



### **About the RSC**

With about 50,000 members in over 100 countries and a knowledge provider that spans the globe, the Royal Society of Chemistry is an international professional body for chemical scientists, supporting



- c. Searching the scientific literature could help to identify new areas of emerging concern, particularly looking at innovations that could be predicted to cause large scale problems if they were used but not managed well at global scale.

**3. The horizon scanning process should welcome input from all stakeholders.**

- a. All SPP stakeholders, including UN Major Groups, Member States, civil society organisations such as NGOs and universities, indigenous and local populations, and more, should be involved in the horizon scanning process.
- b. Horizon scanning should also consider the needs of policy makers so that outputs are policy relevant.
- c. Horizon scanning activities should involve participants in a diverse and inclusive way, and seek to exclude no-one who has knowledge to contribute.

**4. Horizon scanning will complement other functions of the SPP.**

- a. Work undertaken on horizon scanning and capacity building will complement one another. Capacity building will be needed to better identify, monitor, and understand emerging issues, and horizon scanning can help to identify priority areas for capacity building.
- b. Horizon scanning will need to be coupled with a strong prioritisation framework in order to transition work on the most impactful emerging issues into the SPPs work programme.





The RSC is committed to an Open Access policy in relation to its publishing activities. Details can be found at <https://www.rsc.org/journals-books-databases/open-access-publishing/>. Some general points on this approach to science publishing are provided below:

## A world that works for everyone

It's our mission to help you make the world a better place. Open access is crucial to achieving this. We believe that it is the key to building a fairer, more equitable society. One where everyone can access and benefit from discoveries – including researchers, funders, policymakers, and the general public.

## What are the benefits of open access?



## Our vision for open access

This is just the beginning. Open access can lead us to a fairer society by making impactful research available to everyone. No matter who you are or where you live, you deserve to access and benefit from new discoveries. And we partner with the best people to make this a reality:













reflect on the implications of assessments and the translation of findings into locally appropriate options and measures.<sup>8</sup>

**RSC focus groups also identified the need to improve scientists' ability to inform government.**

1. Scientists need training on how to engage with politicians and the policy process, including knowledge of what data is useful and how to better communicate evidence.
2. Governments should provide formal structures for scientific involvement in the policy process, such as departmental science advisory committees that can gather and evaluate technical evidence.
3. There is also a need to strengthen networks across scientific disciplines and across other disciplines such as the social sciences.
4. It is crucial that all qualified scientists have access to the new SPP and are facilitated to participate, either by providing funding or having a process to enable due recognition in national research evaluation frameworks. Voluntary participation, as in other SPPs, may not be a sustainable model for ensuring adequate representation and opportunities for involvement from the most knowledgeable scientists.
5. The scientific community also respects the knowledge that indigenous populations can bring to the SPP, through observational and experiential learnings.
6. In the highly regulatory areas of chemicals, waste and pollution, scientists who advise governments should also develop capacity of knowledge regarding the regulatory frameworks.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589811620300094>



In June 2023, the RSC submitted a response to the UNEP consultation on 'Operating Principles' for the SPP. The full submission can be found on the RSC website at: [090ang \(enE \)-6\(nJC /Spa <https://www.rsc.org/globalassets/07-news-events/rsc-news/opinions/2023/09-september/rsc-policy-position-operating-principles-with-sign-on-v1.0.pdf>](https://www.rsc.org/globalassets/07-news-events/rsc-news/opinions/2023/09-september/rsc-policy-position-operating-principles-with-sign-on-v1.0.pdf)

## Other useful information

**Royal Society of Chemistry Burlington Consensus events 2022 and science-policy work on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention to date**

<https://www.rsc.org/policy-evidence-campaigns/chemical-waste-and-pollution/#SPP>

**Peer review journal article** – ‘An actionable definition and criteria for “sustainable chemistry” based on literature review and a global multisectoral stakeholder working group’

Cannon et al. (2023) RSC Sustainability, **1**, 2092-2106 – **Open access publication**

<https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2023/su/d3su00217a>

## **RSC Chemicals Strategy for a Sustainable Chemicals Revolution**

<https://www.rsc.org/globalassets/22-new-perspectives/sustainability/rsc-chemicals-strategy-policy-2020.pdf>

## **RSC Principles for the Management of Chemicals in the Environment**

[https://www.rsc.org/globalassets/04-campaigning-outreach/tackling-the-worlds-challenges/environment/rsc\\_principles\\_for\\_chemicals\\_in\\_the\\_environment.pdf](https://www.rsc.org/globalassets/04-campaigning-outreach/tackling-the-worlds-challenges/environment/rsc_principles_for_chemicals_in_the_environment.pdf)

