Climate Change - Engineering in the Anthropocene

Date: Tuesday 6th January 2015
Time: 19:00 (Tea/Coffee from 18:30)
Venue: Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork
Speakers: Owen Gaffney

Synopsis:

There is now overwhelming evidence that humanity’s impact on the planet is on the scale of great geological forces. This is changing Earth’s life support system in profound ways. Scientists now argue that humans have pushed Earth into a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene. Climate is perhaps the greatest challenge facing civilization. Societies must decarbonise to avoid the worst consequences. But they must also adapt to inevitable change.

Nations have agreed to a global target of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-Industrial times. What will it take to meet this target? This lecture will discuss the concept of the Anthropocene, the imperative to act and potential solutions, including geoengineering – large-scale interference in the global climate system.

Speaker Bios:

Owen Gaffney is Director of Communications at the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) based at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. IGBP was the first major international research programme to study the Earth as a system. Owen has a background in astronautic engineering but now works predominantly in Earth-system research as a writer, policy strategist, futurist and academic. His work focuses on understanding, communicating and visualizing humanity's impact on the planet. His work has appeared in the New York Times, BBC and the world’s leading academic journals Science and Nature.