

Ellen Williams

Chief Scientist, BP



Weeks Hall

A Scientist's View of Research for Sustainable Energy

Department of Physics Colloquium

We face one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century: providing more and more energy to meet rising demand, but keeping it affordable, secure, reliable and sustainable. But 'sustainable' means different things to different people – from discovering and recovering more oil and gas to minimizing the impacts on natural resources used in energy. In this talk, Ellen Williams will outline the importance of scientific research to both finding new solutions and providing trusted data to underpin informed decisions about energy, water, land and minerals. Three examples of research addressing these topics will be presented from a perspective of the scientific challenges in delivering new value in the energy system. These will span the disciplinary space of geoscience, chemistry, biology and natural resource systems.

Ellen Williams joined BP as Chief Scientist in January 2010. She is responsible for supporting the basic science that underpins the company's technology programs, assessment and research in strategic technology issues and engagement with BP's university research programs around the world.

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