

What is a Lightning Style Talk?

A lightning style talk is a fun, focused, and engaging micro-presentation. Similar to PechaKucha and Ignite, these concise talks draw in the audience, and deliver information in a quick and captivating manner.

“A good lightning talk is insightful, inspiring, thought-provoking, useful, humorous, controversial, or enlightening. Lightning talks are almost always fun, for both the speaker and the audience.”¹

Format for the Lightning Style Talks

Each speaker is allotted 5 minutes to speak on an environmental topic of their choice. Talks will be spaced throughout the evening, with time for mingling between presentations.

Due to venue constraints, presentations will not include audio-visual aids, aside from handouts.

Speakers should arrive at 5:30 pm, to receive instructions on timing, location, etc.

Topics Outline for Speakers

The focus should be on topics relevant to the environmental sector, and may include environmental projects, innovations, hot topics, challenges, and solutions.

Advertising is not permitted. Speakers may talk very briefly on their company only with regards to introducing themselves and their company (<30 sec), or for the full 5 minutes if they are speaking on an environmental project the company completed. Projects should highlight relevant environmental benefits, challenges encountered, and/or the innovative/novel solutions applied.

Audience inclusion and interaction is encouraged, and handouts are allowed.

Tips for a great Lightning Style Talk, from Barrie Byron¹:

- “Get to the point quickly
- Select a relevant topic for the audience.
- Share one great idea.
- Tell a story; storytelling is universal and we all have a story to tell.
- Show passion for an idea; spread your joy.
- Share information but resist the temptation to explain in detail.
- Practice, practice, practice.
- Practice with a timer (there’s an app for that).
- End strong and “power wrap” your lightning talk... restate your one great idea.”

Reference

1. Byron, B. (2013, February, 23). So, you want to give a lightning talk. [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://barriebyron.wordpress.com/2013/02/17/so-you-want-to-give-a-lightning-talk/>