

ATIP Outreach Grant Report (1) – Lucy Hart

Goals of the Project:

1. Inform the public about some of the desirable properties of next generation materials for solar cells (e.g., lightweight, tuneable bandgaps).
2. Raise awareness of the limitations of conventional silicon solar cells and how these create market space for next generation technologies with a focus on the use of OPV in agrivoltaics.
3. Publicise the scientific research being done by ATIP.



Outcomes of the Project:

The model greenhouse was used at the Great Exhibition Road Festival as part of a, 'Sustainable Civilisation' where we discussed ways solar power is currently used to reduce greenhouse emissions (silicon PV on rooftops) and ways it could be used in the future (agrivoltaics and creation of solar fuels). Although it was not possible to count numbers precisely, the stall was constantly busy during both days of the festival, and we engaged with well over 100 families.

Impact of the Project on the organisation or community:

By hosting a stall at the Great Exhibition Road Festival, we helped communicate Imperial's (and ATIP's) research to the public and demonstrate its potential future applications. Additionally, by talking with members of the public, events like this one help overcome stereotypes of what a scientist 'should' be like. Both of these factors improve Imperial's reputation with the general public.

