

# Benefits of Public Engagement with Research

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[www.rcuk.ac.uk/per](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/per)



## What's in it for me?

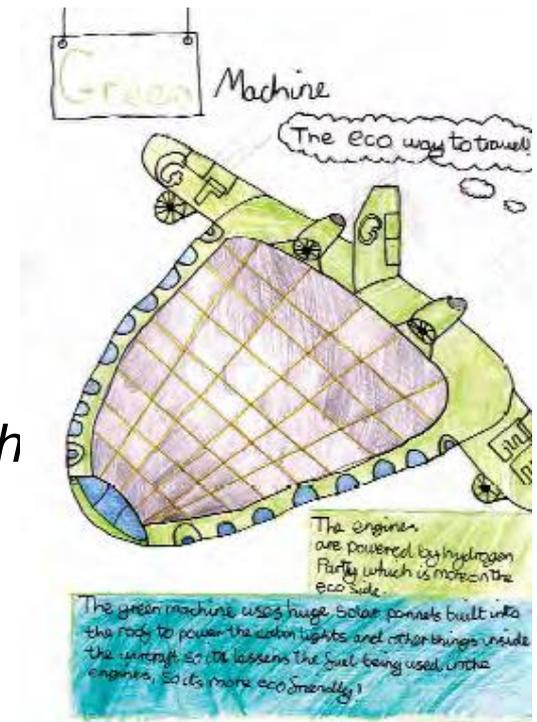
### Benefits of public engagement for researchers:

- Skills development
- Career enhancement
- Enhancing your research quality and its impact
- New research perspectives
- Higher personal and institutional profile
- Influence and networking opportunities
- Forming new collaborations and partnerships
- Enjoyment and personal reward
- Additional funding
- Increasing awareness of the value of research to UK society
- Increasing student recruitment
- Inspiring the next generational of researchers



# Career inspiration

- *'my promotion to professor of physics came a few years early'* Professor Jim Al-Khalili, University of Surrey
- *'I won a number of national and international research accolades for which I would not have been recognised if I had not been engaging with the public on a regular basis'* Dr Kelly BeruBe, Cardiff University



## Raising your profile

- *‘[Public engagement] has certainly led to meetings that would otherwise have not occurred and has had a reputation-enhancing effect with the wider scientific community’* Professor Paddy Regan, University of Surrey
- *‘Some important impacts were the collaboration between scientists and artists...opening up future possibilities of work and projects, including offers of work’* Dr Matthew Studley, University of the West of England
- *‘public engagement is important to the reputation of the university, and to promoting greater understanding of the value of the university and its role in research’*  
University of Manchester case study



## Developing skills

- *'If you can convince a 12 or 13 year old that what you are doing is useful, you get more self confidence... with them you have to drop the jargon and I learnt skills for speaking to non-technical audiences'* Aikaterini Chatsiou, University of Essex
- *'I felt that the questions from the public made the researchers stop and think as they raised issues and expressed views that otherwise might not have been considered'* Jackie Pearson, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton.



## Enhancing your research

- *'The more spontaneous responses of the public audience put some of the research project's hypotheses under real pressure'* Professor Tom Betteridge of Oxford Brookes University
- *'There are experiments we wouldn't have done without public engagement'* Professor Nancy Rothwell, University of Manchester
- *'The flood risk models are better calibrated to the local environment through being informed by the public's local knowledge'* Professor Sarah Whatmore, University of Oxford

