

Subject: The Forum Bulletin – Transition to Zero Pollution launches, upcoming policy engagement seminar dates and more

Bulletin October 2020

Thank you for signing up for The Forum bulletin. The Forum is Imperial's policy engagement programme, connecting our researchers with policymakers.

Please feel free to forward this on to colleagues. If you were forwarded this bulletin you can [sign up here](#).

For advice and support with any policy engagement opportunities, such as submissions to government or Parliament, training and bespoke events, get in touch with [The Forum team](#) and we'll be happy to help.

MARY ROBINSON LAUNCHES TRANSITION TO ZERO POLLUTION

Imperial's **Transition to Zero Pollution (TZP) initiative** [launched](#) last Wednesday, featuring keynote speaker Mary Robinson. It will build new partnerships between research, industry and government to realise a sustainable zero-pollution future. The launch event can be watched [here](#) and you can also [follow the initiative on Twitter](#).

To mark the launch, The Forum organised bespoke policy engagement training with the renowned think tank The Institute for Government for researchers involved in the initiative. The Forum also held a roundtable featuring Imperial academics and policymakers from Whitehall, Westminster and devolved administrations on transitioning to a zero-pollution economy.

IMAGINING A ZERO WASTE SOCIETY

The Forum has published a [new Imperial Stories longread article](#) which takes a detailed look at the radical system-wide solutions required to completely eliminate waste from society, in collaboration with the [Grantham Institute for Climate Change](#) and Imperial's [Transition to Zero Pollution](#) initiative. With commentary from Imperial academics including Professor Chris Cheeseman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Professor Peter Childs of the Dyson School of Design Engineering and Professor Magda Titirici of the Department of Chemical Engineering, this feature article explores the great strides researchers and start-ups are making towards creating a circular economy, and how policymakers could respond.

Read the feature: [Imagine a zero waste society – what's stopping us?](#)

UPCOMING POLICY ENGAGEMENT SEMINAR DATES

The Forum organises [internal seminars](#) for Imperial researchers which focus on building political engagement expertise. We have two upcoming dates for our level 1 seminars, which introduce several core policy engagement themes.

We will discuss the policymaking process, key decision-makers, how to influence them and how The Forum can help. Please note this focuses on national policymaking in the UK - we will not cover local or international policy engagement.

Upcoming seminars:

- **14.00-15.30, Wednesday 14 October**, MS Teams
- **14.00-15.30, Tuesday 10 November**, MS Teams

If you would like to attend, please free to [get in touch](#) with your preferred date.

PART 2 OF THE FORUM'S ONLINE COURSE: ENGAGING WITH PARLIAMENT

In part 2 of The Forum's short course, we look at how researchers can engage with Parliament. We discuss the role of Parliament and opportunities for researchers to engage with select committees and all-party parliamentary groups. We also hear from Dr Julia Makinde about her experience of the Royal Society Pairing Scheme.

Embed video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vTbidwICdk&feature=emb_title

OPEN INNOVATION TEAM SEMINARS

The government's Open Innovation Team's [C19 weekly seminar series](#) is an opportunity for academics to share their COVID-19-related research insights with interested civil servants across Whitehall. Every week, they invite an academic to spend less than an hour sharing their latest work and answering questions. This Autumn, the sessions will cover how the pandemic is affecting the future of northern cities, teachers' experiences of Covid and the effect of the pandemic on the sharing economy. Upcoming sessions are listed [here](#).

If you would like to apply to present to civil servants as part of this series, please [get in touch](#) with The Forum.

LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN CAMPAIGN

Imperial's Enterprise division has launched a '[Life After Lockdown](#)' campaign to highlight [how Imperial's experts can help](#) organisations adapt to the 'new normal' – as well as provide advice and save lives during the COVID-19 crisis. The aim is to forge more industry/external relationships for Imperial, generating more research opportunities, investment in academics start-ups and tech, and work placement and job opportunities for students.

As part of the campaign, Imperial Consultants are running an event to explain how academics can get involved on 3 November. More information including how to sign up is [here](#).

UPDATES FROM IMPERIAL'S GLOBAL INSTITUTES

Energy Futures Lab

- **Briefing paper and webinar:** Smart and Flexible Electric Heat. [Read the paper](#) or [watch the webinar](#).
- **Review paper:** Electricity markets with a high share of variable renewables. A review of issues and design options. [Read the paper](#).
- **Blog post:** Research Highlight: Technology options for a low-carbon energy system – how to make the best choice? [Read the blog post](#).
- **EFL Annual Lecture:** The Energy System Transition: In Real Time. [Watch the lecture](#).

Grantham Institute

- **Blog post:** Climate Launchpad: From inspired ideas to ground-breaking, planet-saving innovations. [Read the blog post.](#)
- **News:** Leading researchers call for faster cuts in carbon emissions to reduce poverty. [Read the story.](#)

Institute for Molecular Science and Engineering

- **Blog post:** Fast fashion and its impact on the environment. [Read the first post.](#)
- **Podcast:** Episode 11 – “Batteries included”. [Listen to the podcast.](#)
- **IMSE Annual Lecture:** Making a Material Difference to Green Energy (Batteries Included) by Professor Saiful Islam, Bath University. [Register online.](#)

Institute of Global Health Innovation

- **Forums:** IGHI’s monthly Global Health Forums will be resuming virtually in October, with the first event on the REACT programme. [Visit the website.](#)
- **News:** IGHI’s Co-Director Lord Darzi has been announced as President of the British Science Association. [Read the story.](#)

DATA STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Given the significant changes of the last five years, and the more significant changes the government expects to see throughout the 2020s, the UK needs a data strategy that reflects the opportunities and challenges of our new hyper-digital world; a strategy that ensures that the decisions, priorities and potential trade-offs that face us are considered in a deliberate and evidence-driven way.

The Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport has therefore opened a consultation on the UK National Data Strategy and is keen to hear from academics, and research and policy organisations with a particular interest in the role of data in the economy and society. The consultation closes on 2 December 2020. [Find out more.](#)

OTHER POLICY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to submit evidence to a parliamentary inquiry or government consultation, get in touch with [The Forum team](#) for support.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee’s inquiry into **Tree Planting and Woodlands** is accepting evidence until 29 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee’s inquiry into **Data Transparency and Accountability: Covid 19** is accepting evidence until 30 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Transport Committee’s inquiry into **coronavirus: implications for transport** is accepting evidence until 29 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' consultation on **reducing deforestation in UK supply chains** closes on 5 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' consultation on a **waste management plan for England** closes on 15 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Department for Transport and the UK Space Agency's consultation on **spaceport and spaceflight activities** closes on 21 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Department for Transport's consultation on **the Review of The Highway Code** closes on 27 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Department for Health and Social Care's consultation on **front-of-pack nutrition labelling** closes on 21 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Home Office's consultation on **fire safety** closes on 12 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

The Intellectual Property Office's consultation on **artificial intelligence and intellectual property** closes on 30 November 2020. [Find out more.](#)

NHS Digital's consultation on the clinical Safety of **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning** closes on 27 October 2020. [Find out more.](#)

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or would like advice, get in touch with [The Forum team](#).

[Follow us on Twitter](#) for the latest policy opportunities and events.