

Net Zero Council Monday 9 March - Summary of Minutes

Time and venue: 14:30 to 16:00, 7.04A and B, Caxton House, 6 – 12, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA

Attendees:

Net Zero Council Members

- Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), Rt Hon. Ed Miliband MP
- Minister for Climate, DESNZ, Katie White MP
- Shirine Khoury-Haq, CEO, The Co-operative Group (industry co-chair)
- Carl Ennis, CEO, Siemens
- John Scanlon, UK CEO, Suez
- Bev Cornaby, Director, Corporate Leaders Group
- Sue Pritchard, CEO, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
- Martin McTague, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses
- Ian Simm, CEO, Impax Asset Management
- Minnie Moll, CEO, Design Council
- Cat Pettengell, Executive Director, Climate Action Network UK
- Jabeer Butt, CEO, Race Equality Foundation, Everyone's Environment Coalition
- Mark Versey, CEO, Aviva Investors
- Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF
- Fintan Slye, CEO NESO (remote)
- Sue Ferns, Senior Deputy General Secretary, Prospect, Trades Union Congress (remote)
- Richard Watson, UK CEO, Nestle (remote)

Delegates

- Bukky Bird, Group Sustainability Director, Barratt Redrow
- Daniel Hanna, Global Group Head of Sustainable and Transition Finance, Barclays
- James Stephens, Vice President Corporate Affairs, DHL UK and Ireland
- Tim Lord, Head of Climate and Energy, HSBC UK
- Eve Roodhouse, Director of Strategy and Policy, LGA
- Rhian Kelly, Chief Sustainability Officer, SSE (remote)

Guests

- Charlotte Baker, Director, Agrifood Chain, Defra

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. DESNZ Secretary of State Ed Miliband opened the meeting with a discussion on the situation in the Middle East. He noted that the UK has a diverse and resilient energy system, and DESNZ is continuing to monitor the situation in the Middle East closely. Members reflected that conflict in the Middle East is an important reminder that the only route to energy security and sovereignty is for the UK is to get off our dependence on fossil fuel markets and onto clean homegrown power.
2. Members discussed opportunities for accelerating climate advocacy over the next six months. Members supported the need for place-based and people-centred stories with communications tailored to different audiences.
3. Members reflected on the progress made in developing and delivering the [agri-food sector transition plan](#) developed by IGD, EY and WRAP, reflecting on opportunities to engage wider stakeholders and address cross-cutting issues. Members agreed to merge the sector transition plans working group that sits beneath the Council with the Transition Finance Council's working group two, to help sectors develop finance cases for their plans.
4. Members agreed priorities for the Council in 2026/27, including inputting into government strategy development, supporting additional sectors to develop and deliver sector transition plans and supporting SMEs and public engagement.
5. Co-chairs closed the meeting, thanking all members for their engagement and contributions.