

Net Zero Council Minutes 16 June 2026 – Summary of Minutes

Time and venue: 2-3.30pm, Local Government Association, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendees:

Net Zero Council members:

- Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), Rt Hon. Ed Miliband MP (co-chair)
- Mark Versey, CEO, Aviva Investors (industry co-chair – remote)
- Katie White MP, Minister for Climate, DESNZ
- Beverley Cornaby, Director, Corporate Leaders Group UK
- David Thomas, CEO, Barratt Redrow
- Fintan Slye, CEO, NESO
- Ian Simm, CEO, Impax Asset Management
- Martin McTague, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses
- Martin Pibworth, Chief Executive, SSE (remote)
- Mat Hunter, CEO, Design Council (remote)
- Sue Ferns, Senior Deputy General Secretary, Prospect, Trades Union Congress (remote)
- Sue Pritchard, CEO, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
- Tanya Steele, CEO WWF (remote)

Delegates and supporting colleagues:

- Nick Molho, Head of Sustainability Policy and Advocacy, Aviva Investors (remote)
- Bob Naylor, Vice President, DHL Supply Chain UK and Ireland (remote)
- Sonika Sidhu, Assistant Director of Policy, Local Government Association
- Kerry Holland, Vice President, Strategic Policy, Barclays (remote)
- Doro Heinze, Head of Public Affairs, Nestlé
- Ben Jackson, Policy and Programmes Partner, New Philanthropy Capital
- Steve Goldspink, Head of Electrification and Automation, Siemens
- Tim Lord, Head of Climate and Energy, HSBC UK (remote)
- Adam Read, Chief Sustainability and External Affairs Officer, Suez UK

Guests

- Charlotte Baker, Director, Agrifood Chain, Defra
- Edward Barker, Director of Strategy, Governance and Climate, Defra
- Chris Skidmore, Chair and Professor, Centre for Economic Transition (CETEX), LSE

With support from the Council's Secretariat and Delivery Group: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 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 Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP opened the meeting and welcomed the Council's new industry co-chair, Mark Versey (Aviva Investors), who provided some introductory remarks.
2. DESNZ Secretary of State noted ongoing efforts to bring the conflict in the Middle East to an end. He emphasised that the case for the clean energy transition is stronger than ever and updated on the government's drive to electrification. Defra provided an update on their response to the conflict and maintain food security.
3. Members considered how to utilise a number of key public moments this summer (London Climate Action Week in June and the Energising Britain and Climate and Nature moment in July) to advocate for the benefits of the clean energy transition.
4. An update was provided on the Sector Transition Plans workstream. Work on prioritisation, cross-cutting barriers and communications strategy is ongoing and will be revisited in September.
5. Progress on the Council's wider workstreams was noted, with a commitment to further discuss work on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in September.
6. Minister White closed the meeting, thanking members for joining and encouraging them to take advantage of opportunities for engagement and advocacy that the next few months present.