

Net Zero Council

Summary of Meeting on 14th May 2025

Location: London

Attendees:

Co-chairs

- Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State, DESNZ
- Shirine Khoury-Haq, CEO, The Co-operative Group (industry co-chair)

Net Zero Council Members:

- Minister McCarthy, DESNZ
- Bev Cornaby, Director, Corporate Leaders Group (CLG)
- Carl Ennis, CEO Siemens (remote)
- Catherine Pettengell, Executive Director, CAN-UK
- Chris Hulatt, Co-Founder, Octopus Investments
- David Thomas, CEO, Barratt Redrow
- Fintan Slye, CEO, NESO
- Ian Simm, CEO, Impax Asset Management
- Ian Stuart, CEO, HSBC
- Jabeer Butt, Chief Executive, Race Equality Foundation, and lead partner, Everyone's Environment Coalition, (EEC)
- John Scanlon, CEO, Suez (remote)
- Mark Versey, CEO, Aviva Investors
- Sue Ferns, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect, Trades Unions Congress (TUC)
- Sue Pritchard, Chief Executive, Food Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC)
- Saul Resnick, CEO Supply Chains, DHL (remote)
- Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF-UK

Other government ministers:

- Minister Jones, DESNZ/DBT (remote)

Guests:

- Andrew Griffiths, Director of Policy & Corporate Development, Planet Mark
- Hannah Cool, Chief Operating Officer, Bankers for Net Zero
- Michelle Ovens, Founder, Small Business Britain
- Rachael Orr, CEO, Climate Outreach

Wider member organisation attendees:

- Daniel Hanna, Group Head of Sustainable & Transition Finance, Barclays
- Eve Roodhouse, Director of Strategy and Policy, LGA
- Nick Stace, Senior Advisor, Barclays
- Paul Wilson, Policy Director, FSB

- *With support from the Council's Secretariat and Delivery Group: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Co-operative Group, Broadway Initiative, Green Finance Institute, Aldersgate Group, FSB, the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce.*

Summary

1. Shirine Khoury-Haq opened the meeting, welcoming attendees. DESNZ Secretary of State Ed Miliband began by reaffirming this government's strong commitment to making Britain a Clean Energy Superpower, delivering clean power by 2030 and accelerating to net zero. He pointed to [the Prime Minister's recent speech at the IEA Summit](#), which demonstrated the Prime Minister's clear support for this mission.
2. The Council considered the core benefits offered by the transition to net zero, including for energy security and resilience, good jobs up and down the country and better lives today and tomorrow.
3. Members considered how the public can be engaged and supported to participate in the transition, including through government's upcoming Public Participation Strategy.
4. Members reviewed activities across the Council's four workstreams (inputting into government net zero strategy, supporting the development of sector roadmaps, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and informing approaches to public engagement) since the last meeting, noting good progress.
5. The Council considered how small and medium-sized enterprises can be supported to decarbonise while growing their businesses, including by ensuring they have the tools, incentives, and confidence to take action.
6. Shirine Khoury-Haq confirmed that the Council will meet again in September, with working groups taking forward action over the summer months.