Net Zero Council Minutes 8 September 2026 – Summary of Minutes

Time and venue: 2.30-4pm, 8 September, LG.01 & LG.02, Business Events Centre, Lower Ground, 3-8 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HH

Attendees:

Co-chairs:

- The Rt Hon. Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State (departing at 15:30)
- Mark Versey, CEO, Aviva Investors

Net Zero Council Members:

- Katie White MP, Minister for Climate Transition
- Beverley Cornaby, Director, Corporate Leaders Group UK
- Brian Holliday, CEO, Siemens UK and Ireland
- Catherine Pettengell, Executive Director, Climate Action Network UK
- Chris Hulatt, Co-founder, Octopus Investments
- Ian Simm, CEO, Impax Asset Management
- Jabeer Butt, CEO Race Equality Foundation, Everyone's Environment Coalition
- John Scanlon, CEO, Suez UK
- Martin Pibworth, Chief Executive, SSE
- Martin Willmor, CEO, DHL Supply Chain UK and Ireland (departing at 15:30).
- Mat Hunter, CEO, Design Council
- Richard Watson, CEO, Nestlé UK and Ireland
- Sue Ferns, Senior Deputy General Secretary, Prospect, Trades Union Congress
- Sue Pritchard, CEO, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
- Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF-UK

Delegates and supporting colleagues:

- Tim Lord, Head of Climate and Energy, HSBC
- Bukky Bird, Group Sustainability Director & Executive Committee, Barratt Redrow
- Claire Dykta, Director of Strategy and Policy/Chief Strategy Officer, NESO
- Sonika Sidhu, Assistant Director of Policy (Place), Local Government Association (virtual)

- Sophie Fry, Head of Sustainability Policy Development, Barclays UK Corporate Bank
- John Midgley, Director for Public Policy, Amazon Web Services
- Paul Wilson, Director of Policy, FSB

Guests

- Chris Stark, Head of Clean Power 2030 (Mission Control), DESNZ (joining virtually from 15:00)
- Chris Skidmore, Chair and Professor, Centre for Economic Transition Expertise (CETEx), LSE.

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

1. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Miatta Fahnbulleh opened the meeting, outlining her priorities which are centred around a transition that delivers affordability, jobs and opportunities across the country.
2. Members reflected on the growing importance of this agenda to their sectors and how the Net Zero Council can support delivery. Members noted the need to demonstrate a clear link between policies linked to the low carbon agenda and the tangible benefits these deliver for businesses, workers and communities across the country and to use diverse voices to narrate the transition.
3. Chris Stark updated on the delivery of cheaper, cleaner power, noting that the next phase of work will focus on delivery and on unlocking further benefits for households and businesses.
4. A progress update was provided on work to support the development and delivery of sector transition plans, spanning several sectors of the economy over the next three years. The resources and waste sector reported positive engagement on the development of its plan, which is due to be published later this year.
5. Progress across the Council's wider workstreams was noted. The Council will meet again in December.