

## Public Engagement Research Materials: An Introduction [READ ME FIRST!]

### Background:

The materials contained within this pack were produced by researchers at Cardiff University as part of the public acceptance work package of the RESTLESS project. They have been designed with the aim of stimulating discussion about people's ideas, feelings expectations about the need for energy system flexibility and energy storage.

All materials were produced in discussion with engineers and energy systems experts with the aim of providing accurate and balanced information about energy storage to members of the public with little specialist knowledge of energy issues.

### Contents:

Materials include information about the following aspects of energy storage:

- Technologies- 11 technology sheets describing different options for improving energy system flexibility.
- Governance- 6 poster describing different ways of managing relationships between energy users, producers and storage technologies providers.
- Futures- 3 short scenarios or storylines how energy storage may impact on a person's life and local environment. These are not intended to be predictions but idealised representations capturing key aspects of what the future could hold.

### Usage notes:

These resources are qualitative in nature and have been produced in order to stimulate group discussion for research purposes. They are not designed to allow different storage options to be evaluated in a holistic fashion, or ranked in order of preference. Rather they are intended to introduce members of the public to a range of energy storage options and some of the issues surrounding them.

While strenuous efforts have been made to ensure these materials are accurate and balanced, the way any information is presented inevitably affects how it is interpreted. Experience of using these resources confirms this to be the case and the effects of issue framing is the subject of ongoing analysis within the RESTLESS project. Reflections on how these materials may be improved will be published in due course. In the meantime we strongly recommend prospective users to consider their purpose and intended audience before using or adapting these materials. Please feel free to [contact the research team](#) to discuss how you plan to use them.



### Why engage the public?

Public engagement research into energy storage is necessary for a number of reasons:

1. As energy consumers, tax payers and local residents, members of the public can have a significant role in supporting or disrupting the roll-out of new energy storage technologies.
2. Engaging members of the public can help surface important knowledge of everyday practices and values which may help develop better storage technologies and governance systems.
3. In a democratic society, citizens have a right to be consulted about decisions which affect them. The role of energy storage in energy systems transitions will have far reaching consequences for the relationships energy users have with the energy industry and regulators, as well as the technologies, risks and benefits to which they are exposed.

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