

Keyword: Formula Student

A carbon free future: engineers have the answer

IMechE stages lecture on reducing energy usage in transport

Technologies that hope to curb societys dependence on carbon as its main source of fuel will be the hot topic at a lecture organised by the Yorkshire Region of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), to be held at Leeds Town Hall on 27 January from 6.30pm.

The key speaker will be Rod Smith, a fellow of the IMechE, Royal Academy of Engineering research professor at Imperial College and Chairman of the Future Railway Research Centre. Professor Smiths lecture incorporates two of IMechEs key themes transport and the environment by showing how alternative sources of fuel can be used to power rail, motor vehicles and planes. Last year IMechE put this into practice by launching a new category within its [Formula Student](#) motorsport event, challenging university teams to design and build alternative fuelled cars, using power sources such as hydrogen and hybrid.

Those interested in transport and energy will learn about the technologies which may help in the next few decades, together with some of the policy measures which are becoming increasingly necessary.

Transport plays a pivotal role in our lives and as the economy grows, we travel further and faster. It has become the largest user of energy in the developed world and is still growing at an explosive rate, with nearly all of it fuelled by the burning of hydrocarbons. Transport is the largest single producer of CO₂, so curbing its growth is an enormous challenge to both society and the government. Great hope is placed on the role of technology to decarbonise transport.

Rod Smith was an engineering student apprentice with the David Brown Corporation, a British engineering company that makes gears and gearboxes.

After taking a PhD at Cambridge in the fatigue of metal, he was a fellow of Queen's College and a lecturer in engineering. He became the RAE / British Rail research professor and Chairman of the Advanced Railway Research Centre. From 2000 to 2005, he was head of mechanical engineering at Imperial College London.

Refreshments will be provided and booking is required. This event is free to attend.

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