

## Net Zero Council

### Summary of Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Location:** London

#### **Attendees:**

##### Co-chairs

- Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State, DESNZ
- Shirine Khoury-Haq, CEO, The Co-operative Group

##### Net Zero Council Members:

- Katie White MP, Minister for Climate, DESNZ
- Bev Cornaby, Director, Corporate Leaders Group (remote)
- Catherine Pettengell, Executive Director, CAN-UK
- Chris Hulatt, Co-Founder, Octopus Investments (remote)
- David Thomas, CEO, Barratt Redrow
- Ian Simm, CEO Impax Asset Management
- John Scanlon, CEO, Suez
- Mark Versey, CEO, Aviva Investors
- Martin McTague, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses
- Martin Pibworth, Chief Executive, SSE
- Matt Hammerstein, Chief Executive of the UK Corporate Bank, Barclays (remote)
- Richard Watson, CEO, Nestle
- Sue Ferns, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect, Trades Unions Congress
- Sue Pritchard, Chief Executive, Food Farming and Countryside Commission

##### Guests

- Luke Tryl, Executive Director, More in Common
- Rachael Orr, CEO, Climate Outreach

##### Wider member organisation attendees:

- Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, LGA
- Kate Norgrove, Executive Director of Conservation, Advocacy and Policy, WWF-UK

- Kayte O’Neil, Chief Operating Officer, NESO
- James Somerville, Head of Policy, NPC
- Louise Harry, Director of EHS and Sustainability UK and Ireland, Siemens (remote)
- Sonika Sidhu, Assistant Director of Policy, LGA (remote)
- Tim Lord, Head of Climate and Energy, HSBC
- Raj Sidhu, Vice President, Government Relations and Sustainability, Barclays (remote)
- *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 highlighted a range of developments since the previous meeting, including the publication of the Industrial Strategy, Solar Roadmap and Offshore Wind Roadmap. He noted the importance of bringing people with us on the journey to net zero and the vital role of the Net Zero Council in leading with action and advocacy.
2. Members reflected on public attitudes to climate and nature, drawing on insights from the Britain Talks Climate & Nature report and the Seven Segments of Britain framework. Discussions highlighted the need for messaging that connects with people’s values, emphasises tangible local benefits, and partners with trusted messengers.
3. Members considered the importance of place-based approaches that demonstrate the real-world benefits of the clean energy transition, including job creation and energy savings. The importance of tailoring messages to different audiences and the need to empower businesses, SMEs, and communities was also discussed. The group also explored how it could support leadership, advocacy, and communications around the transition.
4. Members discussed the role of sector transition plans as a key tool to support decarbonisation, enabling sectors to create a shared vision and providing financial institutions with greater investment certainty. Members considered how SMEs and individuals can be supported through practical tools and consistent carbon accounting. The group reflected on the level of government support needed, the importance of alignment with policy, and opportunities to address cross-cutting barriers such as retrofitting and logistics.

6. Shirine Khoury-Haq confirmed that the Council will meet again in December, with working groups taking forward action over the autumn months.