

**The 36<sup>th</sup> Maurice Lubbock Memorial Lecture  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**“Sustainable Energy – without the hot air”**

**Professor David MacKay FRS,  
Chief Scientific Advisor and  
Professor of Natural Philosophy, University of Cambridge**



David MacKay was appointed as Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The Chief Scientific Advisor's role is to ensure that the Department's policies and operations, and its contributions to wider Government issues, are underpinned by the best science and engineering advice available.

David MacKay studied Natural Sciences at Trinity College; he then went to Caltech to complete a PhD in Computation and Neural Systems. In 1992 he returned to Cambridge as a Royal Society research fellow at Darwin College. In 1995 he became a university lecturer in the Department of Physics, where he was promoted in 1999 to a Readership and in 2003 to a Professorship in Natural Philosophy. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 2009.

David MacKay's research interests include reliable computation with unreliable hardware, and communication systems for the disabled. He believes that what the climate-change discussion needs is clear, simple numbers, so that we can understand just how big our challenge is, and not be conned by grand-sounding schemes that don't actually work. He has also written a book on the subject ([Sustainable Energy - Without The Hot Air](#): David MacKay, UIT Cambridge, 2009).

For further information please see:

<http://www.withouthotair.com/>

<http://www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/mackay/>