

Turning mining liabilities into assets – Innovation at the Coal Authority

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Abstract

Britain has centuries of mining that have led to both wealth creation, and environmental damage, pollution and hazards to human health. As we deal with the impact of mining from early man, through the Romans to the industrial revolution and to recent times, the historical problems left behind can, through innovation, lead to solutions for modern issues of climate change, and energy and water scarcity.

Through changing our mind-set at the Coal Authority, wastes are now considered assets and liabilities opportunities. Driven by innovation with sustainability at its core, the Authority's strategy is changing the organisation from one once heavily dependent on grant in aid from government to one more in control of its own destiny. The talk will focus on the way innovation and a more commercial outlook is helping reduce costs and increase income to help the Authority do more for less.

About the Speaker

Peter Thorn is Principal Technical Innovation Manager at the Coal Authority. He is a chartered geologist with over 20 years' experience in hydrogeology, contaminated land remediation, waste management and mine water treatment.