

Oil Gas & Energy Transition Special Interest Group 2026 Plan

Executive Summary

The Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Oil Gas and Energy Transition Special Interest Group (OG&ET SIG) was formed in October 2024 to support members with an interest in oil and gas, and related industries, as the global energy system transitions towards net zero. Its programme was derived from the IChemE Energy CoP project: *“The Changing Future of the Oil and Gas Industry”*. The group has ~3,500 members, led by a committee of 17 volunteers. This document summarises the 2026 plan owned by the OG&ET SIG Committee. Key elements are:

1. Oil Gas and Energy Transition SIG Development:

- Developing OG&ET SIG strategy and plans, and monitoring progress
- Enhancing SIG member engagement and support, including social media
- Establishing committee succession and renewal processes
- Regional development of the OG&ET SIG, including:
 - connecting with relevant country boards and Member Groups, and partnering in local events and activities
 - using regional perspectives to shape and support SIG activities
 - bringing items of interest to the global community for webinars or sharing

2. Policy, Industry, Technology & Sustainability

- Continuing to contribute to IChemE policy activities, and widening committee and member engagement and impact
- Agreeing the way forward on the ‘Energy and Resource Efficiency’ project
- Building member awareness and support on sustainability in oil and gas, and through the energy transition, in partnership with key external organisations

3. Chemical Engineering Education

- Building the relationship with IChemE Education SIG
- Supporting the evolution of chemical engineering education relating to the energy transition by identify priorities and good practices

4. Continuing Professional Development

- Continuing webinar programmes to build awareness and knowledge related to the oil and gas industry, and energy transition. This includes partnering with local IChemE groups and collaboration with external organisations.
- Initiating a review of existing training relevant to energy transition within IChemE and selected external organisations to identify opportunities and gaps
- Continuing to bring early career perspectives into OGET activities and developing events to support early career development (eg ‘Soft Skills’) and to showcase achievements (eg YEIAS Awards webinars)
- Identifying opportunities to support those in oil and gas, and related energy transition activities, at all career stages

5. Networking and External Collaboration

- Continuing to build the internal IChemE network
- Developing key external partnerships for the benefit of members and the profession (e.g., Ipieca, IOGP, IMechE, EI) and relevant regional organisations

OG&ET 2025 Progress & 2026 Objectives

1. Oil Gas and Energy Transition SIG Development

1.1. OG&ET strategy & plans

- Annual plan process will be initiated in September 2026 and complete in December 2026
- The SIG committee will consider developing a longer-term strategy for oil, gas and energy transition within IChemE during 2026

1.2. SIG member engagement & support

- OG&ET SIG Annual meeting by July 2026
- OG&ET website will be maintained, and LinkedIn and IChemE Connect will be used connect regularly with members
- Opportunities to enhance use of social media, publications, AI tools and other communication channels will be assessed

1.3. Committee Succession & Renewal

- SIG Chair will initiate a succession and renewal process for the committee in 1Q26

1.4. Regional Development

Connections within Malaysia and US/Canada are well established, with regular events and growing connections into industry and education. Joint events have been initiated in the UK with London & SE and Aberdeen Member Groups. In Australia and New Zealand connections were made to the country boards and some policy input provided. Developing connections in the Middle East and Africa has been discussed with IChemE Regional Development staff. In 2026 Regional Leads for the five key regions for OG&ET will:

- connect with relevant country boards and member groups and partner in local events and activities
- use regional perspectives to shape the SIG activities
- bring items of interest to the global community for webinars or sharing

Details for each region are tabulated in Appendix 1.

2. Policy, Industry, Technology & Sustainability

2.1. Policy - UK & Global

In 2025 OG&ET Committee have made positive progress in developing relevant connections with IChemE staff and others:

- Contributed to the UK DESNZ call for evidence on CCUS.
- Drafted a Hydrogen Letter offering IChemE support to DESNZ
- Offered advice on staff policy work (eg Energy Transition in Scotland)
- Secured a commitment for a UK MP to participate in a live policy debate.
- Provided advice to Australia board on reporting policy consultation

In 2026 there is an opportunity to grow the policy network and promote consistency on oil and gas and energy transition policy. Key objectives:

- Grow the expertise network, by engaging with other SIG committees more directly (not necessarily to work on a 'project') to build relationships and have sight of what everyone is working on and where.
- Increase OG&ET profile and effectiveness by continuing to engage with IChemE staff and start to reach out to other SIGs, enhance our reputation within IChemE and with external stakeholders.
- Increase engagement with IChemE membership on OG&ET related policy developments. We can utilise the IChemE connect platform and engage via events in the next year to develop 2-way communications.

2.2. Technology and Industry

- Energy & Resource Efficiency Project has successfully delivered workshops and events over several years. The way forward for the project will be agreed in 2026.

2.3. Sustainability

In its first year the OG&ET has Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was updated, and two key webinars were delivered in partnership with IPIECA (UN CoP updates) and IMechE (Climate Adaptation). In 2026 OG&ET will build on this by:

- Work more closely with IPIECA (and others) on webinars, events and resources relevant to IChemE members.
- Continue activity on climate adaptation, including IChemE led events and contacts with IMechE
- Work with the OG&ET committee to improve communication on policy development
- Monitor and update the OG&ET Climate Change Action Plan annually
- Connect with other sustainability related IChemE SIGs?

3. Chemical Engineering Education & New Talent

3.1. Academic curriculum and industry engagement

In 2026 the OG&ET committee aims to build connections, convene industry and academic contacts to explore how to support the evolution of Chem Eng education, and identify priorities and good practices. Specific steps:

- Convene a meeting in 1Q26 for OG&ET SIG Committee to explore what the SIG might do on Chem Eng Education
- Meet with IChemE Education SIG to build on connections established in 2025 and explore opportunities for collaboration
- Consider convening a round table of academics and industry representatives to identify some priorities and potential good practices on embedding energy transition into education
- Consider inviting student representative to participate in OG&ET committee
- Continue collaboration with Malaysia Student Chapter (UTP) for training

3.2. Attracting New Talent into Chemical Engineering

OG&ET focus will be on chemical engineering education, rather than school related activities beyond the IChemE 'DiscoverChemEng' initiative

4. Continuing Professional Development

4.1. Technical and policy webinars and events

OG&ET SIG hosted 18 events, including 3 in-person meetings in partnership with local member groups. The aim in 2026 is to deliver a similar programme covering the scope of OG&ET activities:

- Emissions reduction, energy efficiency, CCUS, renewable power, energy storage and demand management
- Asset rationalisation and repurposing, transition project economics and practical case studies (Report Section 5.4.2 for more details)
- Climate Adaptation for Oil, Gas and related industry
- Oil and gas projects and operations

Some specific events for 2026 include:

- “UK Energy Transition Debates”
- Webinars, including those in partnership with IPIECA, IOGP,
- YEAIS webinars
- Soft Skills webinars/workshops for both early and mid- career stages
- ‘Energy and Resource Efficiency’ series
- Monthly technical webinars in partnership with Malaysia Board
- Malaysia in person meeting

4.2. Training & Skills Development

IChemE and external providers provide a broad array of training relevant to the oil and gas sector and the energy transition (eg Hydrogen Safety, IChemE Sustainability Hub). However, there has not been a systematic review of these offerings to identify their relevance and applicability.

In 2026 OG&ET SIG plan to initiate review of existing training relevant to energy transition, including:

- IChemE Training
- Selected External training
- Gaps and potential opportunities

OG&ET will also engage with the UK external ‘Hydrogen and CCS Skills Accelerator’ programme to explore cooperation opportunities, e.g. awareness sessions for IChemE members, possible UK in-person meeting focusing on skills for the transition.

4.3. Early Careers

Partnerships have been established with London and SE group, UK Early Careers group and other SIGs by OG&ET Committee early careers lead. This has help bring early-career perspectives to SG activities, such as the “UK Pathway to Net-Zero” event. YEAIS awards finalists have also been contacted to develop a pipeline of future webinars. In 2026 some key activities will include:

- Continue with webinars featuring YEAIS finalists
- Early career involvement in UK in-person events (e.g. Chris Macdonald Energy Transition Debate - Q1 flagship event)
- Progress OG&ET webinars on soft skills development

4.4. Through-career development and mentoring

In 2025 a webinar was organised that shared experiences of IChemE members on moving from oil and gas to ‘greener careers’, as part of the energy and resource efficiency.

- Further events of this type are envisaged for 2026 and the SIG will look at options to develop softer skills for members at all career stages

5. Networking and External Collaboration

5.1. IChemE Networks

In 2026 the plan is to:

- Build policy relationships between IChemE SIGs (see above)
- Continue to build regional networks (see above)
- Continue to develop links with early careers networks (see above)

5.2. External Collaboration

In 2025 joint activities were conducted with:

- **Ipieca** – The global oil and gas association for advancing environmental and social performance across the energy transition on international policy developments under the UN's CoP 16 (Nature) and CoP 29 (Climate)
- **IOGP** – a webinar was delivered in conjunction with the international association of oil and gas producers on their Energy Transition Integrated Framework
- **IMechE** – a joint webinar as part of the joint series on Climate Adaptation

In 2026 the main activities include:

- Continuing to grow links with IPIECA, IOGP and IMechE
- Consider OG&ET SIG involvement with:
 - Energy Institute (EI)
 - AIChE joint initiative with IChemE on hydrogen

Appendix 1: OG&ET Plan 2026 – Regions

	OG&ET SIG Regional Development	Policy, Industry and Technology	Education	Continuing Professional Development	Partnerships
UK/EU	1. Continue to enhance SIG awareness and network through two in person events (including January with MP Chris Macdonald) 2. Maintain communications with N Scotland group	Contribute to IChemE Policy efforts in UK / EU	Input to UK University / Ed SIG discussions on Energy Transition in Chem Eng curriculum and attracting future talent	Build schedule of webinars to build deeper Energy Transition knowledge across membership, incorporating specific elements on transition pathways, and potential upskilling and cross skilling opportunities.	UK MGs External – IOGP Europe / OEUK / EI?
Australia / NZ	Grow links with Australia & NZ boards and member groups	Respond to policy questions from country boards		At least one joint webinar or event with Australia & NZ groups	Consider connecting with AEP on policy / joint activities
Malaysia / South East Asia (SEA)	1. Maintain links with Malaysia board 2. Consider options for growing links within region	Improve networking with external parties – aviation industry, hydrogen, bio-based fuels, nuclear, wind, solar, etc	1. To further collaborate with local IChemE Student Chapters for events 2. To conduct learning webinars catered for students 3. Focus universities: UTP & UTM	1. Continue monthly webinars with more focus towards energy transition and new energy areas 2. Plan an annual physical event as continuation from the fireside chat completed in 2025.	
Americas	1. Maintain links with US/ Canada MG. 2. Consider options for growing links within region?	Communicate updates on US policy during this period of high uncertainty.		1. Continue to host technical webinars and other sessions with US Canada Group. 2. US policy direction (also in Canada) is highly uncertain, leading to uncertainty for OG&ET members. What skills and career opportunities do they pursue? OG&ET support needed in the near term.	Lean into the partnership between IChemE and AIChE on hydrogen, including the hydrogen conference (next may be UK)
Middle East & Africa (MEA)	Continue building regional network with IChemE Regional Development staff			Develop MEA event programme, including at least one webinar	IOGP?