

IPCC Workshops

Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems and Methods of Assessment

Impact report



Why these workshops and what were their aims?

The scope of the Workshop on Engaging Diverse Knowledge Systems was to consider what systems of knowledge the IPCC can engage with and assess within the framework of existing principles and procedures.

The scope of the Workshop on Methods of Assessment was to consider the means by which such knowledge systems can be assessed.

Both workshops also considered the extent to which such means of synthesis and assessment may be conducted by the IPCC itself or by the knowledge holders and research communities who generate the literature on which the IPCC relies. They produced a set of recommendations for consideration by the IPCC — authors, Bureaus, Technical Support Units, Secretariat and the panel itself, research communities who generate the literature on which the IPCC relies, as well as funding bodies.



Why did the University of Reading offer to host these workshops?

“ Reading has made an enormous contribution in terms of climate science. I can think of no better place to have these workshops. ”

IPCC Chair Professor Sir Jim Skea.



Reading has one of the largest clusters of climate scientists in the world and a global reputation for excellence in climate research. We contributed [more experts than any other institution](#) to Working Group I of the latest IPCC assessment report (AR6), published in 2021. Three Reading

experts will contribute to AR7, including one lead author in Working Group III which focuses on climate change mitigation. A wide community of our Meteorology researchers, including Sir Brian Hoskins and Regius Professor Keith Shine, have played a central role in the IPCC's work for decades, even contributing to the IPCC's Nobel Prize win in 2007. Dr Jolene Cook OBE, Head of International Climate Science at DESNZ and the UK Government's representative on the IPCC, began her journey in climate science at the University's Department of Meteorology.

How did the workshops boost broader engagement with climate science?

As well as ensuring that the IPCC could complete its vital work, a key motivation for the University of Reading in hosting the workshops was to use the opportunity to boost engagement with climate science across a wide range of stakeholders. Starting new climate conversations is something we feel passionately about through our world-famous climate stripes, our work on climate education including the Climate Ambassadors programme and our leading role in the Reading Climate Festival. Our [Partnering for the Planet](#) website showcases what we do.

How did we organise the workshops?

The workshops were jointly organised by the University of Reading, the Met Office, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the IPCC.

Teams from the four organisations met regularly over four months leading up to the workshops to ensure that the workshops themselves and the supporting events were planned to maximise representation, engagement and reach and were delivered to the professional standards that the IPCC require. All funding for the events themselves was provided by the University of Reading.

Together, we ran a series of events to maximise the benefits of having the IPCC on campus for University staff and students, businesses and regional authorities, and members of the local community.





Inside the IPCC: Pathways for Early-Career Researchers

The IPCC process depends on having the best scientists at all career stages involved to ensure that it produces robust and up-to-date reports. However, it can be challenging for early career researchers to understand how and when they can get involved. This session helped to demystify the process for early career researchers from the University of Reading and the Met Office through a series of short talks and Q&A with representatives from the IPCC, followed by a peer networking session.

Panel members

- **Ermira Fida, Deputy Secretary, IPCC** – talked about how the IPCC works and the different ways early career researchers could get involved.
- **Dr Jolene Cook OBE, Head of International Climate Science and UK IPCC focal point** – discussed the UK context and how UK scientists contribute to the IPCC.
- **Dr Joseph Daron, Met Office and Lead Author IPCC Working Group I** – talked about his career pathway from University of Reading undergraduate to IPCC author, highlighting opportunities for early career researchers to get involved.

Impact: More than 60 early career researchers attended the event and the networking event which followed. The wide range of questions showed the broad interest in participating in the IPCC in the future. Both the [University of Reading](#) and the Met Office recorded some social media clips showing the engagement of Met Office researchers with the event which were shared on various social media channels.

Attendees learnt that early career researchers could get involved as reviewers, contributing to the literature, or working as a chapter scientist. They reflected that the events gave them a deepened appreciation of just how rigorous the IPCC process is. One attendee said, *“The IPCC is looking for voices of the younger generation to become involved now with the view to ultimately take the reins in the future.”*



Making use of the IPCC’s findings – a briefing for regional stakeholders

This roundtable event was convened by the University of Reading to provide an opportunity to inform key local stakeholders of the findings of the latest IPCC reports, and how to make use of these for their own decision making.

Key contributors:

- **Professor Robert Van de Noort, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading** – introduced the panel and the role that the University hoped to play in both the IPCC and local climate action.
- **Professor Robert Vautard, Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group I** – discussed how the durable findings of past IPCC reports were relevant to the UK and Europe.
- **Professor Sherilee Harper, Vice-Chair of IPCC Working Group I** – discuss IPCC science and the benefits of climate action, with a particular focus on public health.

Attendees:



Regional authorities, including Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.



Businesses and industry groups, including Reading Economic & Development Agency, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce, Mott MacDonald and EDF Energy.



Climate Scientists from the **University of Reading**, including three IPCC lead authors.

Impact: The opportunity for stakeholders to engage directly with IPCC experts was highly valued, and the resulting discussions proved constructive and insightful for all involved. Several promising areas for continued collaboration between the University and key stakeholders were identified.



Inside the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: How Global Science Supports Our Future Climate

This public talk – held in person and livestreamed via [YouTube](#) – aimed to engage local community members in climate science by explaining what the IPCC does and how it functions, and highlighting the key scientific questions in the current report cycle and the two workshops. A [podcast version](#) is available online for further engagement.

Key Contributors:

- Keynote lecture by **Professor Sir Jim Skea, IPCC Chair**
- Panel discussion chaired by **Professor Liz Stephens, University of Reading** featuring:
 - » **Professor Sir Jim Skea, IPCC Chair**
 - » **Professor Ed Hawkins, University of Reading**
 - » **Professor Rowan Sutton, Head of Climate Science, Met Office and University of Reading**
 - » **Dr Sarah Honour, Deputy Director for Climate Science and Research at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero**

Impact:

350+

attendees in person and via livestream

1000+

views of event recording

116k+

reach for event Q&A podcast

75%

of post-event engagement was global



IPCC stakeholder dinner

To enable engagement between the researchers at the workshop, University of Reading staff and key external stakeholders, we hosted a workshop dinner for 180 people. Guests were served plant-forward dishes from the menu that our own students eat. After dinner speeches by key participants emphasised the importance of the workshops and the collaboration between the organisations to deliver them.

Key contributors:

- **Professor Robert Van de Noort, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading**
- **Professor Rachel Kyte, UK Special Representative for Climate**
- **Professor Sir Jim Skea, IPCC Chair**
- **Paul Lindley, Chancellor of the University of Reading**

Attendees:

In addition to the 100 workshop participants and more than 50 University of Reading staff we welcomed a wide range of special guests from the Met Office, Climate Change Committee, Royal Meteorological Society, Government, Charities and the Media. Several guests with significant public profiles [used social media](#) to talk about the dinner and the workshops ensuring a wider awareness of the work.

Media coverage and press

In addition to the events themselves, our media and press teams engaged a wide variety of national and local journalists in the event. Journalists from the Times, Bloomberg, Financial Times and BBC attended the events.

There was coverage of the events on BBC News, ITV News, The Times, Financial Times, BBC South Today, BBC Berkshire, Greatest Hits Radio and in other specialist and local publications.

The events were also celebrated and promoted across University of Reading and Met Office social media channels.

Impact: From 28 January 2026 to 19 February 2026, 44 unique pieces of print, online and broadcast media coverage mentioning 'IPCC' and 'University of Reading' were recorded, generating 348.6 million impressions. Media coverage appeared in a range of countries outside the United Kingdom, including the United States of America, Canada, Australia, France and Uzbekistan.

From 30 January to 14 February 2026, the University of Reading ran a two-week social media campaign to support the visit of the IPCC to campus. The campaign achieved **622,206 views** and **19,483 engagements** across LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. Of these, **485,074 views** and **18,627 engagements** were generated organically.

To further generate impact from the workshops, the University of Reading has written an [IPCC feature page on Partnering for the Planet](#). On World Meteorological Day (23rd March), we [released a podcast](#) with Dr Jolene Cook OBE, Regius Professor Keith Shine and Professor Hannah Cloke OBE, further extending the impact of the event. The Met Office filmed content at the event which is due to be launched in April.

