

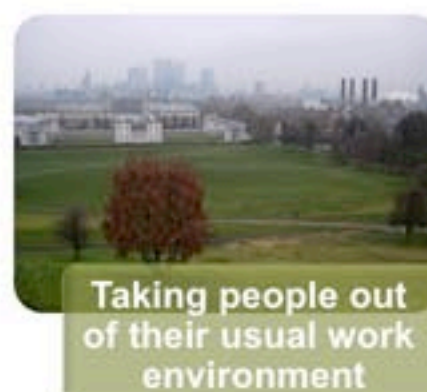
# Nanotechnology and Sustainability Sandpit

## Little Green Things: Nanotechnology for Sustainability Challenges

In February 2009 Bridging the Gaps held a two day sandpit in Greenwich. The aim of the sandpit was to see how sustainability challenges could be addressed using nanotechnology.

The Bridging the Gaps team, along with Andrew Clark (The BEAMS School Research Facilitator) and Andrew Chilvers, were joined by 13 researchers from across UCL.

The sandpit was an interactive event that allowed those with a knowledge of the sustainability challenges and those with a knowledge of the technologies and processes made possible by nanotechnology, to share ideas, identify pressing challenges and start thinking about applying the appropriate technologies.



Taking people out of their usual work environment



Identifying challenges and solutions



Matching challenges with solutions



Pitching research proposals

## New Research Partnerships

This highly productive workshop resulted in 11 viable research ideas. Research teams then pitched proposals based on some of these ideas. The funding was allocated based on votes cast by the workshop participants. A pool of £30,000 from Bridging the Gaps was distributed across the top four rated projects, as shown on the left.

The research groups created by the sandpit are highly interdisciplinary, and we hope this will produce novel approaches to their research.

All the projects are underway, and reports about the groups' work will appear on our website [www.ucl.ac.uk/btg](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/btg) when they are available. A video of the pre-sandpit briefings on nanotechnology and sustainability is also available on the website.

Another sandpit, on a different sustainability topic, is planned for 2010.

**Modelling how nano-scale processes relate to macroscale function**  
£15,000

- **Partners from:**
- Physics and Astronomy
- Chemical Engineering
- London Centre for Nanotechnology

**Duracoat: Using nanoscience to protect wood**  
£5,000

- **Partners from:**
- Bartlett: Planning
- Genetics, Evolution and Environment
- Physics and Astronomy
- Bartlett: Graduate Studies

**Pseudo-Living Material Modification**  
£5,000

- **Partners from:**
- Bartlett: Graduate Studies
- Bartlett: Architecture
- Electronic & Electrical Engineering
- Statistical Science

**Novel Nanostructures for Water Purification and Treatment**  
£5,000

- **Partners from:**
- Bio Nano Consulting (UCL spin-off)
- London Centre for Nanotechnology
- Electronic & Electrical Engineering
- Bartlett: Graduate Studies
- Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering