



Opportunity to join the Environmental Evidence for the Future Advisory Group

Closing date for nominations: 15th May 2017

The Environmental Evidence for the Future (EEF) Initiative is a new programme of activity led by NERC and supported by the Economic and Social Research Council, that will pave the way to addressing crucial challenges and exciting opportunities that present from the UK leaving the European Union, including optimising sustainable environmental management and ensuring the resilience of our ecosystems and the quality of our water and air. At a time when focus is overwhelmingly on short-term requirements, this programme will define, prioritise and address the medium- to long-term knowledge gaps in the environmental science evidence base. It will identify where NERC investments, the wider environmental research landscape and interdisciplinary knowledge can help address these challenges to inform decisions and pioneer innovative policies and solutions. It will take a holistic, systemic and outcome-driven approach.

The EEF initiative will work in close collaboration with relevant UK government bodies to define and prioritise key cross-cutting evidence challenges and decisions required post-referendum related to the European environmental policy frameworks under which they are currently working, and which have the scope to be addressed via the NERC community and NERC's investments in the medium-to-longer term.

NERC is seeking applications from individuals who to join the EEF Advisory Group. The purpose of this group will be to provide an independent and impartial steer to activities under the Environmental Evidence for the Future Initiative; monitoring and commenting on progress; and reviewing operations.

NERC is seeking applications from individuals with a breadth of experience in integrating research within and across environmental science disciplines and anticipates making several appointments, drawn from a range of sectors of our diverse research and user communities, including policymakers, academia, and NGOs.

It is expected that the role will require four days per year for meetings plus additional preparation time. Appointments will be made for one year in the first instance. The first meeting will be held on 1 June 2017 in London (venue tba). By applying to join this Advisory Group you are confirming your availability to attend this first meeting.

For further information please see the person specification and Terms of Reference attached below.

How to apply

To apply please complete the self-nomination form on the landing page and email this along with a summary CV (maximum two sides of A4) to Penny Gordon at peac@nerc.ac.uk by **15 May 2017 at 09:00**.

Professor Andrew Pullin, Director of the Centre for Evidence-Based Conservation at Bangor University has agreed to chair the Advisory Group. The composition of the group will be decided by NERC with input from the chair of the Advisory Group and the Programme Co-ordination Group. NERC reserves the right to appoint members to the Advisory Group who haven't applied to achieve the balance of representation required.

Successful applicants will be informed of the outcome by **22 May 2017**.

NERC will cover all reasonable travel and subsistence costs associated with attending meetings in line with NERC policy.

Contact

For further information please contact:

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Annex 1

Environmental Evidence for the Future (EEF) Initiative

Person specification for Advisory Group members

The Environmental Evidence for the Future (EEF) Initiative is a NERC led programme of activity, supported by ESRC. The EEF Advisory Group is tasked to advise the Programme Executive Team on the direction and development of the programme, providing an independent and impartial strategic steer to activities under the Initiative; monitoring and commenting on progress; and reviewing operations.

Essential criteria for membership

We are looking for members from a variety of backgrounds with a breadth of experience in integrating evidence within and across environmental disciplines.

Members should have one or more of the following at a senior level within a relevant academic, public, private or charitable body;

- Experience of using environmental evidence to inform environmental policy and practice development;
- Experience of producing, collecting or synthesising environmental evidence to inform environmental policy and practice;
- Experience of using futures approaches e.g. Theory of Change to address issues in environmental policy and practice;
- An excellent understanding of the EU Environmental Frameworks and the challenges and opportunities faced by the UK in the provision of evidence to inform environmental policy, legislation and regulation as a result of leaving the EU.

Desirable criteria for membership

- Experience of interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approaches to challenges in an area(s) relevant to the UK environmental policy, legislation and regulation community ;
- Skills in making judgements across a range of scientific, strategic and policy issues;
- An innovative, problem-solving approach.

Further particulars

- The membership of the Advisory Group will comprise a balanced mix of representatives across the environmental science disciplines and our diverse research and user communities, including policymakers, academia, and NGOs.
- Member's expertise must be relevant to the UK's environmental policy and regulatory challenges posed by leaving the EU, but members are not required to be UK-based.

Annex 2

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Environmental Evidence for the Future (EEF) Initiative

EEF ADVISORY GROUP

1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 The Environmental Evidence for the Future (EEF) Initiative is a NERC led programme of activity, supported by ESRC. The EEF Advisory Group is tasked to advise the Programme Executive Team on the direction and development of the programme, providing an independent and impartial strategic steer to activities under the Initiative; monitoring and commenting on progress; and reviewing operations. The Programme Executive Team will retain ultimate responsibility for how such advice is used.
- 1.2 In particular, the Advisory Group is required to carry out the following tasks:
 - Provide independent, impartial advice to the Executive Team on the development and direction of the programme;
 - Encourage networking between wider government, agency and academic communities as part of the EEF Programme;
 - Advise and support activities to promote and positively represent the programme ambitions, activities, outputs and outcomes.
- 1.3 Members are appointed in an individual capacity reflecting their mix of relevant experience and expertise. Members are not appointed as representatives of their organisation or employer.

2 Vested Interests

- 2.1 NERC attaches great importance to protecting the integrity of members of Committees including Advisory Bodies. All business of the Advisory Group will be guided by **Council's policy on Vested Interests**.

3 Membership

- 3.1 An independent Chair will be invited by NERC.
- 3.2 Members will be openly recruited by NERC.
- 3.3 All appointments will be for one year in the first instance; membership will be reviewed at the programme stage gate stage. Members may opt to end their membership of the group at any stage.
- 3.4 Group members must commit to attending all meetings as far as is reasonable. Attendance will be reviewed at the programme stage gate.
- 3.5 NERC reserves the right to:
 - Appoint members to the Advisory Group who haven't applied to achieve the balance of representation required.
 - Nominate additional temporary members to attend single meetings where necessary and relevant in order to ensure that adequate expertise is available.
- 3.6 The membership of the Advisory Group will comprise a balanced mix of representatives across the environmental science disciplines and our diverse research and user communities, including policymakers, academia, and NGOs.
- 3.4 All members must abide by NERC's policy on conflict of interests.

3.5 NERC will publish Advisory Group membership details (member's name and research/other organisation, where appropriate) on the NERC website.

4 Advisory Group Meetings

4.1 Members agree to attend 4 meetings in the first year of work, prior to the programme stage gate and to complete associated meeting preparation work. NERC will undertake to ensure that meeting materials are provided in good time.

4.2 NERC will meet reasonable costs for travel (standard class only) and accommodation incurred as a result of meeting attendance, subject to receipt by NERC on the appropriate claim forms and receipts.