



PRESS RELEASE

'Local leaders are the key', Net Zero tsar told at UK100 local authority network roundtable

For Immediate Release

- **As world leaders kicked off COP27 negotiations in Egypt, the UK's Net Zero Tsar met with the local leaders key to delivering on Britain's international climate pledges**
- **The Net Zero Review roundtable was organised by UK100, the UK's only network of local authorities committed to ambitious climate and clean air action**

Net Zero Review lead, Chris Skidmore MP, took evidence from local leaders across the UK on Monday [7 November] as world leaders gathered in Sharm el Sheikh for COP27.

At a roundtable event in County Hall, London, the former BEIS Minister, appointed by former Prime Minister Liz Truss to review the UK's approach to Net Zero, met with local authority leaders from the UK100 network.

UK100 is the UK's only network of local authorities committed to ambitious climate and clean air action.

Leaders, chief executives and cabinet members from Bristol, Cornwall, Herefordshire, Leicester, Manchester, Wiltshire and many others joined Chris Skidmore and UK100 Chief Executive Polly Billington to discuss how the Government can better work with local authorities to deliver on Net Zero.

The evidence session was the first cross-party local authority roundtable held by Chris Skidmore as part of the independent Net Zero Review due to conclude in December.

The review has taken written and oral evidence from over 2,000 organisations and individuals since it launched in September.

Local leaders stressed the need for stronger Net Zero partnerships between local and national government. UK100 and leaders are calling for a comprehensive local Net Zero Delivery Framework to include a new Net Zero Delivery Board, a new Net Zero Delivery Unit and a Local Net Zero Powers Bill.



Leaders also voiced their concerns that Net Zero Review might be used to put a ceiling on local climate ambitions and called on Chris Skidmore to ensure the review, instead, unlocks local authority ambition to go further, faster.

Amidst the ongoing energy and cost-of-living crises, local leaders at the event also called on Chris Skidmore to leverage the Net Zero Review to build support for local domestic energy efficiency programmes. Upgrading the energy efficiency of homes in their communities would, they argued, reduce household energy bills, create jobs, build vital supply chains and market confidence, and reduce emissions.

The call echoes UK100's ongoing "End the wait. Insulate" campaign for a nationwide drive to upgrade social housing energy efficiency to protect some of the UK's most vulnerable households from the worst effects of the energy crisis.

Speaking after the event, Chris Skidmore MP, said:

"It's been great to meet with ambitious local authorities across the UK100 network as part of the Net Zero Review. Locally, council leaders and mayors are already at the vanguard of innovative emissions reduction projects, from social housing energy efficiency in Wiltshire to public green space regeneration in Sheffield. Participants were clear that it is only by unlocking the potential of our local leaders and businesses that the UK can deliver on our promise to deliver Net Zero while boosting our regional economies and supporting levelling up across the country."

Polly Billington, UK100 Chief Executive, says:

"We are glad Chris Skidmore MP acknowledges the importance of the insight and experience of local leaders who are at the forefront of climate action in the UK. For the Net Zero Review to be successful, it needs to reflect the reality that, for all the vital international negotiations and agreements made in Egypt, it is the local leaders in their communities, like the UK100 members who Chris met this week, that are key to delivering on the promises made."

Karen Barrass, UK100 Research and Policy Manager, adds:

"The conversation covered a lot of ground, but a clear theme was scale. It was one of the key takeaways for me. Our members shared great examples of good practice but they will stay small and exceptional unless there is some serious work done to overcome the barriers to rolling them out to deliver Net Zero action at scale - and it is clear these questions need due consideration in the Net Zero Review and must be addressed in the much-anticipated revised Net Zero strategy."

ENDS

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Photos from the event

Some photos from the roundtable event [can be viewed here](#). Please contact Liam Ward if you need more details on any of the photos. All can be used [under a CC BY 4.0 licence](#).

UK100 submission to the Net Zero Review call for evidence

UK100 also submitted written evidence to the Net Zero Review which [can be viewed here](#).

Information on the UK100 roundtable attendees

ATTENDEES		
Name	Job Title	Local Authority
Chris Skidmore MP	Chair, Net Zero Review	-
Amber Woodward	BEIS, Senior Policy Advisor, Net Zero Review	-
Jack Taylor	BEIS, Policy Advisor, Net Zero Review	-
Ed Cox	Executive Director - Strategy, Integration and Net Zero Head of Environment	West Midlands Combined Authority
Kate Kennally	Chief Executive	Cornwall Council
Cllr Rachel Coxcoon (LD)	Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate Change and Energy	Cotswold District Councillor
Kit England	Green Economy Manager	Glasgow City Council
Cllr Ellie Chowns (Green)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy and Skills	Herefordshire Council
Wayne Bexton	Interim Corporate Director for Growth and City Development	Nottingham City Council



	(Director of Carbon Reduction, Energy and Sustainability)	
Alex Minshull	Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager	Bristol City Council
Mark Atherton	Director of Environment	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Tim Rippon	Climate Policy Lead	Newcastle City Council
Cllr Linda Taylor (Con)	Leader of Cornwall Council	Cornwall
Cllr Richard Clewer (Con)	Leader of Wiltshire Council	Wiltshire
Mish Tullar	Head of Corporate Strategy	Oxford City Council
Cllr Adam Clarke (Lab)	Deputy Mayor	Leicester City Council
Sam Kennedy	Director, Environment and Climate Action	Essex County Council
Mayor Phil Glanville (Lab)	Mayor of Hackney	Hackney London Borough Council
Alison Gillespie	Head of Energy and Environment	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

About UK100

UK100 is a network of the most ambitious local leaders working towards Net Zero as soon as possible but no later than 2045. We help them collaborate to take decisive action in their communities.

Our members represent more than 37 million people in towns, cities and counties across the UK.

We facilitate knowledge-sharing between members, partnership-building and leadership mentoring. And support them to harness their collective power to affect vital national change.

Warm homes, affordable energy, clean air, and healthy landscapes make thriving communities.



And UK100 members have pledged to deliver a Net Zero future that delivers for people and planet.

[UK100.org](https://www.uk100.org)



UK100 members across the UK

