



Tyndall Centre
for Climate Change Research




Work package 6.5
Assessment of public perceptions

Sarah Mander, Tom Roberts and
Clair Gough



Presentation outline

- Context
- Progress to date
- Citizen panels
- Initial findings
- Next steps




Context

- Public acceptability of CCS identified as 'high' risk in project risk assessment
- Previous assessments of public perceptions of CCS:
 - Demonstrated low level of public awareness
 - Undertaken in Manchester and York, away from likely developments
 - Explored perceptions of CCS as a broad mitigation option, issues are likely to be different for capture, transport and storage
 - Highlighted risks e.g. leakage; environmental risk; monitoring and ethics of long term storage




Progress to-date

- Review of public perceptions literature related to CCS both in the UK and abroad
- On-going monitoring of the coverage of CCS in both National and Local press
- Local scoping of case study sites including interviews with key contacts and community representatives
- Successfully completed two series of citizens panels in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, and Dunfermline, Firth of Forth

Citizen Panels

- Citizen panels to assess public perceptions of capture, transport and storage of CO₂ in saline aquifers:
 - 4 groups of 10 people (two groups in each case study)
 - Meeting 3 times in each case study area
 - Assess their existing knowledge of CCS
 - Provide information about CCS
 - Opportunity to engage with expert witnesses
 - Discuss their perceptions
- 40 participants recruited through adverts in local newspapers



Some initial findings (1)

- Questionnaire
 - Pre-workshops:
 - 50% of participants thought the principle of CCS was either a good idea or a useful tool to reduce admission in the short term. 42% didn't feel they new enough about CCS to have an opinion.
 - Post-workshop:
 - 95% of participants thought the principle of CCS was either a good idea or a useful tool to reduce admission in the short term.
 - However, many were still concerned that focus on CCS would be at the expense of research and development on renewable sources of energy



Some initial findings (2)

- Overall, very positive feedback from participants
- Valued the opportunity to discuss CCS with experts
- Many concerns about CCS addressed
- Key concerns
 - Finance
 - Monitoring
 - Risk of storage in the long term
 - Who decides what constitutes 'acceptable' risk?



Next Steps

- Conduct interviews with representatives of NGOs
- Write up research:
 - work package report
 - policy brief
 - academic papers