



AGM 2021

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING

Q1. What if I can't attend the AGM but I still want to vote?

An online vote maybe submitted prior to the AGM for a limited time, details to be released shortly. We want to ensure everyone can vote. Each member only receives one vote and cannot vote both online and at the AGM.

Q2. What happens if the members vote for the change in the Charitable Objects but not the change in name?

If this happens then the Council will consider further consultation to establish the best way forward.

Q3. Why wasn't there a bigger consultation amongst the membership on this issue, why was it only the Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG)? Who were they and how were they chosen?

The membership was consulted as part of a survey by the Exploring the Energy Transition (ETET) SIG about their thoughts on the future of the industry in 2020, as well as the President inviting input in each 2021 PESGB newsletter. Based on this survey, the ETET prepared a series of recommendations for the ETWG to consider. This information is all laid out within the Energy Transition Working Group Recommendations which is available on the PESGB website. The ETWG were taken as a cross-section of the members, a range of ages and opinions, as well as past, and present members of Council.

Q4. Is this just a way to distance our society from petroleum?

Absolutely not. This is about being inclusive of the things which will be important in the future, for the people who work within the industry, now.

The word 'petroleum', in our title is causing challenges, as Universities are distancing themselves from us. Birmingham University, with whom we have toured the Stoneley Lecture very successfully, have been pressured by the student body to cut ties with us due to the Petroleum in our title. Imperial College are not running their Petroleum Geoscience MSc after this year and the Petroleum Engineering MSc will close the following year.

'Imperial College said 'We have received only a very small number of applications for next year's Petroleum Geoscience MSc course. After carefully reviewing our educational objectives, we have concluded that we would not be able to deliver the high-quality educational experience that applicants should expect from our MSc course. Our Petroleum Engineering MSc course will also be suspended at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. The petroleum industry and its context in the broader energy landscape have changed at a rapid pace over the last few years, and the abrupt decline in MSc course applications reflects this change. Suspending both MSc Petroleum courses provides us with the opportunity to reassess the skillset needed in today's broader geo-energy industry, and to be able to come up with a new, fit-for-purpose MSc course offering for 2022 and beyond. Subsurface geoscience and engineering will continue to be essential in the transition from petroleum to low-carbon energy and in related subsurface storage – and they will be central to the new MSc course'.

The outreach element of our work has become much more challenging. Our work in schools involves communicating about energy and in particular, petroleum. There have been visits to schools where we have been asked not to mention petroleum within the first 30 mins, to stop students disengaging. As society evolves, so too must the PESGB, but we are not moving away from petroleum, just encompassing other forms of energy that our members maybe involved in during their careers. The change from 'promote' to 'advance' will make a big difference in the perception of our activities by those who don't work within our area.

Q5. What happens if the members vote to keep the society as it is?

If that is the decision of the membership, then that is what we will do. We may put forward alternatives that respond to the concerns of our members and there will be further alternatives to consider as the Society aims to serve its current members and those who enter the industry.

Q6. If the vote goes through how long will it take the changes to the name and the charitable objects to go through?

As this is the first time we have undertaken fundamental change, the guidance suggests it will take a few weeks to get everything approved and accepted by the Charity Commission following the vote. If the vote is passed, the name change will be actioned before end of 2021.

Q7. What changes will we see to the Society in the short term if the vote is passed?

Firstly, there will be the adoption of the new name and branding across all the platforms that the PESGB operate on. There will be announcements about the changes sent as press releases to the other societies we work with and the companies that sponsor us.

This will be followed by the opportunity to set up of new SIGs, explore opportunities for lectures on new topics and the establishing of relationships between the PESGB and any other societies that may interest the potential new members. There will not be a dramatic change in the offer of the Society, it will evolve based on the requirements of the membership. All the member benefits will remain the same as will the programme of activities that you are used to. We will be adding in further activities rather than taking away the things that are valued by the members.