



13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

**PRESS RELEASE - IMMEDIATE**

**Classroom Carbon Traders:  
Oxford University and UK Energy Research Centre ask  
Sixth-formers to slice the climate pie**

“How big should your carbon impact be?” is the question being asked of Oxford’s sixth-formers in a unique experiment about climate justice. During the week that sees the launch of the Government’s Climate Bill, UK Energy Research Centre scientists at Oxford University are visiting three Oxford schools to debate children’s rights and climate change, as part of the annual Festival of Social Science.

Pupils will discuss their own carbon impact and debate whether children and young people should get their own personal allowance under a future personal carbon-trading scheme, a potential feature of the Climate Bill.

Sixth-formers from Oxford’s St. Edward’s (Tues, 13<sup>th</sup>), Cheney (Wed, 14<sup>th</sup>), and Cherwell (Fri, 16<sup>th</sup>) schools will debate young people’s carbon emissions and their rights to emissions allowances during the week 12-16 March.

Researchers Dr Tina Fawcett and Catherine Bottrill will present evidence about children’s carbon emissions and set out different options for the future. Pupils will be able to continue the debate online at [www.climateX.org](http://www.climateX.org), the new Oxfordshire ClimateXChange.

Dr Fawcett commented: “The debate about children and carbon allowances arouses a great deal of passion in adult audiences. This is the first opportunity to find out what young people themselves think. Pupils will discuss alternative policies and their views will feed into research at Oxford University, which is in turn informing government thinking.”

The Classroom Carbon Traders event is part of the Economic and Social Research Council’s Festival of Social Science, which runs from 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March alongside National Science and Engineering Week.

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**About the UK Energy Research Centre, [www.ukerc.org](http://www.ukerc.org)**

UKERC’s mission is to be the UK’s pre-eminent centre of research, and source of authoritative information and leadership, on sustainable energy systems. It undertakes world-class research addressing whole-systems aspects of energy supply and use, while developing and maintaining the means to enable cohesive UK research in energy. Oxford University’s Environmental Change Institute is one of the core partners ([www.eci.ox.ac.uk](http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk)).

**About the ESRC Festival of Science, 9<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March 2007, [www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk)**

The Festival of Social Science is organised by the Economic and Social Research Council and runs alongside National Science and Engineering Week. It celebrates some of the very best British social science research, as well as highlighting the ways in which social science touches everyday lives.

**About Oxfordshire ClimateXChange, [www.climateX.org](http://www.climateX.org),**

ClimateXChange aims to create an inspiring ‘climate buzz’ in Oxfordshire. Led by Oxford University, partners include the WI, schools, business, church and village groups, using an imaginative array of climate tools, from ‘lightbulb libraries’ to the 1/2million-player *Climate Challenge* on-line game, designed by Oxford’s Red Redemption games company.

**Contacts:**

Catherine Bottrill, UKERC & Oxford University, 01865 285168 / 07931426722  
[catherine.bottrill@eci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.bottrill@eci.ox.ac.uk)

Dr Tina Fawcett, UKERC & Oxford University, 01865 285173 (Wed – Fri only)  
[tina.fawcett@eci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tina.fawcett@eci.ox.ac.uk)