

International Net Zero Local Leadership Conference



13 July 2021



13:30 - 16:30 BST



Online

UK:
100



West Midlands
Combined Authority



Foreword:

Local authorities are at the vanguard of climate action. They are crucial in ensuring the UK meets its Net Zero target, unlocking good jobs across the country in the process. From emptying the bins to planning, councils have powers that can make or break our climate ambitions. They are the partners the government needs in the fight against climate change.

But they could do so much more. Far too often, national and devolved government rules and laws get in the way. With more powers and resources, they can develop bigger, more successful local solutions. Solutions that reboot the economy and make our lives healthier too.

We urge the government to recognise the rules need to change that currently slow down local climate action. Our members stand ready to design and deliver Net Zero.

Together with our Net Zero Local Leadership Summit, we look forward to the discussions at this conference strengthening our ambitious members' offer to the UK government of an enhanced partnership to accelerate the shift to Net Zero.

Polly Billington,
Chief Executive Officer, UK100



The West Midlands and the wider world is facing a climate emergency. This summit and conference will give people the opportunity to hear from local leaders as to how this challenge will be overcome.

As the home of the green industrial revolution, the West Midlands can play its part in protecting the planet and helping it recover. We've pledged to become a Net Zero region by 2041, and we've already started to deliver on that commitment. From retrofitting hundreds of thousands of homes, to becoming a global leader in state-of-the-art battery production, our plans are unquestionably ambitious. But the climate emergency demands this kind of ambition.

However one region cannot conquer climate change alone – a challenge of this scale requires everyone playing their part and working together. Significant collaboration and partnership working across all sectors will be absolutely vital, and this summit and conference will allow us to build on that.

Andy Street,
Mayor of the West Midlands



What is the International Net Zero Local Leadership Conference all about?

The International Net Zero Local Leadership Conference is a key milestone for UK locally-elected leaders ahead of COP26, highlighting some of the priorities in delivering climate change action in our race to Net Zero.

Following a high-level summit between UK local leaders and government ministers earlier in the day, it forms part of a wider effort from local authorities offering a partnership to the UK government. This offer aims at activating better collaboration towards Net Zero.

Hosted by UK100 and Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street, and attended by expert speakers and leading decision-makers from local and central government, business, NGOs, academia and trade bodies, the conference will explore:

- the power and effectiveness of local leadership on climate action and the pivotal role local government must play in reaching Net Zero in the UK
- highlight the priorities for local climate action that will enable decisive action to achieve Net Zero locally and nationally
- what needs to change to enable elected local leaders to take faster, fairer climate action.

After an opening plenary we'll break off into two rounds of in-depth panel discussions across six areas critical to Net Zero (listed below).

Speakers include COP26 President **Alok Sharma** MP, Mayor of Greater Manchester **Andy Burnham**, Mayor of Los Angeles **Eric Garcetti**, Chairman of the Climate Change Committee **Lord Deben**, Glasgow leader **Susan Aitken**, CEO of Siemens plc **Carl Ennis**, Director of COP26 and Responsible Business at National Grid **Duncan Burt**, and **Helen Hayes** MP.

What do the panel sessions set out to achieve?

1. Share insight, knowledge and best practice from business partners, local/combined authorities and central government on actions being taken and needed to get to Net Zero
2. Promote and underscore the value of the communicate of priorities launched at the Net Zero Local Leaders Summit by mayors and local leaders earlier in the day
3. Support the building of partnerships that can take forward shared activity beyond the conference to support the delivery of Net Zero.



Agenda:

We will wrap up each panel with an interactive Q&A. These will be available on demand after the conference at www.uk100.org

13.30 - 14.30 - Opening plenary

As a key milestone for UK locally-elected leaders in the run up to COP26, the plenary and panels for the conference are unmissable opportunities to hear from leading decision makers from the UK government, city leaders, business and key influencers that are shaping efforts to deliver Net Zero.

- Polly Billington (Chair), Chief Executive Officer, UK100
- Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands
- Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, COP President Designate
- Carl Ennis, Chief Executive, Siemens plc
- Duncan Burt, Director of COP26 and Responsible Business, National Grid
- Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council
- The Rt Hon. Lord Deben, Chairman, Climate Change Committee
- Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles

14.30 - 15.30 - Panels round 1

1. Financing the Net Zero transition

Framing the issue: There are no clear answers about how we will finance the transition to Net Zero, but the Climate Change Committee (CCC) agrees that the next decade will be pivotal. The CCC estimates that extra Net Zero investment needs to grow five-fold from c£10bn/year in 2020 to around c£50bn in 2030, before peaking in 2035.

The CCC recommends that Net Zero policies should be designed to enable local financing, and accelerate action by tapping into growing citizen and business demand for ambitious place-based measures. But there is a gap between local leaders' ambitions and what they are able to develop.

A lack of resourcing has constrained the ability of local and combined authorities and city regions to build up investment pipelines tailored to place-based needs in collaboration with business and investors. Local government lacks the development capital to build this essential Net Zero infrastructure pipeline.

- Polly Billington (Chair), Chief Executive Officer, UK100
- Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas OBE, Chief Executive, Green Finance Institute
- Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
- Greg Clark, Group Advisor, Future Cities & New Industries, HSBC Group
- Anthony Browne MP, Conservative MP for South Cambridgeshire and Chair of the APPG for the Environment

2. Delivering Net Zero transport

Framing the issue: To decarbonise our transport systems we need an urgent response to rising carbon emissions from the transport sector including active travel solutions, EV charging points including freight, and improved public transport. This panel will focus on what needs to change from national and local government as well as business to achieve a transport revolution that will deliver Net Zero.

- Laura Shoaf (Chair), Interim Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Greg Archer, UK Director, Transport & Environment
- Neil Isaacson, CEO, Liberty Charge

3. Decarbonising homes and heating

Framing the issue: To have a hope of achieving our national Net Zero goal, our homes need to be radically more energy efficient and use cleaner energy to heat them. Local authorities are critical to deliver the place based solutions needed to shape and deliver energy efficiency solutions for homes and heating, working in partnership with UK and national governments, business and other stakeholders.

This workshop will explore what a government-led long-term plan to decarbonise buildings and heat should look like, and the role of local leaders in designing and delivering such a plan within communities. With a focus on how we deliver at scale and what that means for finance, building standards and local powers.

- Cllr Ian Courts (Chair), Leader of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- Matthew Bateman, Managing Director, British Gas
- Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council
- Jo Wheeler, Senior Sustainability Advisor, UK Green Building Council

15.30 - 16.30 - Panels round 2

4. Local energy planning for Net Zero

Framing the issue: Energy decentralisation is a critical part of delivering a grid capable of supporting Net Zero. Local government examples of ‘energy innovation zones’ need to be scaled up. We need strategic energy bodies, established with the responsibilities and resources to address market failure in energy systems – equipped to drive place-based solutions on waste, transport and spatial planning, with distribution network operators.

- Baroness Judith Blake of Leeds (Chair)
- Guy Newey, Strategy and Performance Director, Energy Systems Catapult
- Graeme Cooper, Head of Future Markets, National Grid
- Cheryl Hiles, Director, Energy Capital, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)
- Cathryn Scott, Director, Enforcement & Emerging Issues, Ofgem

5. Local authority powers for Net Zero

Framing the issue: Local authorities are an essential partner in delivering the government's Net Zero 2050 goal. Not only are they willing but showing remarkable leadership, setting ambitious targets, and innovating across our cities, towns and countryside. At the Net Zero Local Leaders Summit, local authority mayors and leaders will sign a communique of asks to the government asking for a Net Zero Local Powers Bill to help deliver a practical pathway to Net Zero.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) and the National Audit Office (NAO) both agree that the UK government cannot achieve Net Zero without local government. Given that over half the emissions cuts require decisions made at the local level, the CCC found that the Sixth Carbon Budget can only be achieved if the UK government, regional agencies and local and combined authorities work seamlessly together.

- Ed Cox (Chair), Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)
- Justin Kelly, Director of Corporate Communications and Business Development, Siemens plc
- Louise Marix Evans, Director, Quantum Strategy & Technology & formerly Senior Advisor, Climate Change Committee (CCC)
- Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council
- Selaine Saxby MP, Conservative MP for North Devon

6. Clean air and Net Zero

Framing the issue: Tackling air pollution and reaching Net Zero have some clear synergies and co-benefits, but are still framed as separate problems. A holistic approach considering co-benefits needs to be taken to ensure that decarbonisation and improved air quality can be delivered in tandem. Urgent action to eliminate air pollution must be a national priority, and local leaders need the tools to deliver programmes that will protect people's health and tackle the climate emergency. This requires adequate investment, clear national frameworks and consistent approaches, and the delivery of the necessary powers to allow local authorities to deliver.

UK100's clean air campaign is advocating for WHO-aligned legislation that protects UK communities from dirty air whilst enabling the UK to become a world leader in clean technologies and solutions. As local authorities continue to roll out their climate action plans to reach Net Zero, there is an awareness that they need to be comprehensive, address multiple policy objectives and deliver multiple co-benefits.

The opportunities to better link clean air responses to Net Zero are vast. Local delivery of clean air however, requires power and resources to implement effective policy responses and currently local leaders do not have these tools at their disposal. Which is why, alongside legally-binding WHO-aligned targets, local authorities need clear legislative direction from the government and the policy levers to deliver.

- Professor William Bloss, University of Birmingham
- Helen Hayes MP, Labour MP for Dulwich and West Norwood and Executive member of APPG on Air Pollution

- Jane Burston, Executive Director, Clean Air Fund
- Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor Environment & Energy, Greater London Authority, Greater London Authority
- Rebecca Pow MP, Conservative MP for Taunton Deane and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



Speakers:



Polly Billington, Chief Executive Officer, UK100

Polly established UK100 in 2016 and is the face of the organisation. She is a campaigning and communications specialist with extensive experience in media, government and politics.



Polly liaises with local leaders and directly elected mayors and is able to develop and maintain strong relationships with extensive contacts across the political and nonprofit spectrum.

A former broadcast journalist (BBC 1993-2007), she was special adviser at DECC (2008-10), Director of Communications on Sadiq Khan's selection campaign to be a London Mayoral candidate (2015), and Head of Communications and Campaigns at Citizens Advice (2013-15).



Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands

Andy Street was elected as the first Mayor of the West Midlands on 4 May 2017, before winning a second term on 10 May 2021. His main focuses are transport, housing, skills, and jobs, and he is currently working to a plan to get 100,000 people across his region back into work following the coronavirus pandemic.

Before becoming Mayor, Andy combined a career at John Lewis, Britain's most successful workers' co-operative, with a host of high-profile economic development roles that involved working with local and national government. In total he spent more than 30 years at John Lewis, rising from trainee to managing director.

Additionally, he has been Lead Non-executive Director for the Department for Communities and Local Government as well as a member of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Group.



Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, COP President Designate

Alok Sharma was appointed full-time President for COP26, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, on 8 January 2021.

He was previously Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and President for COP 26 between 13 February 2020 and 8 January 2021.

He was previously Secretary of State for International Development from 24 July 2019 to 13 February 2020, and Minister of State for Employment at the Department of Work and Pensions from 9 January 2018 until 24 July 2019.

He was Minister of State for Housing and Planning, for the Department for Communities and Local Government from 13 June 2017 to 9 January 2018.



Carl Ennis, Chief Executive, Siemens plc

Carl Ennis is Chief Executive of Siemens plc and Siemens Smart Infrastructure. He has worked in the power industry for more than 35 years. He is an engineer first, with a real passion for the breadth of the discipline. Having started his career as an apprentice, he is a keen advocate of the skills and diversity agendas, recognising the need for new and diverse thinking in ever-changing markets.



He has worked for Siemens for over 20 years, having been responsible for a number of the UK businesses, and has also spent three years living in Shanghai with responsibilities for the Power Services business across Asia Pacific.

He is a Chartered Engineer, a fellow of the IET, sits on the President's Committee of the CBI, is Chair of Net Zero North West, a member of the Board of EngineeringUK, a member of the government's Build Back Better Business Council, and a Visiting Professor of Practice at Newcastle University.

Speakers:



Duncan Burt, Director of COP26 and Responsible Business, National Grid

Duncan is COP26 Director at National Grid Group, leading the Group's engagement in decarbonisation and climate change.

Until recently he was Director of Operations for the UK electricity and gas transmission grids. He has held a variety of commercial and engineering roles at National Grid. Prior to joining the company, he worked in pharmaceuticals for GlaxoSmithKline.

National Grid is one of the largest listed utilities in the world, with operations in the UK and the US.



Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council

Susan Aitken has been Leader of Glasgow City Council since May 2017 and is the first SNP Leader of the council. For her work to deliver equal pay justice for thousands of women in the city, she was awarded Scottish Local Government Politician of the Year.

Under her leadership Glasgow has been named the host of COP26, a Global Green City, and the European Capital of Sport for 2023.

Susan has worked in a variety of policy and research roles in the Scottish Parliament and the third sector, and as a freelance writer and editor specialising in health and social care policy. She is a graduate of both Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities.



The Rt Hon. Lord Deben, Chairman, Climate Change Committee

The Rt Hon. John Gummer, Lord Deben, set up and now runs Sancroft, a corporate responsibility consultancy working with blue-chip companies around the world on environmental, social and ethical issues.

Lord Deben is Chairman of the Climate Change Committee, Valpak Limited, and the Personal Investment Management & Financial Advisers Association.

He was the longest serving Secretary of State for the Environment the UK has ever had (1993-97). His 16 years of top-level ministerial experience also include Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Minister for London, Employment Minister and Paymaster General in HM Treasury.

He has consistently championed an identity between environmental concerns and business sense.



Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles

Eric Garcetti is the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles and Chair of C40 Cities. His government service began on Los Angeles City Council, where he spent four terms as Council President before being elected Mayor in 2013 and winning re-election in 2017 by the widest margin in the history of LA.

Mayor Garcetti has served his country as an intelligence officer in the US Navy Reserve, and taught at the University of Southern California and Occidental College. He received his BA and MA from Columbia University, and studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and later at the London School of Economics.

Speakers:



Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas OBE, Chief Executive, Green Finance Institute

Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas is CEO of the Green Finance Institute, backed by the UK government and City of London Corporation.

Rhian spent 20 years in investment and corporate banking and was awarded an OBE in 2019 for services to green banking. She is an Emeritus Member of the TCFD, currently co-chair of the Informal Working Group for the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures and Advisory Board member for UCL Bartlett School for Environment, Energy and Resources and the UK government's Climate Finance Accelerator. She is also a member of the UK government's Financial Services Trade Advisory Group, Net Zero Technology and Innovation Advisory Group.

Rhian was a commissioner on the Zero Carbon Commission and previously sat on the UK government Green Finance Taskforce, the Banking Environment Initiative's Fintech Taskforce and the steering group for the UN Environment Programme Principles for Responsible Banking. Rhian holds a PhD in Physics from Trinity College Dublin.



Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol

Mayor of Bristol Marvin Rees was elected in May 2016 and re-elected in May 2021. He is a Yale World Fellow and graduate of Operation Black Vote who has worked and studied in the UK and the US.

During his first term, he has overseen the building of almost 7,000 homes, founded a city-owned housing company and embarked on the largest council house building scheme for over 35 years.

With an ambition to build a more sustainable, inclusive and fairer city he has developed the One City Plan for Bristol and is leading the city's response to both the climate and ecological emergencies.



Greg Clark, Group Advisor, Future Cities & New Industries, HSBC Group

Greg Clark CBE is Group Advisor, Future Cities and New Industries, HSBC Group. He works with HSBC's global client base in 63 countries and 300 cities on the business and investment opportunities of the century of cities, accompanied by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the climate emergency. He is a member of the World Economic Forum Future Council on Cities & Urbanisation, The WEF Supervisory Board on Net Zero Carbon Cities, and the Bloomberg New Economy Council on Cities.

Alongside his work at HSBC, Greg is Chair of the Connected Places Catapult, the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport, and places. In this role he is also chair of the UK government's External Advisory Group on Cyber-secure Connected Places, and is also a member of the UK government's Urban Centre Recovery Task Force.

He is a board member of Transport for London and chairs its investment committee. He is also a board member of the London LEAP and leads its work on economic and industrial strategy for London.



Anthony Browne MP, Conservative MP for South Cambridgeshire and Chair of the APPG for the Environment

Anthony Browne is the chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Environment. He was elected as MP for South Cambridgeshire at the 2019 election and sits on the Treasury Select Committee. He was previously CEO of the British Bankers' Association and director of the Policy Exchange think tank.



Speakers:



Laura Shoaf (Chair), Interim Chief Executive, WMCA

Laura Shoaf was appointed interim Chief Executive in June 2021. Having previously led Transport for West Midlands, Laura has expanded her focus to include driving inclusive economic growth; increasing skills provision; regenerating land and housing; and enhancing the environment as well as improving transport connectivity across the region. Laura has assumed the role at an exciting time for the West Midlands with a number of cultural events coming up that will showcase the region to the world. Working in a complex political environment, Laura has a demonstrated track record of success in leading change and will use this experience to gain more powers for the region to deliver our 'levelling up' agenda.



Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

Andy Burnham was first elected as Mayor of Greater Manchester in May 2017 and was re-elected for a second term in May 2021. Responsible for shaping the future of Greater Manchester, Andy's priorities include building a London-style integrated transport system, ending rough sleeping, transforming Greater Manchester into one of the greenest city regions in Europe and making Greater Manchester a great place to grow up, get on, and grow old.

Before being elected Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy was MP for Leigh from 2001. In government, Andy has held ministerial positions at the Home Office, Department of Health and the Treasury. In 2008 he became Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, before returning to Health as Secretary of State in 2009. In opposition, Andy has served as Shadow Education Secretary, Shadow Health Secretary and Shadow Home Secretary. Andy lives in Leigh, Greater Manchester, with his wife and three children.



Greg Archer, UK Director, Transport & Environment

Greg Archer is the UK Director of the think tank and campaigning organisation Transport & Environment (T&E). His work focuses on creating and implementing policies that drive clean technology into transport.

During seven years based in Brussels working on EU-regulations, he led T&E campaigns for cleaner cars including ambitious EU CO2 standards that are now driving the shift to electric cars. He also helped expose the industry-wide dieselgate scandal and implement solutions through establishing a better testing framework.

Before joining T&E, Greg was Director of the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) where he led the development of the world's first national carbon and sustainability reporting scheme for biofuels and early work to highlight the problems of indirect land-use change.

Now back in the UK, his work is currently focused on developing the regulations and complementary policies to ensure a phase out of cars and vans with engines, shift to zero emission trucks, and how to decarbonise aviation through the use of synthetic fuels.



Neil Isaacson, CEO, Liberty Charge

Neil has been CEO of Liberty Charge since it was created in 2020. Prior to that he worked in senior roles at Liberty Global and Drax Group, which re-energised his passion for addressing climate change including through enabling the uptake of Electric Vehicles. Neil's experience lies in helping companies rapidly bring to market new products, services and propositions that help to transform performance. He has worked across the Middle East, Europe and the UK and with companies including Accenture, BT and News International and has served as Chairman of the British Business Group in Dubai.

Speakers:



Cllr Ian Courts, Leader of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Ian Courts became a Solihull councillor in 2003, Leader in 2019 and has had responsibility for economic development for many years, including the UK Central brand. A member of the West Midlands Combined Authority, he has responsibility for Environment, Energy and HS2 and is a director at GBSLEP.

Ian studied law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, then joined the John Laing Group, initially as a solicitor then in business, development and management, until retirement in 2004 following 30 years' service.

For several years Ian was a part-time lecturer and Visiting Fellow at Reading University and has particular interests in planning, climate change, environment and ecology.



Matthew Bateman, Managing Director, British Gas

Matthew leads the British Gas Services & Solutions business, providing services and solutions to UK residential customers. As part of his role he holds responsibility as CEO, Board Director and FCA Approved Person for British Gas' regulated insurance business (BGSL, BGIL). Matthew joined Centrica in 1998 and during his career has held a variety of roles across the company, including most recently as MD for British Gas Field Operations and previously as MD for British Gas Residential Services, including 10 years as Board Director and FCA Approved Person for the regulated business.

Prior to joining Centrica, Matthew worked for London Electricity plc. He holds a BSc in Financial Management and a Business Management Diploma from London Business School. Matthew represents British Gas on the Board of Energy and Efficiency Industrial Partnership, which pioneers new approaches to the recruitment, training and development of skills for young people. He is also a member of the Hydrogen Taskforce, which is a coalition of the hydrogen industry's largest organisations that operate in and innovate across the sector.



Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council

"I am the new leader of Cambridgeshire County Council and I'm especially excited as it is a new joint administration – with the Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independent.

"The joint agreement is clear - we must act faster to tackle the climate emergency. We will be reviewing the council's climate strategy and working to more challenging targets for a zero carbon council by 2030. I'm pleased to be involved with UK100's Countryside Climate Network leadership and look forward to working with them."



Baroness Judith Blake of Leeds (Chair)

Judith Blake, Baroness Blake of Leeds CBE is a Labour politician and the former Leader of Leeds City Council, the first woman to hold the position. In December 2020, it was announced she would be conferred a life peerage after a nomination by Labour Party Leader Keir Starmer.

At Leeds City Council, she was also the council's Executive Board Member for Economy and Culture and played a key role in attracting major national and international inward investment into Leeds.

In July 2016 Judith was announced as Chair of the Core Cities Group. The Group represents the councils of England's eight largest city economies outside London, along with Glasgow and Cardiff. She was also Vice Chair of the LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board.

Judith has been a Labour councillor since 1996 and represented Middleton & Belle Isle in Leeds. Her time as a councillor saw her have responsibility for a wide range of portfolios including Planning, Education and Leisure. She chaired the council's Executive Board and has also served as a board member for NHS Leeds and the West Yorkshire Police Authority.

Speakers:



Jo Wheeler, Senior Sustainability Advisor, UK Green Building Council

Jo has 20 years' experience on a wide range of sustainable building policy and practice issues, both in the UK and internationally. Jo is currently leading UKGBC's work on home retrofit, focusing specifically on enabling and supporting local authority leadership in this area.

Jo holds an MSc in Development Planning: Environment and Sustainable Development from UCL. She previously worked for environmental charity WWF-UK on the 'One Million Sustainable Homes' campaign. Jo lives in North Devon, and is a mum to two young children.



Guy Newey, Strategy and Performance Director, Energy Systems Catapult

Guy Newey is Director of Strategy and Performance at Energy Systems Catapult, the independent innovation agency. He joined Energy Systems Catapult in 2018 after roles as Energy and Climate Adviser to Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Secretary of State, Greg Clark, and as a Special Adviser to Energy Secretary Amber Rudd. In government, he was involved in many key decisions, including closing the UK's coal-fired power stations, greater independence for the electricity system operator, and as an architect of the Clean Growth Strategy.

Before joining the government, he was Head of Policy at energy supplier, OVO Energy and worked at the think tank, Policy Exchange, where he was Head of Environment and Energy. He was previously a journalist, including three years as a foreign correspondent in Hong Kong for the newswire AFP.

He is a non-executive director with UK100 and oversees the development of the Catapult's overall strategy, as well as being responsible for ESC's policy thought leadership, marketing and communications.



Graeme Cooper, Head of Future Markets, National Grid

Graeme leads National Grid's work on transport decarbonisation enabling the journey to Net Zero transport (road, rail, aviation and maritime).

Graeme also leads the drive towards the Net Zero 2050 target, by delivering a pathway for critical connections in the East of England by 2030 to enable delivery of the target of 40GW of offshore wind.

With over a decade in communications infrastructure and over a decade in low/zero carbon electricity, Graeme is a well-known and highly respected energy industry expert.

Graeme is a graduate of Oxford Brookes University (BSc 1997) and Bi Norwegian Business School (MBA Energy 2016).

Graeme takes his decarbonisation work home with him as he drives an electric car and heats his home using ground source heat pumps.



Cheryl Hiles, Director, Energy Capital, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

Cheryl is Director of Energy Capital at WMCA. She is driving the delivery of the West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy and energy devolution ask to the government, to ensure the West Midlands has the necessary tools, powers and resources to meet its green recovery and Net Zero ambitions.

Cheryl pioneered the West Midlands Net Zero Pathfinder programme and is responsible for leading a variety of smart local energy system innovation initiatives. These form the evidence base that demonstrates the value of local solutions and part of a package of measures to achieve national Net Zero objectives.

Prior to Energy Capital, Cheryl was the sector director for energy and environment at Pell Frischmann design engineering consultancy, but spent the majority of her 20 year career at Regen, championing democratic, decentralised and decarbonised energy solutions.



Speakers:



Cathryn Scott, Director, Enforcement & Emerging Issues, Ofgem

Cathryn joined in 2013 as the Legal Director for E-Serve environmental schemes and Ofgem's offshore transmission tenders regime. Between 2016 and 2018, she was Partner for Wholesale Markets and Legal in the Energy Systems division, leading on the provision of legal advice and on Ofgem's oversight of the wholesale energy market, gas systems issues and settlement reform. In April 2018, she was appointed Director of Wholesale Markets and Commercial, and in August 2020, Director of Enforcement and Emerging Issues.

Before joining Ofgem, her public sector experience includes the Deputy General Counsel at the Department for Transport, heading up teams advising on aviation and rail regulation. She has extensive competition, regulatory and procurement law experience, having also worked for the Competition Commission and Linklaters EU and Competition Group. Previously, she worked in the litigation division of the Treasury Solicitor's Department and as Assistant to the European Speakers Counsel at the House of Commons. She holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence.



Ed Cox, Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform, WMCA

Ed leads WMCA's work to create a fairer, greener and healthier region. Driving development of the West Midlands' first Five Year Plan to tackle climate change, he oversees a range of programmes in diverse areas such as designing out homelessness, physical and mental wellbeing and digital inclusion. Prior to WMCA, Ed was Director of Public Services and Communities at the RSA where he led an ambitious programme of work on people, power and place. He previously led IPPR North for nine years where he was a champion for devolution and much of the thinking behind the 'Northern Powerhouse,' working closely with several combined authorities in the north of England.



Justin Kelly, Director of Corporate Communications and Business Development, Siemens plc

A Chartered Engineer with a BEng (Hons) from the University of Salford in Computers, Management and Electronics, Justin joined Siemens in 1994. He worked in engineering, product and project management roles before taking on senior marketing, strategy and business development positions within the organisation. Since 2017, Justin leads on all aspects of communications and business development at Siemens in the UK and Ireland including public affairs, R&D, the company's roadmap to carbon Net Zero committed for 2030 and Siemens' digital transformation (Internet of Things) consulting and solutions business.

Justin lives in Manchester with his wife and two daughters.



Louise Marix Evans, Director, Quantum Strategy & Technology & formerly Senior Advisor, Climate Change Committee (CCC)

Louise has 19 years' experience of tackling climate change, working with public, private, community and university organisations.

Louise was with the CCC as a Senior Advisor during 2020. She researched and wrote Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget report published alongside the Sixth Carbon Budget. In 2021 with Quantum, she developed the recommendation for a local delivery framework for Net Zero.

Recent projects include engagement events and drafting Greater Manchester's Local Nature Recovery Strategy; Power Shift: research into local authority powers relating to climate action for UK100; and Rural Net Zero: the role of rural local authorities in reaching Net Zero for UK100's Countryside Climate Network. Quantum is currently supporting Creative Concern to develop a women's climate leadership online course for C40 Cities' Women4Climate initiative.

Speakers:



Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council

Nick Forbes is a Labour politician and became Leader of Newcastle City Council in 2011. Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the UK's Core Cities, located in the North East of England.

Nick has made economic growth a key feature of his council, securing new financial powers by negotiating one of the first round of City Deals with the government and has been instrumental in securing a devolution deal for the North of Tyne. He has played a leading role in raising the profile of local government in a time of austerity and has been involved in national lobbying efforts for successive local government finance settlements.

Current roles include vice chair of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority, Vice Chair of the Core Cities Cabinet, and Business Competitiveness portfolio holder for the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

At a national level, Nick is the Leader of Labour in local government, heading up the Local Government Association (LGA) Labour Group, representing the views of more than 6,000 Labour councillors in Westminster. He is currently Senior Vice Chair of the LGA. He is also a member of Labour's ruling National Executive Committee.

Selaine Saxby MP, Conservative MP for North Devon



Selaine Saxby MP has been the Conservative Member of Parliament for North Devon since the 2019 general election, and also sits as a ward councillor in her constituency. Previously she was an entrepreneurial business owner and a secondary school maths teacher. Selaine has a particular interest in levelling up North Devon and in protecting our environment, and is the active Chair of four APPGs: Broadband and Digital Communication, the Celtic Sea, Cycling and Walking, and the Wood Panel Industry.



Professor William Bloss, University of Birmingham

William is Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Birmingham. Trained as an atmospheric chemist, his academic background has ranged from studies of polar stratospheric ozone layer reactions through to measurements of ground level air composition in Antarctica, Delhi and Beijing. He leads the WM-Air project, a five-year programme of activities to apply environmental science expertise in support of improved regional air quality, health and economic growth, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and co-designed with partners ranging from local authorities to SMEs and industry bodies across the West Midlands region.



Helen Hayes MP, Labour MP for Dulwich and West Norwood and Executive member of APPG on Air Pollution

Helen Hayes is the Labour MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, first elected in 2015 and re-elected in 2017 and 2019. Before entering Parliament, Helen was a town planner for twenty years, working with communities to deliver new jobs and homes, and a councillor for Southwark Council's College ward from 2010 to 2016.

Helen currently sits on the Environmental Audit Committee and was a member of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee from 2015-2019. Helen continues to work closely on these issues, alongside climate change, healthcare, education, the Windrush generation, mental health and learning disabilities.

She is a former Shadow Minister in the Cabinet Office and a Co-Chair of the APPG on Adult Social Care.

Speakers:



Jane Burston, Executive Director, Clean Air Fund

Clean Air Fund is a global re-granting institution funding projects to improve air quality. Previously Jane worked as Head of Climate and Energy Science in the UK government, responsible for the UK greenhouse gas inventory and a £45m science programme. As Head of Energy and Environment at the National Physical Laboratory she managed a team of 150 scientists working in air quality, greenhouse gas measurement and renewable energy. She has been named as a 'Young Global Leader' of the World Economic Forum, as one of the '40 under 40 European Young Leaders' by Friends of Europe and is a previous UK Social Entrepreneur of the year.



Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor Environment & Energy, Greater London Authority

Shirley Rodrigues was appointed as London Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy in October 2016. She has devised and delivered environmental policies and programmes in London, nationally and internationally for government and philanthropy including most recently overseeing a global cities and climate change grants portfolio at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).

She is now working to deliver the Mayor of London's vision to make the city a fairer, greener, healthier and more sustainable one. This includes ambitious programmes to reduce air pollution across London including the expansion of the world's first Ultra Low Emission Zone, making London carbon neutral by 2030 and spearheading London's economic and social recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 through a Green New Deal.



Rebecca Pow MP, Conservative MP for Taunton Deane and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow is the Member of Parliament for Taunton Deane and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. She formerly held the roles of Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, PPS to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and PPS to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In 2018, she was awarded a Green Heart Hero Award by The Climate Coalition, a coalition of over 100 charities and community groups across the UK, for being the "Greenest New MP" for her environmental work. She was instrumental in gaining extra protection for ancient woodland and veteran trees; bringing forward the ban on microbeads and for getting soil health on the agenda.

A scientist by training, a former BBC, ITV and C4 reporter, specialising in the environment, farming and gardening, Rebecca has also worked for the National Farmers Union.

She previously sat on the Environmental Audit Committee and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, was an active member of many environment All Party Parliamentary Groups, including the APPG Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees; the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group and the animal welfare APPG. She is a former member of the Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee and was also given a 'Giving Voice' Award by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in 2018.

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