

UK CCUS Council Meeting Minutes
6th February 2024, hybrid meeting

Attendees	Organisation
Lord Callanan (LC) - Co-Chair	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance
James Smith (JS)- Co-Chair	Former Chair, Carbon Trust
Louise Kingham (LK)	BP
David Reiner (DR)	Cambridge University
Ruth Herbert (RH)	CCS Association
Adrian Topham	Crown Estate
Rebecca Groundwater	EIC
Luciano Vasques	ENI
Dominic Martin (DM)	Equinor
Roz Bulleid	Green Alliance
Rich Denny	IPA
Kristina Dahlstrom	NSTA
David Parkin (DP)	Progressive Energy
Stuart Haszeldine	Scottish CCS
Allan Baker	Société Générale
Chris Rowell	Tees Valley Combined Authority
Francesca Bell	Early Careers Professional Forum
Gordon Hutcheson	Ofgem
Kate Haire	HSE
Julian Leslie	National Grid
Neil Golding	Energy Industries Council
Graeme Davies	Harbour Energy
David Whitehouse	Offshore Energies
Ben Burggraaf	Net Zero Industry Wales
Michael Foley	Exxon
Charlotte Morgan	Linklater-Partner
Karl Smyth	Coalition for Negative Emissions
Patrick Dixon	Independent Advisor, former OCCS Expert Chair
Kirstie Simpson	University of Chester
Kisha Couchman	Energy UK
Chris Rowell	Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership
Guy Van Nieuwenhove	National Grid
Jade Fernandez	SSE
Peter Mather	Interim Lead Non-Executive Director, DESNZ

Senior Officials	Organisation
Stephanie Murphy	Director, CCUS, DESNZ
Alex Milward	Director, CCUS, DESNZ
Beatrice Filkin (BF)	Deputy Director, CCUS, DESNZ
Emma Bulmer (EB)	Deputy Director, CCUS, DESNZ
Will Lochhead	Deputy Director, CCUS, DESNZ
External Presenters	-
Carl Hickson (CH)	Greenn Jobs Delivery Group/BP
Vincent Fabri (VF)	Field Consulting

1. Opening remarks from co-chairs Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance, and James Smith:

- JS opened the Council, welcomed new members, thanked previous members, highlighted the urgency for reducing emissions and cited the importance of the coming months to CCUS as both sides work towards a Final Investment Decision (FID).
- LC noted his pleasure in attending the Council, reiterated HMG's commitment to decarbonisation and noted that the Government's recent announcements. This included further progress on the Governments four clusters, the setting out a long-term CCUS vision, and the £960m Green Industries Growth Accelerator (GIGA).
- LC also noted that 2024 promised to be a big year for CCUS, that hard work was needed from all parties to maintain momentum in moving forward, and that there was a need to work collaboratively to deliver CCUS on time.

2a. Update on progress against deployment targets:

- BF overviewed the Government's recent December [announcement](#) and announced that the Department had received 16 expressions of interest for the Track-1 Expansion process in the Hynet cluster.
- EB noted that GIGA sought to harness economic opportunities offered by CCUS and to alleviate bottlenecks in supply chain. EB highlighted that £960 million was to be invested in a variety of sectors, with a call for evidence being released around the summer.

2b. CCUS Council Discussion on Deployment pathways

- RH offered a project perspective, where they praised government and industries hard work and noted a desire for clear timetabling for track 1 expansion and track 2.
- Members welcomed the updates, noted that the quality of bids of interest exceeded expectations, and expressed a desire to understand the longer strategic elements of the UK's Emission's Trading Scheme (ETS).

3a. Update from the Green Jobs Delivery Group on their Skills Paper

CH updated on the Green Jobs Delivery Groups skills paper, which had built on previous work, including the CCSA skills paper, and is due to be delivered later in 2024. This broad overview highlighted:

1. That to avoid overlap, the work only focused on T&S companies.
2. The papers focus on different archetypes, where it was hoped this would benefit future analysis as most of the challenges were in the engineering and fitting workforce.
3. Skills availability issues are common across a range of sectors, so thus its important for everyone to collaborate, including Oil, Gas and green sectors.
4. How empirical evidence analysis had highlighted issues of diversity, an aging workforce, and misconceptions of what a 'green job' was.
5. There was a long lead time for skills development - and that collectively we may have needed to start yesterday to sort these capacity challenges.
6. That schemes like apprentice levy, where the jobs, rather than the employer, are known, could be useful.

LK noted that the skills paper presented an opportunity to continue to collaborate, that there was a need to be conscious of the sectors bottlenecks, and that the Council attendees were just a small fraction of the leaders needed to develop the sector.

3b. CCUS Council discussion on implications:

- Members welcomed the update and key comments were as follows:
 - Members were keen to note the need to raise awareness of job opportunities, including reframing oil and gas jobs potential as green jobs to a younger population, and that diversity was key to bringing in more skills.
 - Members were keen present tangible steps in job development this year to highlight that work was ongoing and that there was huge opportunity for public perception work to support the development of skills.

4a. Overview on the Public Perception of CCUS

- DR presented and emphasised that if the public are unaware of projects, then they take the signal on who to support based on who is doing the communicating.
- It was also noted that while public awareness on CCUS is low, it was also low in areas where you'd expect people to know about it and thus, this lack of awareness presented an opportunity for it be reframed.
- VF from Field Consulting was invited by LC to present and noted that his findings aligned with DR's.
- VF noted that his research purpose was to help build positive narratives of CCUS benefits by finding overlapping values in target audience in both cluster regions, and the wider public.

- It was further cited that awareness of CCUS was low with about 40% respondents having never heard of CCUS.
- VF noted that those who didn't know of CCUS had safety concerns on it, but that those who were aware of CCUS overwhelmingly supported it.

4b. CCUS Council discussion on public engagement

- Members noted the rise of net-zero fatigue and the challenges this presented for the public to make new connections on what CCUS was. Key comments were as follows:
 - Members commented on the importance of taking a place-based approach, focusing on hyperlocal work, and consistently working with communities to deliver a basic understanding of the energy system, including where carbon capture fits in.
 - Members emphasised the need for NGO's to be involved in public perception discussions and the issues raised in the skills discussion could help make the clusters work visible to communities.
 - Members noted that the programme was at critical stage, with the onus being on the first projects to be responsive to any risk and that it was important to look ahead to plotting contingency plans.

4a. Opportunity for Officials to respond to the Councils Discussion:

Officials complemented the group on their hyperlocal work and emphasised internal difficulties, including cost pressures and ensuring affordability.

4b. Forward look:

- A forward look, for the next meeting, covering deployment pathways and business models was offered to and agreed by Council Members.
- It was also noted that further meetings may cover, presentations from external agencies, a potential deep dive on the ETS and Diversity and Inclusion.

5a. AOB and Close

- The co-chairs thanked attendees for participating, noted the importance of the meetings vital discussions and closed the meeting.