

## UKRI SPF Clean Air: Scoping Workshop

**28 January 2020 (Leeds) and 11 February 2020 (Birmingham)**

The SPF Clean Air programme is planning a series of workshops in early 2020 to scope upcoming funding opportunities through the programme.

These events are an opportunity for the research and stakeholder community to engage with the programme funders to learn more about the aims of the programme and the research and innovation already underway, and to shape our thinking on the scope of future funding opportunities.

Please register your interest to attend through our online form located on the NERC webpage.

Registration closes at 16:00 on 6 January 2020.

### About the programme:

The Clean Air programme is a £42.5 million research and innovation investment supported through the UK Research and Innovation Strategic Priorities Fund. The aim is to bring together the UK's world-class air quality research base and support high quality multi- and inter- disciplinary research and innovation to develop practical solutions for today's air quality issues and equip the UK to proactively tackle future air quality challenges, in order to protect health and support clean growth.

The current wave of investment (£22m) will support new interdisciplinary research and innovation that will equip the UK to proactively tackle new and emerging air quality challenges related to changes in the types of air pollutants emitted and their importance at the indoor/outdoor interface, with regards to exposure patterns and impacts on vulnerable groups.

Divergent trends are anticipated over the next decade that will likely see declining outdoor air pollution emissions from the road transport sector, with other sectors, such as domestic consumption of volatile organic chemicals, becoming more prominent. Managing human exposure to the very smallest airborne particulate matter and the complex cocktail of volatile organic compounds is likely to grow in health significance as concentrations of larger primary particles decline. The introduction of new emissions in the indoor environment together with the trend towards more energy efficient sealed buildings will increase importance of indoor exposures, and it will no longer be effective to attempt to manage public health impacts solely through controlling outdoor sources. The scientific, technical, behavioural and policy approaches used to assess and manage exposure to air pollution need radical change to reflect the indoor/outdoor continuum of exposure.

The most recent funding opportunity was for networks to build interdisciplinary communities to address air quality challenges at the indoor/outdoor interface and start to generate a new coordinated self-sustaining UK community, positioned ready to drive forward and use world-leading interdisciplinary clean air research and innovation at the indoor/outdoor air quality interface.



We are now focussing on developing further funding opportunities that address the following programme aims.

1. Deliver new knowledge that:

- provides critical foresight on emerging air pollution challenges at the indoor/outdoor interface and associated health risks; and
- enables us to better understand and quantify human behavioural change and practices and how to influence through communication and technology interventions in order to limit exposure routes and mitigate health risks at vulnerable stages of the life course.

2. Provide consistent, evidence-based advice for stakeholders through open data and tools in order to stimulate policy and regulatory innovation.

3. Stimulate business-led innovation for sustainable products and services to protect health at the indoor/outdoor interface and grow UK businesses.

#### Workshop aims:

The aims of the workshops are to:

- communicate the remit and objectives of the Clean Air programme;
- bring together researchers and stakeholders from diverse disciplines with interests in managing public health impacts of air pollution exposure at the indoor/outdoor interface;
- seek input on the research and innovation challenges and opportunities relative to the aims of the programme; and
- inform the scope of future multi- and inter-disciplinary funding opportunities.

The funding partners are keen to hear from individuals that have a strong background in this area including academic and Public Sector Research Establishment (PSRE) researchers, and relevant stakeholders from across healthcare, policy, practice, industry, 3rd sector and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of disciplines.

#### How to register:

Individuals are invited to submit expressions of interest to attend either of two workshops on 28 January 2020 (Leeds) or 11 February 2020 (Birmingham).

Please follow the link to complete the online Expression of Interest Form on the NERC webpage.

The questions in the form will ask you to outline your area of expertise, and any groups/colleagues that you would be representing.

We hope to welcome as many interested parties as possible to the workshops, however, where we receive a large number of expressions of interest, we may be required to limit the number of



attendees. We reserve the right to select attendees, and appoint members to the workshop who haven't applied, to achieve a balance of expertise and representation.

We will confirm with applicants by 20 January 2020 with confirmation of a place for attendance.

By submitting your Expression of Interest you are confirming your ability to attend on the date identified.

Registration will close at 16:00 on 6 January 2020.

### Contact

For further information please contact:

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The Clean Air programme is jointly delivered by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Met Office, with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Innovate UK, Medical Research Council (MRC), National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Science and Technology Facilities Research Council (STFC), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), Department for Transport (DfT), Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

