

Net Zero Council Monday 8 December 2025 - Summary of Minutes

Time and venue: 15:00 to 17:00, 7.04A and B, Caxton House, 6 – 12, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA

Attendees:

Co-chairs

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

Net Zero Council Members

- Minister for Climate, DESNZ, Katie White MP
- Bev Cornaby, Director, Corporate Leaders Group
- Catherine Pettengell, Executive Director, CAN-UK (remote)
- Carl Ennis, CEO Siemens UK and Ireland
- Chris Hulatt, Co-Founder, Octopus Investments
- Fintan Slye, CEO NESO
- Jabeer Butt, Chief Executive, Race Equality Foundation (remote)
- John Scanlon, CEO, Suez UK
- Mark Versey, CEO, Aviva Investors
- Martin McTague, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses
- Martin Pibworth, Chief Executive, SSE (remote)
- Matt Hammerstein, Chief Executive of the UK Corporate Bank, Barclays (remote)
- Richard Watson, CEO, Nestle UK and Ireland
- Minnie Moll, CEO, Design Council
- Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF-UK
- Sue Ferns, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect, Trades Unions Congress
- Sue Pritchard, Chief Executive, Food Farming and Countryside Commission

Guests

- Gavin Starks, COO, IcebreakerOne

- Hannah Cool, COO, B4NZ (remote)

Wider member organisation attendees

- Tim Abbott, Head of Corporate Communications, Barratt Redrow
- Chris Dodwell, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Impax Asset Management
- Tim Lord, Head of Climate and Energy, HSBC (remote)
- James Stephens, VP Corporate Affairs, DHL Supply Chain UK and Ireland
- Eve Roodhouse, Director of Strategy and Policy, LGA
- Viola Meyerweissflog, CISL Programme Manager, CLG

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. Minister White thanked members for support with the recently published Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan (CBGDP) and the Energising Britain public participation plan. Minister White reflected on the Autumn Budget announcement on reducing energy bills, and on COP30 in Belém. She looked ahead to the publication of the Warm Homes Plan and to government setting the level of Carbon Budget Seven next year.
2. Members shared reflections on the CBGDP and on how the Council can continue to help communicate the benefits the transition presents. Members reflected on the need to tell real-world, tangible, local stories, to tailor messaging to different audiences and to celebrate the progress the UK has already made in reducing emissions while growing the economy.
3. Members discussed sector transitions plans, noting that [guidance](#) for developing plans was published in October and that a deep dive on the new homes sector's plan took place in November. Members agreed that sector transition plans are useful tools to bring industry together around a single plan and surface dependencies. Members welcomed the new homes sector's progress in delivering on the [sector plan](#) published in April. It was noted that the deep dive format, led by government and bringing together key players from across the sector, was useful in facilitating discussions on how government and stakeholders can work in partnership to support sector plans.
4. The Council reflected on the need for a clear, simple emissions reporting framework to help SMEs unlock commercial opportunities. Members welcomed

ongoing work to develop the framework led by independent initiatives and agreed that the Council should support this work. The Council also discussed the need to support SME innovation, building on the findings of the BCC's recent [Sustainable Growth: Driving the UK's Low Carbon Tech Future](#) report.

5. DESNZ Secretary of State Ed Miliband thanked members for their commitment to the Council this year and indicated that maintaining momentum, delivering on objectives, refining the narrative and communicating with confidence would be key priorities for 2026. Members shared their reflections on the Council's progress and priorities.
6. Co-chairs thanked the members for their attendance and contributions, noting the next meeting would be in March 2026.