

# Meet the scientist



**Name:** Dr Aoife Grant

**Place of Birth:** Limerick, Republic of Ireland

**Place of Work:** University of Bristol, UK

**Job Title:** Global Methane Budget Project Manager

**Who do you work for?** The University of Bristol

**What do you do?** Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide. I work on a project which spans 14 universities who measure methane concentration from satellites, aeroplanes, ships and towers. I use computer models to help figure out why levels of methane are increasing at a higher rate than ever before. Day to day, I make sure researchers talk to each other, coordinating their measurements, give me their data to publish so the public can see it, and run events to teach the public about methane.

**What skills do you have to use in your job?** Probably some of the most important skills I use are efficient planning and time management as I regularly plan and coordinate events and conferences to a tight timescale. Project managing a multi-institution project, I collect data from many different people which often requires persistence. I also use my initiative to write the website updates, tweet regularly and apply to exhibit at science outreach events which I see advertised.

**Why do you like your job?** I like my job because I am essentially my own boss, every day is different, and I get to manage my own workload. I enjoy making things happen and talk to lots of people to do that. It gives me a buzz to set-up, coordinate and run a successful conference where lots of scientists share and gain knowledge by giving talks and posters. I also love setting up events that I work at, bringing science out to schools and the public, such as the Festival of Nature in Bristol. Sharing my knowledge and enthusiasm for science is so rewarding.

**What inspired you to choose a career in science?** In school I loved science as I liked the idea of being able to figure out how things worked. I liked that science was hands on, carrying out experiments to figure out the answers, rather than it just being all reading and writing. I also loved that there was a clear right or wrong answer to the questions in science and answers are not usually based on opinion and perception.