

PRESS RELEASE

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What are the consequences of leaking CO₂ storage sites? The public put experts to the test in Dublin

European scientists are set to explain the likely impacts of CO₂ storage to the public in Dublin this weekend. The public will be encouraged to question the experts directly with the aim of improving the understanding and communication of the technologies that are likely to be used.

In the future, energy produced from fossil fuels will need to be cleaner, greener and more sustainable. One means of achieving this is to capture the CO₂ produced and store it deep underground. However initially, as with any new technology, it is seemingly only the experts that fully understand the potential benefits and impacts. As part of the process to improve the awareness and acceptance of this new technology, European earth scientists are set to explain CO₂ storage to the public in Dublin at the weekend.



Assessment of CO₂ influence on plant species at the ASGAR site, University of Nottingham

Scientists working together from across Europe will host a public session at the European Open Forum (ESOF 2012) to examine the geological storage of CO₂. The participants will be encouraged to question the experts on the potential impact and safety of the different storage technologies that may be used. Topics addressed will include the likely impacts on onshore and offshore ecosystems and on the human population. The aim is to help the scientists improve the way that they explain their work and also to improve the public understanding of CO₂ storage.



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Professor John Ludden, Executive Director of the BGS, said "This is an excellent example of collaborative research which addresses key issues around possible environmental impacts of geological storage."

ESOF 2012 is Europe's largest general science meeting and will be hosted in Dublin from 11th to 15th July 2012 (www.esof.eu/). The 'Research into Impacts and Safety in CO₂ Storage' (RISCS) project involves 24 organisations and aims to improve the understanding of the possible impact of geological storage of CO₂ (www.riscs-co2.eu).

Ends



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Notes for Editors

The following are available for interview:

- David Jones, British Geological Survey

For additional information go to: www.bgs.ac.uk

Photographs are available from our ftp server: <ftp://ftp.bgs.ac.uk/pubload/bgspress>

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The Natural Environment Research Council

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