Breakout Discussion: Sustainable Mathematics

Jessica Enright
University of Glasgow, UK

Summary:

Mathematical research uses energy: simulations, high-performance computing, and the travel that hold our conferences and collaborations together all add up. There's some guidance out there on sustainable computational science and on academic travel in general, but we want to discuss it further and find out what works for us as a mathematical sciences community.

We'll start in plenary with a simple question: *where has your own research used energy recently?*

Then we'll split into groups discussing the biggest items. Each group will come back with one slide's worth of proposals on what could have made those activities greener. After that we'll go back into breakouts to ask the harder question: why don't these things already happen? What incentives, structures and habits work against them, and for each one, what single change would help?

I will plan to collate the output into a table of barriers and proposed changes, which we can use to spark future discussion in this area.

If you fancy some light reading beforehand, have a look at the LMS sustainability policy and two AMS blog posts, one on sustainable mathematics and one on doing the maths on a year of academic travel.