



'Train the trainer' Citizen Science Volunteer training day, Birmingham, UK



# NERC COMMUNITY FOR ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTS TRAINING

WYTHAM WOODS, OXFORDSHIRE

16-20 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Costs: £100 (bursaries available)**

A 5-day interactive training delivered by leading experts in the fields of environmental science and community and stakeholder engagement through a series of hands-on practical workshops. Participants will explore a range of methods for applying a community-centred approach to environmental research with sessions including the practice and principles of Citizen Science, effective community engagement and how to communicate science across a range of different audiences. This training is open to all NERC funded early career researchers.



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# NERC COMMUNITY FOR ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTS TRAINING

## WHEN

SEPTEMBER 16-20 2019

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

WYTHAM WOODS, OXFORDSHIRE

## INTRODUCTION

In a world of growing environmental crises and uncertainty, the challenge for researchers to understand the scale and impact of the threats facing our planet and society has never been so relevant and urgent as it is today. The impacts of man-made climate change and ecological crises are now being felt directly and indirectly by communities across the world. However, existing platforms to connect affected communities with the researchers investigating these environmental issues is often one-sided and based upon passive consumption of facts or one-off contributions that can miss the mark. Successful two-way engagement with contemporary issues of environmental science means uniting diverse communities and the NERC research community to create a genuine sense of interdependence and relational power.

## PROGRAMME AIMS

NERC Community for Engaging Environments envisions a future where communities are able to easily access and feel a part of environmental science and research and see its relevance to the prosperity and stability of their everyday lives. To support this goal we are offering training to NERC funded early career researchers with the aim of building confidence and capacity to create platforms that foster open dialogue between researchers and communities.

We want to create spaces where people can share their stories of the environment, acknowledging and capturing people's diverse encounters of the places where they live, the species they care about and the landscapes that matter most to them.

Through close collaboration with communities our long-term goal is to ensure that research delivers mutually beneficial and tangible outcomes for communities, science and the environment.



## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE TRAINING?

Participants attending the training will gain a range of practical skills and experience that will support them to develop community-centred research projects, topics covered include but are not limited to;

- Communicating and engaging with different audiences, using a range of tools and techniques from story-telling to community listening and mapping.
- Understanding the benefits of Citizen Science and how it can be practically applied to enhance community participation in science whilst supporting a range of environmental research
- Hands-on practical experience of current citizen science projects including Naturehood, a national community wildlife monitoring network and Fresh Water Watch, a global fresh water monitoring project.
- Conducting your own community-centred research including core skills of volunteer management, relationship building and partnerships, data management, technology - needs and data handling methodology to ensure scientifically robust results.

- Relating research and engagement to the bigger picture using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework.
- Opportunity to explore your own motivations and connections to the environment.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be;

- Funded by NERC
- Have a keen interest in exploring community-centred research practices
- Committed to encouraging community participation and involvement in environmental research.
- Committed to sharing knowledge and experience gained from the training with others including peers, faculty and community
- Able to complete short pre-work activities prior to attending the training

We promote an inclusive and accessible learning environment, where diversity and individual differences are valued and respected. We actively encourage applications from women and individuals from minority groups. Due to limited accommodation, gender balance will be considered in the selection process.



Mariette Dine, Coral Communities Socioeconomic Research Training. Seychelles, Western Indian Ocean



## ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be staying in recently refurbished accommodation in the heart of the ancient woodlands of Wytham, donated to Oxford University in 1942.

The accommodation is basic and participants will be staying in same-gender shared rooms either in bunk beds or on mattresses provided. There will be shared shower and toilet facilities and participants will need to provide their own sleeping bag, pillow and towels. The accommodation is also a shared research facility where ecologists and environmental scientists come from all over to conduct research in the famous '[laboratory with leaves](#)'.

All meals will be provided and will be vegetarian in accordance with our Environmental Charter, embedding environmental sustainability in our actions as an organisation. We are also able to cater for a range of dietary requirements.

## TRAVEL

Participants will cover the costs of their own travel to the training site. The best way to reach the site by public transport is to take a train to Oxford city centre and a taxi onwards to Wytham. A full briefing on travel and transport will be provided to successful applicants.

## COSTS

In addition to participant travel costs, there is a £100 fee\* to attend the training which contributes to the cost of accommodation, subsistence, training and resources for 4 nights.

\*If you have concerns about meeting the costs and wish to inquire about bursaries please email Katherine at [kmcgavin@earthwatch.org.uk](mailto:kmcgavin@earthwatch.org.uk) for more details.



The 'Chalet' in Wytham woods, Oxfordshire



Sample picture

## NERC COMMUNITY FOR ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTS APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant

Name of University

I confirm I am available for the dates of the training 16-20 September 2019 (check box) ☐

Briefly describe the focus of your research, including research aims (maximum 150 words)

How do you feel your current research area could benefit from/suit a community-centred approach? (maximum 150 words)

What do you want to take away from this training? (maximum 150 words)

Please submit all applications online at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HR9K2W8](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HR9K2W8)  
by 12 midnight **Sunday 7th July**