

Met Office Climate Science Conference: Science for a resilient future

Innovation in science and services to address the societal challenges of climate change and build a more resilient net zero future.

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 May 2021

Introduction

Spanning two days, this conference will bring together leading scientists, policy makers and communicators from around the world with the aim of setting out a vision for how climate science and services can be harnessed to support the ambitions of diverse societies worldwide to build a more sustainable, more resilient low carbon future. Its legacy will be to lay out a scientific agenda to inform climate policy over the next decade.

The conference narrative, structured around four overarching theme, will look to explore the latest scientific understanding of the challenge of climate change (themes 1&2 on day one) before assessing potential actions (themes 3&4 on day two), whilst also including perspectives from both the global north and south with sessions specifically devoted to exploring Pan-African climate viewpoints.

The narrative, drawn out from speaker and panel discussions will provide support for the three flagship action areas of the UK's COP26 presidency: climate risk assessment action plan, visions of net zero and COP26 health programme. Day one will help highlight the importance of high ambition for both adaptation and mitigation actions by presenting the latest scientific understanding on low probability, high end impacts and the associated systemic risks across sectors and borders to help prioritise action on climate change. The final day will help to improve understanding and draw on evidence-based science, engineering and social science solutions to address climate change and mitigate against its harmful effects, whilst also providing a platform to explore the associated wider benefits, helping to demonstrate that a resilient net zero future is both feasible and desirable.

Draft agenda

Tuesday 11 May 2021			
09.00-09.30	Welcome addresses		
09.30-11.00	Theme 1 - Current and future risks from climate To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A		
11.00-11.20	<i>Break</i>		
11.20-12.00	Poster session 1	Interactive session/side event	Networking
12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>		
13.00-14:35	Theme 2 - High impact, low likelihood outcomes of climate change (including tipping points) To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A		
14.35-15.00	<i>Break</i>		
15.00-15.45	Poster session 2	Interactive session/side event	Networking
15.45-17:05	Pan-Africa climate perspectives To include keynote speech on science and a panel discussion with Q&A		
17.05-17.10	Closing remarks		
17.10-18.00	Networking		

Wednesday 12 May 2021			
09.00-09.20	Welcome addresses		
09.20-09.55	Pan-Africa climate perspectives To include keynote speeches on technological entrepreneurship and youth: looking to the future		
09.55-10.05	<i>Break</i>		
10.05-11.10	Pan-Africa climate perspectives To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a panel discussion with Q&A on technological entrepreneurship and youth: looking to the future; and • a keynote speech on policy and a panel discussion with Q&A 		
11.10-11.30	<i>Break</i>		
11.30-12.15	Poster session 3	Interactive session/side event	Networking
12.15-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>		
13.00-14:35	Theme 3 - Future carbon and mitigation strategies to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A		
14.35-15.00	<i>Break</i>		
15.00-16.35	Theme 4 - Climate resilient development: minimising impacts and trade-offs, and maximising the co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A		
16.35-16.55	Summarising remarks		
16.55-17.00	Closing address		