



Many voices, one story: using narrative based filmmaking to share data about the public perceptions of geothermal power in the UK.

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In order to find new energy solutions driven by our need to combat global climate change, energy providers are turning to many innovative forms of renewable energy. Some of these, like wind and solar power, are becoming familiar sights in many landscapes, but others, like the relatively new resource geothermal power are not familiar at all. In order to communicate what these new forms of electricity generation are, and what they mean for our communities, we need to move outside of the traditional voices that usually communicate these topics. As a part of a broader study looking at public perceptions of a new Deep Geothermal Power plant development, the researcher realised that novel methods were needed to represent the diverse voices being anonymised through her data collection process. As a part of a University of Plymouth initiative 'Creative Associates', the researcher was matched with a filmmaker to create a visual representation of her data.

The finished film highlights the importance of recognising one voice in the many; to tell the human story of the public perception of geothermal power. Alison is a 90 year old Cornishwoman who has a lifetime of experience in Cornwall, a part of the UK that is fast becoming synonymous with innovative renewables. Her story of her experiences, ideas and messages to younger generations about geothermal power provide a previously unheard voice in the growing conversation around renewable energy generation in the UK. In addition, this presentation will detail the reflective experience of the researcher, who learned much about the challenges and contrasts of finding and constructing a narrative in film-making; a technique that is very different to the semi-structured approach that she normally uses to collect data and which challenged her to reassess her own methods of collecting, analysing and sharing data.