teaching in London for five years, joined the BBC at the Open University as a producer of educational television and multimedia, where he worked for 12 years. He then joined BBC Learning as an executive producer, responsible for a number of broadcast-led public engagement campaigns, including the People's War project, gathering tens of thousands personal reminiscences about WWII into an online archive; and projects with the Natural History Unit, to inspire public involvement with nature. He is chair of the National Trust's advisory group on Collections and Interpretation.

The NCCPE is currently involved in two projects with strong links to the Commission:

- It has worked closely with NERC on their new Public Engagement strategy, and acted as the coordinating hub for the **Engaging Environments programme**. The project aimed to realise more effective approaches to public engagement, moving beyond standard dissemination methods, to co-creating engagement with communities, artists, and publics. This [short booklet](#) summarises the lesson learned
- The NCCPE also provides the secretariat for the [National Forum for Public Engagement in STEM](#). Forum members include the key funders of STEM engagement and key national organisations such as the Science Museum and Natural History Museum. The Forum is currently developing a more coordinated and joined up approach to Climate Change engagement across its membership, partly focused on COP 26.

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## **Professor Rupert Read - Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of East Anglia**

I'm an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of East Anglia, an author, a blogger, and – closest to my heart – a climate and environmental campaigner. Most recently, I have been a frequent spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion and I am a member of their political liaison team. This has involved meetings with senior politicians from across the political spectrum; including the environment secretary and shadow chancellor. I have represented Extinction Rebellion on national radio and television, including on Radio 4's Today Program and on the BBC's Politics Live. Previously, I was a spokesperson, national parliamentary candidate, European parliamentary candidate and councillor for the Green Party of England and Wales. I continue to be active in Green Party politics to this day.