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CONNECT

27 – 28 June 2023 | ExCeL  
London Climate Action Week

The leading sustainability & net-zero event  
for business, investors & innovators

**EVENT REVIEW**

Flagship event of:



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## 2023 IN REVIEW

Reset Connect, the flagship event of London Climate Action Week, hosted its second edition from 27-28 June 2023. Doubling in size from the launch edition in 2022, it was truly amazing to witness over 350 thought leaders, 200 innovators, and 4,000 attendees converge on ExCeL from across business, finance and government to drive climate action, awareness, and social and environmental impact. The event is about ideas, solutions, expertise, partnerships, funding, and the networks we can all benefit from.

This review provides a deeper look at highlighted keynotes and panel discussions tackling key levers in the sustainability ecosystem. Things like Net Zero, circularity, future cities, sector transitions, engaging and empowering communities and movements, reporting and transparency, and importantly how we are going to finance the progress we so desperately need. As we edge nearer to the UK's commitment to cut emissions by 68% by 2030, it's good to look at the positives. Yet the event also highlighted the work we still need to do, and we are all in this together.

At Reset Connect, our hope is that this review becomes an important guide to chart your progress and activity over the next 12 months. Everything you need, no matter where you are on your journey, can be found over the next 32 pages. Please take your time to absorb and reflect on what this content means to you, and how you can implement these learnings into your organisation.

You can still use the event platform and app to message and network with event attendees. Whether you are looking for new partnerships and alliances, funding, best practice, or advice, these are the people to turn to.

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If you don't find a write-up for the session you're looking for, fear not, all the main stage audio recordings are available on-demand, and you will find the links to all recordings in both this review, as well as on the event website.

Thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and partners for making the 2023 event possible. Without you, we simply cannot pull together such an undertaking. Your support means we can invest in providing a platform that attracts more people, with more requirements, broader remit and increased budgets and investment. This is how we drive scalable impact.

Whether you attended this year or not, we would love to hear your thoughts. Your feedback means we can continue to improve. Please make contact with me or my team to discuss what we need to do to make this an indispensable fixture in your calendar. You will be pleased to read that, at the time of writing, we've already secured half of our clients for 2024 and are already starting to shape the content for next year. If you want to be involved in that process, and your organisation will benefit from involvement as exhibitors, sponsors and speakers, now is the time to start the conversation about securing your involvement. You can find more information on our call for papers process on page 34.



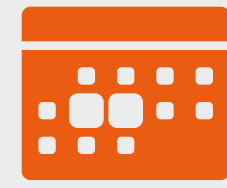
At the heart of the Fundpath purpose is sustainability through technology – a cleaner model of communication which reduces wastage.

Discover more at [www.fundpath.co.uk](http://www.fundpath.co.uk)

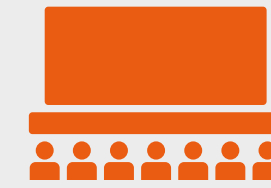
## THE EVENT IN NUMBERS



**2<sup>nd</sup>** edition



**2** days



**3** main stages



**4** co-located events



**8** showfloor hubs



**10** roundtables



**75** accredited press



**206** exhibiting, partnering & sponsoring companies



**345** speakers



**721** VIPs



**4,204** visitors



**110,950** website users



**262,497** page views



**321,041** LinkedIn impressions



**70%** of attendees influence or are responsible for their organisation's sustainability strategy



**72%** of attendees class Reset Connect as important or very important



**78%** of attendees have an influence on final decisions

**£ 337,391**

average attendee spend per year on sustainability



## DAY 1 OPENING KEYNOTE

### Living in the Doughnut: Creating an Economy that's Fit for Our Times



Kate Raworth, Co-founder,  
Doughnut Economics Action Lab



Kate Raworth focuses audiences' attention on the unsustainable practices and normalities of our economic system. In order to have gotten where we are in the 21st century, there has been the evolution of "linear degenerative systems" that promote the accumulation of goods at an unsustainable rate. Consumers are encouraged by businesses to throw out what they have and invest in the next, best, newer thing in this feedback loop, which Raworth refers to as "take, make, use, lose, throw it away". This system is too much for our planet; the linearity of consumption is rapidly exceeding the Earth's planetary limits. "We need to turn those arrows around to be regenerative, restorative of the damage we've done", restructuring our system to live within the Earth's means and its ability to sustain humanity.

Raworth describes this restructuring as a shift to a circular economic system: a doughnut economy. This changes consumption patterns to be more sustainable; with an emphasis on "sharing, repairing, reusing, refurbishing" rather than "endless growth".

"What if every factory and place of manufacture in the world actually aimed to be as generous as the nature on which it depends?"



There is a clear path forward to shift our relationship with the Earth, yet there is mass pushback toward these adaptations. This is because these types of efforts are not supported by our current economic market. Today, the most profitable thing to do is manufacture cheap and poorly designed products with the intention of being replaced every few years or months. To produce in a more sustainable way, there are startup costs that go into better materials, factories, and ethical labour practises. Corporations must invest time and money to change, causing financial barriers and uneasiness to move forward. But the restructuring is critical.

"Last century's economic theories are not going to turn this story around. Last century's government policies and urban designs will not turn this around. Last century's business models - the way we designed and did business - have contributed to this. Last century's models won't get us there. We need to reinvent, we need to redesign now".

Assessing and redesigning can be done for free through the online tool at Doughnut Economics Action Lab to analyse one's "own company and go through a journey of imagining ambitious possibilities for transformation".

Raworth calls on the private sector to take this first step towards change, as businesses are critically needed to help transform the future for the better.

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# DAY 1 KEYNOTE PANEL

## 'Reset' the Narrative



**Keith Zakheim, CEO,**  
Antenna Group



**Alison Campbell OBE, UK Lead**  
*Climate Negotiator, Department for*  
*Energy Security and Net Zero*



**Rhian Kelly, Chief Sustainability**  
*Officer, National Grid*



**Professor Greg Clark CBE, Chair,**  
Connected Places Catapult, 3Ci

The topic of this keynote panel is to reset the narrative and to reflect on what that means to the speakers.

Moderator Keith Zakheim, CEO of Antenna Group, begins the panel with his thoughts on what it means to reset the narrative. He believes that companies are compelled to embrace innovative practices due to a multitude of factors, such as the increasing demand for sustainability from their customers, employees, clients, and government entities. Keith perceives this trend of adoption as unstoppable and anticipates its continuous growth in the future. From his perspective, this age of adoption defines the trajectory of our future and signifies a shift in the overall narrative.

Alison Campbell, the UK's lead negotiator for climate change at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, identifies three key ways in which the narrative has been changing and should continue to change. She goes on to say that first, there is a clearer and stronger sense to address climate change, with it now being a top priority on political agendas. Second, the narrative has shifted towards recognizing the necessity and opportunity of the energy transition. And last, the narrative now places a greater emphasis on the risks associated with climate change.

Keith moves on to a different question, asking the panellists to share their perspectives on how international cooperation has changed in the realm of climate policy and how they see it evolving in the future.

Rhian Kelly, Chief Sustainability Officer of National Grid, notes that one of the things they have managed to do well in the UK has been putting "lots of renewables onto our networks without the networks collapsing. And so we've been actually working very closely with the UK government to share that internationally through the green grids initiative. So to your starting point about the need for cooperation, we've been working with the government[s]...in South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, to sort of share our experience and how...other countries learn from what we've managed to do here."

Professor Greg Clark CBE, Chair of Connected Places Catapult and 3Ci, emphasises the importance of increasing pressure on companies to achieve complete transparency. He brings up Kate Raworth's opening keynote and agrees with what was said about transitioning business models towards circularity and complete alignment with climate goals.

For his last question, Keith raises the topic of how to involve and empower marginalised and vulnerable communities in the climate conversation. What follows is a lively, passionate discussion between the panellists.



Keith emphasises the importance of sharing credible and truthful stories in the climate narrative, acknowledging that businesses and governments have faced valid criticism for greenwashing. He then raises the question of how transparency and accountability can be improved to ensure that climate actions go beyond mere public relations and truly make a meaningful impact.

Rhian thinks that "it's so important that when we think about the transition that we're going through, that we include the voice and the thinking of people. I feel if you use ESG, the E in the environment gets all the focus and often the S feels like the sort of unloved child. And I think that's absolutely rubbish. I think we'll only get this transition to be successful if we bring people with us. It is ultimately a 'people' transition."

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# DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – CITIES & ENVIRONMENT STAGE

## PANEL DISCUSSION: City Visions



**Cassie Sutherland, Managing Director for Climate Solutions & Networks, C40 Cities**



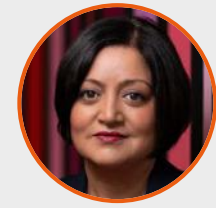
**Councillor Susan Aitken, Glasgow City Council**



**Councillor Deirdre Costigan, Deputy Leader and Member for Climate Action, Ealing Council**



**Anand Rajagopal, Private Markets Sustainability Lead, Phoenix Group**



**Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, Mayor of Newham**

This panel discussion focuses on the importance of sustainable cities, highlighting the voices of professionals within the private sector and governing bodies. During this dialogue, we hear about the “biggest opportunities... cities have... to drive meaningful, measurable, and sustainable action on climate change”.

For Councillor Deirdre Costigan, “The biggest opportunity that cities bring is a sense of urgency”. UK urban areas tend to have stricter, more rapid net zero deadlines in comparison to the national trajectory, making initiatives more accelerated. Not only that, but cities bring a sense of ambition and prioritisation, as everything is shrouded in localised expertise rather than juggling hundreds of broad enterprises at once.

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The panellists acknowledge that these ambitions must also address equity needs. And with addressing climate change itself, these needs do come to fruition. With the increase of green infrastructure, there is a push for more workers within these green jobs, increasing job opportunities and steady finances. And as climatic conditions get better, the overall quality of life increases, regardless of one’s socioeconomic status. These motivators drive the need for cities to adapt and shift.

One question that kept coming up about how to pursue these sustainable city initiatives was the issue of financial cost. How can these projects be subsidised financially? Councillor Susan Aitken believes it’s important to have investors early on to develop and co-create projects in order to create mutual economic and social benefits. It is important to find this balance between commercially viable outcomes for the investor and results that deliver social and economic value for the people they represent. This synergistic relationship between parties encourages investments that have great returns for all involved.

Anand Rajagopal comes at this query with a deep understanding of financial resources, being the Private Markets Sustainability Lead for the Phoenix Group. He emphasises the need for “place-based investing”, allowing communities to use local expertise while also collaborating closely with outside groups/ firms.

The group addresses a plethora of Q and As from the audience, with highlights including Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz discussing the benefits of public ownership of public transportation, the need for education to drown out the voices of dissent and misinformation, and ways to make climate information forums more accessible and equitable for people from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

These changes, Councillor Aitken argues, must come from democratically elected officials, rather than forcing citizens to make all the sacrifices. These initiatives, in conjunction with investor money, can help facilitate cities and environments worth saving.

Finally, moderator Cassie Sutherland concludes: “So we’ve heard need for action and quick movers. We’ve heard finance needs to flow and there...[are] some opportunities available. We’ve seen great action at city level, at local authority level, at borough level, from retrofit to transport to equity, come and talk to cities. They’re the scrappy underdogs, but who doesn’t want to be the scrappy underdog?”.

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“Route2 came to Reset Connect because it’s a big opportunity for us to meet and interact with businesses – could be potential clients, could be potential collaborators, and obviously to understand what’s happening in the current state of affairs in the sustainability world”

*Senior Research Analyst, Route 2*



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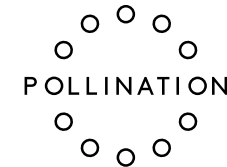
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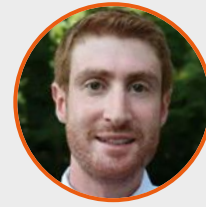


# DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – FINANCE & INVESTMENT STAGE

## PANEL DISCUSSION: Managing the Transition to A New Financial World Order



**David Marriage**, Partner & Head of Disruption & Innovation for Sustainability, PwC



**David Carlin**, TCFD & Climate Risk Program Lead, UNEP-FI



**Fabiana Fedeli**, CIO, Equities & Multi-Asset, M&G Investments



**Stanley Kwong**, Principal, Sustainable Investing, KKR



**Tony Burdon**, CEO, Make My Money Matter



**Tony Rooke**, Executive Director & Head of Transition Finance, GFANZ

The landscape of the financial markets today is vastly different from any time in human history, and shows no signs of slowing down. Governments, the private sector, civil society, and individuals all have a heightened interest in sustainability and are willing to support those interests financially. As a result of this, new global financial standards are emerging that are going to shape the future of markets and the priorities set by governments and organisations. David Marriage, partner and head of disruption and innovation at PwC, and his fellow panellists are going to give us an idea of how these changes are going to occur as well as how to best navigate the new opportunities that will come along with them.

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Kicking things off, we hear from David Carlin, who works on the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and is the lead on the Climate Risk Program for the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative. He points out that sustainability has largely reached mainstream consciousness now that governments and large corporations are not only acknowledging its importance but also putting forth targets and policies to work towards it. This is a positive sign, but there is still more work to be done. Carlin says "we need to change not necessarily direction so much as we need to change pace and ambition." There has certainly been considerable progress, but in order to be where we need to be, we cannot simply rest on our laurels but instead must double down and start to make those tough decisions that have the real impact that we're looking for.

Marriage then brings in Tony Rooke, Executive Director and Head of Transition Finance at GFANZ, to speak about what is happening now and what still needs to be done in order to make the changes outlined by David Carlin a reality. Rooke speaks on how his firm has been putting together transition plans for companies in order to illustrate how the commitments made by these companies can translate into real-world applications. This includes laying out the "framework for financial institutions to use that and integrate climate change and transition into their strategy." Tony Burdon, CEO of Make My Money Matter, gave specific examples of this when he followed up on Rooke's remarks. He speaks extensively about pensions in the UK, more specifically the demand from UK citizens to have their pensions be sustainable. Around two-thirds of all UK citizens want these sustainable pensions, and that demand has driven around 60 pension schemes to commit to net zero, showing a real example of how the demand for sustainability in the finance space leads to real change.

Fabiana Fedeli, representing M&G Investments, sheds light on how these firms are listening to the wishes of their clients. She says there is a constant stream of communication between their team and the investors, whether they are institutional, retail, or individual. She stresses that being engaged with their client base is of the utmost importance. Keeping up to date with client interests is the best way to monitor how the market is likely to shift and is also a good practise for any investment firm whose duty is foremost to the clients.

During the Q&A session, one member of the audience asks the question of just how fast we can expect these changes to be implemented and what the panellists believe can be done on their end to spur this change.

Stanley Kwong, of KKR, answers this question from the vantage point of a PE firm. When firms like KKR are looking at potentially investing in companies, topics like plans for decarbonization and ESG have their own 100-day plan. They get all the details when investing in these corporations to make sure that ESG KPIs are linked to financing, remuneration, and shareholder agreements. This creates a "package of incentives" that makes sure it is in these companies best interests to act quickly. This is what will drive real impact, because when you make it profitable for these firms to use sustainable and ethical business practises, that is when you'll have commitment across the board.

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**"Its a great event for meeting, networking and creating new connections with organisations interested in working more sustainably. Great mix of people and orgs. Not too many 'timewasters'. Very supportive and responsive team behind the event. You also get the impression that sustainability is genuinely important!"**

*Marketing Director, Giki*



# DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – NET-ZERO BUSINESS STAGE

## PANEL DISCUSSION: Overseeing the Sustainability Transformation within Major Corporates and Global Brands



**Claire Mason,**  
CEO, Man Bites Dog



**Musidora Jorgensen,** Chief  
Sustainability Officer, Microsoft



**Keith Denham,** EVP, Global Markets,  
Persefoni



**Pippa Bailey,** Head of Climate Change  
& Sustainability Practice, IPSOS



**Rosana Elias,** Head of Sustainability,  
Whitbread



**Seb Henbest,** Global Head of Climate  
Transition, HSBC

This session hosted some of the planet's most recognisable brands, who provided successful practises and insights into the current challenges they are striving to overcome.

Moderator Claire Mason, CEO of Man Bites Dog, starts the panel by asking Seb Henbest for an introduction to what he does and what the role of a global bank should look like in accelerating change.

Seb Henbest, the Global Head of Climate Transition at HSBC, responds that “the role of banking in this transformation is to help support that agenda, help support the flow of capital, support the low carbon projects, the companies that are transitioning their business models, and the companies that are pure players in this space. And also to try and accelerate the technology that we need.” He goes on to say that HSBC already has a number of things in place to help them start aligning themselves towards net zero.

Claire asks Musidora Jorgensen, Chief Sustainability Officer of Microsoft, how Microsoft is using technology to accelerate their customers on their journey to net zero and beyond.

Musidora goes on to mention a few examples, one of which is that they have built their Microsoft cloud for sustainability. Another example is that they have built an AI system on the Isle of May in Scotland. Within a puffin colony, they are looking at the application of AI for conservation, tracking what all of the puffins are doing, and ensuring that those insights are used to build and accelerate due diligence. The main point that Musidora is making is that there are so many situations where the process involves applying for a problem, thinking about what data can do to solve that problem, and then using the power of the Microsoft platform to help accelerate it.

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Seeing as Whitbread is one of the biggest hotel brands in the UK, Rosana Elias, Head of Sustainability at Whitbread, is asked this question: do you find a conflict when you're actually making decisions between operating a business that is really focused on delivering to the customer a service at a certain cost and the sustainability aspects of what you're doing? Rosana responds that sustainability needs to be accessible, not something that people with more money have access to. She elaborates and says, “Operating sustainably just means doing business better. You're just putting, setting yourselves up for a sustainable future. Effectively.”

Claire directs her next question to Pippa Bailey, Head of Climate Change & Sustainability Practice at IPSOS. She asks Pippa what she sees as the value of ESG to brands and how brands can approach, in the right way, growth opportunities in ESG by communicating about what they're doing.

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Pippa says that they can see from data and insights that “people expect sustainability to be delivered by business as a co-benefit.” She elaborates that it's good to see that a lot of brands are looking through these lenses and thinking about how to deliver sustainability while also delivering customer needs. Pippa says, “There are challenges, of course, when we think about ESG, but there's huge opportunities as well for brands to really do this well and do it right and to get a real advantage and to engage customers and consumers, which we're going to need to do in order to get on the journey that we are heading.”

Musidora and Rosana go on to elaborate on how their companies are tackling sustainability, and Seb speaks about the growing importance of collective action in financial services.

Keith Denham, EVP of Global Markets at Persefoni, ends the discussion with a response to questions about sustainability roles and qualities. He says, “The problems ahead of us, the challenges that are not going to be simple to overcome, need all disciplines to come into the industry,” and that “this challenge needs everyone.” He finishes by saying, “The reality is we are all climate professionals as we move forward.”



# DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – FINANCE & INVESTMENT STAGE

## PANEL DISCUSSION: Aligning Funds & Investment with the Climate Science



**Quintin Rayer**, Head of Research & Ethical Investing, P1 Investment Management



**Rahel Haque**, Climate and ESG Capital Markets, Private Finance, NatWest Group



**Lukky Ahmed**, CEO & Founder, Climate X



**Duncan White**, Partner, Environmental Technologies, Hambro Perks



**Mark Campanale**, CEO & Founder, Carbon Tracker



**Amarachi Seery**, Sustainability Analyst, Janus Henderson Investors



This panel consisted of specialists with in-depth knowledge of the intersection between investment and climate science, making them uniquely qualified to tackle such interdisciplinary and wide ranging issues. The central topics covered were fossil fuel divestment, positive investment solutions, net-zero initiatives, the importance of having sustainability professionals, and more related subjects. Panellists, facilitated by moderator Quintin Rayer of P1 Investment Management, attempted to show how we can all work towards achieving these crucial goals and benchmarks through investment.

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The discussion begins by outlining some of the problems that we as a people face in the wake of climate change. These challenges, such as human generated global warming of around 1.3 degrees Celsius, sea level rise, extreme weather, heat waves, etc., are very real issues that affect us all to varying degrees. Lukky Ahmed, CEO and Founder of Climate X, speaks about how important it is for us to reach net-zero while simultaneously adapting to the changes that have already been caused. He puts this uncertainty into plain terms, saying, "...they have second-order impacts that people need to start to think about, which is how do you take a forward looking view on these hazards because the past is not indicative of the future when it comes to climate change." Alongside the potential risk to human life and property, the financial reality is beginning to set in for these high-risk areas, making people less likely to try and work towards a solution. The less viability that investors see in these areas, the less money that will be brought in, resulting in a cascading effect where little to no progress is made.

Another important topic highlighted by the panel is the need for qualified professionals in the sustainability field. Having analysts and staff with proper knowledge and insight on this is a necessity if we want competent individuals to help guide us in the right direction. Amarachi Seery, of Janus Henderson Investors, frames this well by stating, "It is absolutely essential that you have people who are qualified...to give this area the proper due respect that it deserves. Ultimately, in no other profession would you go and send somebody who's been on a three-week training course to then go and run an entire department on that particular subject. Yet we do this with sustainability..." This highlights one of the main goals of events and panels like this: education about sustainability is paramount to its success and steering our society in the right direction.



Closing out the discussion, Quintin Rayer asked the panel to each give one way that they believe we can better align investments with climate science given the restraints of the market. All the panellists made very compelling points that are achievable and eminently desirable. Duncan White, from Hambro Perks, spoke very passionately about data being an important starting point, as that is the basis of an honest conversation, so its integrity and validity are essential. Rahel Haque went in a different direction, instead focusing on demand-side factors and how to drive down energy utilisation in homes and businesses. Quintin Rayer even gave his own thoughts on the matter, poignantly summing up the thoughts of many by suggesting, "The single thing that would help, is the passion and commitment from the people managing the investments because...that ensures a continual quest to do better, which should never stop."

[ACCESS SESSION AUDIO](#)



# DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – NET-ZERO BUSINESS STAGE

## PANEL DISCUSSION: Addressing the UK’s Food Sustainability and Supply Chain – What Can Other Sectors Learn



**Rebecca Tobi**, Senior Business and Investor Engagement Manager, The Food Foundation



**Danielle Crompton**, Ethics and Sustainability Manager, Waitrose



**Becky Haywood**, Head of ESG & Sustainability, Greene King



**Tessa Clarke**, Co-Founder & CEO, Olio



**David Moore**, Group Head of ESG, The Compleat Food Group



**James Chamberlayne**, Director of Sustainable Finance Program, Capital Markets, CDP

In this panel session, speakers discuss the environmental implications of the food industry and address how to move forward. Moderator Rebecca Tobi begins the discussion with the harrowing statement, “We will not be able to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees unless we tackle emissions from the food system, which contribute[s] up to a third... of total global greenhouse gas emissions”.

There is a massive need for the food industry to fundamentally shift and change the narrative of being a catastrophic polluting sector. The first step in this journey is the tracing of carbon footprints and reducing emissions overall. Yet an issue brought up during this panel is the lack of access to data. In an industry that is polluted by indirect, scope 3 emissions, it can prove difficult to precisely track the impact exerted along the supply chain. Because of this, companies are making environmental commitments without fully informed restrictions backed by science, as they don’t have the full picture to work from

Though there are these data issues and misinformed target goals, Danielle Crompton, from Waitrose, argues that we cannot stop trying to make change simply because we don’t have the perfect data yet. The climate crisis is adaptive and malleable, so we must be as well, working with any form of data and research we can get our hands on.



But to further support businesses and suppliers, there needs to be an influx in regulation and guidance. In the profit-driven society we live in today, there can be pushback to shift emission rates unless directly and legally told so.

James Chamberlayne, of CDP, explains how “82% of farmers still have the intention to commit... to drive sustainability”, but have fears about economic viability. Especially in recent times of uncertainty, from COVID to mass inflation, there is fear to invest in long-term financial stocks if the economic consequences cannot be sustained in the meantime.

Tessa Clarke, from Olio, powerfully declares, “The climate crisis isn’t taking a couple years off whilst we fix these other various crises”. The planet must come first. Climate action is something all organisations need to “live and breathe... That every single person in the organisation understands the role that they play in contributing to the sustainability” efforts and making a meaningful impact rather than a detrimental one.

Additionally, the panel addresses the issue of food waste. Corporations in the UK “throw away over 2 billion meals worth of food that could be eaten each year” and yet “over 8 million people in this country [are] living in food poverty”. Addressing the issue of food waste can also help bridge equitable gaps for those who do not have access to money and resources for meals.

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A big topic of conversation within the factory farming industry is brought up: the detrimental effect of red meat. A solution brought by David Moore, from The Compleat Food Group is to select suppliers who accurately track their carbon emissions and have reduced their impact dramatically. This is in part achieved through initiatives such as the Food Data Transparency Partnership, which helps improve the availability and accessibility of emissions data.

Danielle Crompton discusses a project that is exploring specific sheep breeds that produce less methane emissions than other breeds. These are the kinds of technological advances that are being introduced within the food community in order to address the impact of meat.

These projects can be pricey, so how do smaller businesses move forward? Tessa Clarke explains that partnerships are “going to be the route to solving the climate crisis at scale”. She goes on to discuss how small, innovative startups can work collaboratively with large, established corporations to make meaningful impact a reality.

[ACCESS SESSION AUDIO](#)



## MORE FROM THE MORNING OF DAY 1

### PANEL DISCUSSION: Mobilising Key Stakeholders to Meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Net-Zero Business Stage

Moderator: **Nick Mabey**, CEO, LCAW/ E3G

Speakers: **Steve Kenzie**, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK; **Dr. Nina Seega**, Research Director for Sustainable Finance, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership; **Martina Casani**, Head of Marketing, U-Earth Biotech; **Jojo Mehta**, Co-founder, Stop Ecocide; **Alison Heppenstall**, Executive Director, CAFA

The 17 SDGs set out the many complex problems that we must globally work together to solve by 2030. This session will discuss what business must do to reach these goals and provide a framework for delivering their other sustainability, decarbonisation and net zero goals.

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: The Evolution of Sustainable Investing Finance & Investment Stage

Moderator: **James Alexander**, CEO, UKSIF

Speakers: **Sindhu Krishna**, Head of Sustainable Investments, Phoenix Group; **Dan Russell**, MD, Fintel/ SimplyBiz; **Wayne Bishop**, CEO, King & Shaxson; **Kylee Dickie**, Head of Group External Reporting & Technical Accounting, National Grid

How Do We Beat the Greenwash and Build Trust, Impact, Focus and Improvements in Sustainable Investing

How is the UK adapting to the new global financial disclosure standards, how are individual institutions, funds and businesses reporting and measuring on this. How are investors adapting to these new standards and how do we increase trust and adoption

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: Addressing Overproduction, Waste and Packaging. Driving Behaviour Change Across Sectors.

Net-Zero Business Stage

Moderator: **Illana Adamson**, Founder, Be Better

Speakers: **Barry Waddilove**, Head of Circular Economy & Partnerships, Electrolux; **Dean Kramer**, Director of Operations, Currys; **Sebastian Munden**, Chair, WRAP; **Paul Gilligan**, CEO, Magical Mushroom Company

This session will explore the underlying causes of overproduction, waste, and excessive packaging, such as inefficient supply chains, consumer demand patterns, and industry norms. The panellists will share their experiences, insights, and successful initiatives aimed at addressing these challenges and driving behaviour change in their respective sectors.

The panel will also delve into the role of technology, innovation, and collaboration in solving these issues. The panellists will discuss how digital transformation, circular economy models, sustainable packaging solutions, and cross-industry partnerships can contribute to reducing overproduction, waste, and excessive packaging, while promoting sustainable consumption and production practices.

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: Green from the Ground Up – Developing Net Zero Buildings and Infrastructure to Support Business and Government

Cities & Environment Stage

Moderator: **Karli Hiscock**, Partner, Real Estate, Bates Wells

Speakers: **Sophie Goddard**, Director, Sustainability, Canary Wharf Group; **Major General Bobby Walton-Knight CBE**, Director Strategy & Plans, Defence Infrastructure Organisation; **Natalie Sykes**, Sustainability Manager, ExCeL London; **Chris Vallis**, Co-Founder & CSO, Effecterra; **Richard Smith**, Senior Director Energy Management Solutions, MRI Software

What is the very latest take on the processes and technologies that can deliver net zero in the built environment, from smart building planning and construction through to sustainable renovation, retrofit and regeneration.

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“ I think Reset Connect is a really important event because it carves out a niche in an area that is really missing: to have a dedicated exhibition... This exhibition is really bringing things together and leaders in that movement to make measured change. And it wasn't there before and it's amazing how much its grown in just a year ”

*CEO & Founder, Magical Mushroom Company*



## Businesses Want to Learn More About Sustainability but Need Much More Support and Guidance.

The Disruption House (TDH) was excited to attend Reset Connect again this year to engage with like-minded individuals. As a data-driven company, we were keen to gauge the ESG awareness of attendees and understand what measures they had in place in their workplace to become more sustainable.

Based on our in-depth proprietary questionnaire, and using the data gathered from 2022 and 2023, we were able to analyse and compare findings across both years to gain insight into how companies were performing from an ESG standpoint.

10 questions focussed on a variety of areas such as renewable energy usage, recycling, diversity, charity and supply chain awareness to provide an overview of the company. 184 individuals completed the ESG Quiz, a 140% increase relative to 2022 demonstrating a higher level of engagement.

Analysis of the data showed that there was some improvement in certain areas, however, other areas underperformed compared to the previous year. This can be attributed to Reset Connect gaining traction and attracting companies who were starting to look at sustainability, whereas in 2022 many of the attendee companies were already on their ESG journey.

These are the findings from two key areas: Using Renewable Energy, and the commitment to ESG at board level.

### 1) Renewable Energy – Supply, Consumption and Utilisation Key Findings

Out of the 184 respondents, the survey results indicated a mixed picture of renewable energy consumption:

- Less than 25%: 23% (23% in 2022)
- 25-50%: 12% (11% in 2022)
- 50-100%: 23% (18% in 2022)
- Don't know: 43% (49% in 2022)

### Insights and Analysis:

#### *Encouraging Progress*

The fact that 23% of companies surveyed consume 50-100% renewable energy is a positive sign, which is a 6% increase from the previous year and demonstrates a significant commitment to sustainability and highlights the potential for widespread adoption of renewable energy sources across industries. Companies in this category should be applauded for their forward-thinking approach and recognised as leaders in the transition to a greener future.

#### *Room for Improvement*

While it is encouraging to see companies embracing renewable energy, the survey results also revealed a concerning lack of awareness. Almost half of the respondents admitted to not knowing the extent of their company's renewable energy consumption. This lack of knowledge suggests a crucial gap in understanding and highlights the need for greater transparency and education on the importance of renewable energy adoption.

#### *The Importance of Data and Transparency*

Companies must prioritise tracking and sharing accurate information about their energy consumption to drive meaningful change. Improved transparency will not only help businesses make informed decisions but also allow stakeholders to hold them accountable for their environmental impact.

#### *Embracing Renewable Energy*

The results provide a compelling snapshot of the current state of renewable energy consumption among businesses. While progress is evident, there is still work to be done to bridge the gap between those actively embracing renewable energy and those who lack awareness or understanding. Further support through Sustainability Linked Loans will enable companies to drive forward their sustainability ambitions.

### 2) ESG Discussions at Board or Management level

In order to drive change within a company, it is important for organisations to evaluate their ESG practices and this has to start at board or management level.

#### Key Findings

The survey indicated that over half discuss ESG at the Board or management level.

- Never discuss: 7% (5% in 2022)
- Occasionally discuss: 37% (31% in 2022)
- Always discuss: 56% (64% in 2022)

#### Insights and Analysis:

##### *Active discussions taking place*

56% of respondents stated that ESG is always discussed at the board or management level. This finding indicates a growing recognition of the importance of ESG factors in shaping business strategies and decision-making. A significant portion of businesses actively engaging in conversations surrounding ESG, reflects a commitment towards long-term sustainability and responsible business practices. This is a drop compared to the previous year of 64%, but this could be attributed to the broader list of attendees at Reset Connect this year who want to learn more about sustainable strategies in the workplace as a precursor to taking action.

#### *Room for Improvement*

The survey results also highlight that 37% of organisations only discuss ESG matters sometimes, while 7% admitted to never discussing it at all. These figures underscore the need for greater awareness and understanding of the potential benefits that ESG integration can bring to both businesses and society as a whole.

#### *Importance of a Robust ESG Strategy*

Companies that prioritise ESG discussions stand to gain numerous advantages. Firstly, robust ESG practices can improve risk management by identifying potential vulnerabilities and mitigating them before they escalate. By considering environmental factors, social impact, and governance practices, businesses can ensure resilience in the face of evolving regulatory requirements and consumer expectations.



### Summary

ESG integration can enhance brand reputation and stakeholder trust. As consumers increasingly align their purchasing decisions with ethical and sustainable values, organisations that actively address ESG considerations are more likely to attract and retain customers. Moreover, investors are increasingly incorporating ESG metrics into their decisions, making it crucial for companies to demonstrate their commitment to responsible practices.

ESG discussions can foster innovation and drive long-term value creation. By identifying opportunities for sustainable growth, businesses can adapt to changing market dynamics and position themselves as leaders in their respective industries. Companies that successfully integrate ESG factors into their core strategies are more likely to thrive in a future where sustainability is a non-negotiable requirement.

SMEs need the most guidance around sustainability and yet are typically overlooked by ESG consultancies as they hunt for larger corporates.

**TDH provides affordable, effective solutions enabling SMEs as well as larger corporations to create value for all stakeholders.**



## DAY 1 AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

### Scaling Up Climate Ambitions: How Science Will Deliver Us



Luiz Amaral, CEO,  
SBTi

Science and technological advancements have accelerated humanity's progress towards peak social and economic development in the 21st century. However, it is these same systems that have brought on "one of...[the] greatest existential threats to our future"; anthropogenic climate change.

The most recent IPCC report outlines our timeline gravely: avoid exceeding an increase of 1.5 degrees celsius by reducing emissions by at least 43% by 2030, 60% by 2035, and full net zero by 2050. Or we will face irreversible, catastrophic consequences.

Luiz Amaral is the Chief Executive Officer of The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi); the global movement to define and execute emission reduction plans in corporations. In his keynote speech, Luiz explains the first step that businesses need to take in order to align with emission reduction targets and circumvent the warnings of the IPCC.

SBTi can help corporations define pathways and plans to reduce heat-trapping gases from direct combustion to leaks in the supply chain along the way. Roughly 1/3 of the global economy has committed to personalised science-based reduction plans, but this is only the beginning.

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14 sectors across the globe account for 90% of global emissions", 7 of which have developed plans to cut CO2 and the other half are in the works. But this timeline needs to quicken. Luiz calls on "all businesses to set... science-based emission reduction targets" right now.

Besides utilising these plans for the health of the planet and the people on it, Luiz recounts that SBTis are simply good for business; "they can increase investor confidence, boost brand reputation, [and] reduce regulatory uncertainty".

It is vital for corporations to take the next steps and reduce the consequences of our fossil fuel-dependent world. Today, we have "the maps of our journey. We don't have all of the path...we have the maps of where we need to get" and getting started is the most fundamental step to reverse what we have done.

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**"** It's a really strong networking opportunity that gives you a sense of a real breadth of what's happening in the whole clean tech space **"**

*Partner, Environmental Technology Fund, Hambro Perks*



To address the most urgent challenge of our time, we must sidestep dangerous distractions, detours and delays, and instead accelerate and scale actual solutions and promising ideas to avoid, reduce and replace GHGs by the gigaton.

[effecterra.com](https://effecterra.com)

[Schedule a meeting](#)

## Sustainability Technical Support

Accelerating climate solutions with governments, cities, corporates & investors

**Urgent, Collaborative, Sustainable, Impact**



## PANEL DISCUSSION: Building Brands and Behaviours – Creating Customer Propositions that Deliver on Sustainability Goals, Avoid Greenwash and Destroying the Planet



**Ryan Bromley**, *Founder & Partner, Good Innovation*



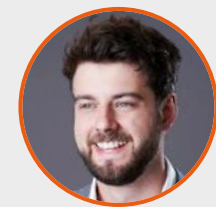
**Tim Hodgson**, *Founder, My Net Zero*



**Felicity McLean**, *Associate Director Sustainability – Partnerships & Engagement, WPP*



**Hannah Cornick**, *Head of Sustainability and Social Innovation, Danone UK & Ireland*



**Sam Maguire**, *Sustainability Lead, Clarasys*



**Henry Chilcott**, *Chief Marketing Officer, Formula E*

Bromley refers to the topic as a purpose arms race as more businesses set really ambitious sustainability goals and try harder than ever to live and breathe those. What's driving this arms race? There's an increasing demand from customers of brands they love and buy products from to take sustainability more seriously. "We can quite comfortably say now that everyone accepts it's not a binary choice between purpose or profit. There's a broad recognition that focusing on purpose can achieve commercial objectives as well.

"Setting ambitions is the easy bit. Translating into action and ultimately impact is what's hard. Unless a business can do that, ambition is nothing more than noise. Creating customer propositions is a great way for brands to turn that ambition into action and impact but go beyond tokenistic ideas like buy X and we'll plant a tree. Everyone sees through that. When it's done wrong, it can have a terrible impact.

When it's done right, it presents a world of opportunity for companies and businesses to stand out from the crowd, differentiate from competitors and make a dent in some of society's biggest social and environmental problems."

Bromley asks the panel "What are the internal barriers for business to take sustainability more seriously?"

Hodgson says the biggest issue is businesses not engaging their people in climate action. Often plans are built in a boardroom and communicated once built. Staff don't feel part of it. They're not shifting their behaviours at home either because they're not supported to. "It's a great opportunity. I'll go as far as saying it is what we need to do as a planet to close the emissions gap because all the pledges in the world from corporates and government aren't yet doing what we need. You've got to ask people what they want and meet them where they're at. Particularly in climate, which is an emotive space.

Then understand your superpower as an organisation to support those aspirations."

Cornick says having purpose driven into Danone's DNA doesn't make it easier. They spent a lot of time with the board helping them understand why this is business critical and brought in external voices to help reinforce that. She continues it's sustainability professionals' jobs to help make the business case, to be better at showing the direct commercial benefits. Danone are now able to show real financial impact, not just theoretical long-term financial risks. Cornick adds "giving people the language and confidence to understand and talk about these issues has opened the floodgate for ideas and contribution."

"What could brands do to better close the intention action gap?"

McLean explains "92% of people say they want to live a more sustainable life and only 16% are actively doing that. Closing that gap will have huge impact. Consumer behaviour change will bring down global emissions by 40 and 70% by 2050. So the impact of getting it right is enormous and communications will be mission critical.

We're not communicating to consumers in the way they want. 63% of people across the world are cynical about a brand's motivations behind their sustainability actions. So the current narrative isn't working, it's often too technical, disconnected, too doomism, full of jargon, too conceptual, too far away. The comms and creative industry are experiencing a bit of a crisis of imagination. We need to approach in three ways. 1) Shift the narrative 2) Turn to behavioural science to understand this gap 3) Don't put all the onus on consumers. It's about collaborative, systemic approaches to creativity and innovation that enables infrastructure, government incentives, policy change.

Chilcott says "Very few people tune in to watch Formula E because we're saving the planet. Lots watch for the dramatic exciting racing and then they see what we're doing and like us more. It's not always about starting with sustainability.

It can be the incidental effect. If we create dramatic, exciting racing, lots of people tune in, the perception of electric vehicles goes through the roof, more people buy electric vehicles, more people come to our racing, the incidental effect is positive impact."

Maguire adds in relation to why circular models are failing and not being adopted that businesses are just trying to fix 'something' to be more sustainable rather than think about the customer problem and how to solve that sustainably. For example, in a refill model, customers might forget their container which prevents adoption. This needs to be designed for.

They continue to discuss the issues around price barriers and holistic approaches to cost savings to ensure sustainability remains accessible.

On greenwashing  
Cornick starts "Being very clear on where your strengths are, where you can feel really proud of your progress has made it a little easier for our business to be honest about areas where we are not quite as strong."

McLean adds "Should we be transparent? Should we be humble? Should we say we don't know the answers? Absolutely yes. That's where you build credibility. Misleading by omission is a big thing for the ASA at the moment. The more transparent you can be, the better. At WPP we think you can really drive ROI, growth, impact, credibility at the intersection of creativity, credibility and action. If you only have one or if you're missing one, you are at risk of greenwashing. This intersection is where effective green claims come to life."

Maguire closes on a final thought, "We don't tell the story of how hard it is and what needs to change in the system. We need to say this is what needs to change in the economic system to really be sustainable. And this is what we're doing about it. This is how we're contributing to that system change. That would be the biggest thing I'd say we need to change around how we talk about sustainability."



## MORE FROM THE AFTERNOON OF DAY 1

**Keynote: Giving organisations and governments a mandate for sustainable action: have your say now**

Lord **Iain McNicol**, *Co-Founder & Chairman*, Rewired Earth Advisory Board

**Rupert Pearce**, *Co-founder & CEO*, Rewired Earth

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**PANEL DISCUSSION: Future City Infrastructure**

Cities & Environment Stage

Moderator: **Christian Inglis**, *Head of Urban Systems*, Innovate UK

Speakers: **Katie Fedosenko**, *Director*, ESG Engagement, Teck Resources; **Anna Cartwright**, *Managing Director of the Local Authorities function*, UK Infrastructure Bank; **Zeina Nazer**, *Co-Founder*, Cities Forum; **Dr. Noah Miller**, *Head of Data*, Advanced Infrastructure Technology Ltd

An exploration of the infrastructure challenges faced by growing urban centres in achieving decarbonised, sustainable and net zero communities

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**PANEL DISCUSSION: Place-based Impact Investing**

Finance & Investment Stage

Moderator: **Martin Pattinson**, *Lead of the Place-Based Impact Investing Forum*, Pensions for Purpose

Speakers: **Sarah Teacher**, *Executive Director*, Impact Investing Institute; **Ian Williams**, *Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources*, London Borough of Hackney; **Bonnie Chiu**, *Managing Director*, The Social Investment Consultancy; **Sasha Afanasieva**, *Head of Impact and ESG*, Big Issue Invest

Lessons from the field, what has place-based investment practice taught us, who's been successful and how? How can investors meaningfully engage communities in their investment decisions?

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**PANEL DISCUSSION: Biodiversity and Regeneration-Safeguarding Against Further Loss and the Journey to Nature Positive**

Cities & Environment Stage

Moderator: **Pete Brotherton**, *Director of Science*, Natural England

Speakers: **Marion Osieyo**, *Head of Inclusive Conservation*, WWF; **Danielle Mulder**, *Sustainability Director*, BBC; **Rebekah Braswell**, *CEO & Founder*, Land Life; **Adele Cheli**, *Sustainability Partnerships and Strategy Director*, GSK; **Anupam Ravi**, *Senior Vice President*, GIST

What is nature-based risk, what is really at stake for the natural world, and how must business plan, respond and contribute?

This panel explores actions in context that can be taken now to reverse the current declines.

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**PANEL DISCUSSION: Urban Mobility Investment Opportunities – A New Approach to Global Clean Infrastructure**

Finance & Investment Stage

Moderator: **Sophie Thomas**, *Chief Design Garbologist*, etsyW Ventures

Speakers: **Mayor Philip Glanville**, London Borough of Hackney; **Councillor Ajaz Rehman**, *Small Business & Inclusive Economy Champion*, Oxford City Council; **Adrian Keen**, *CEO*, InstaVolt; **Liam Cawthorne**, *Senior Associate (Transport decarbonisation specialist)*, Ikigai Capital; **Aaron Berry**, *Deputy Head*, OZEV

Session to cover urban project finance. Pilot project case studies on urban mobility infrastructure.

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**PANEL DISCUSSION: A Part to Play: The Value of the Voluntary Carbon Market**

Net-Zero Business Stage

Moderator: **Andrea Abrahams**, *Managing Director*, VCM & ICROA, IETA

Speakers: **Satish Ramchandani**, *CEO & Founder*, UpdaptCSR; **Thomas Blackburn**, *Head of Business Developments & Partnerships*, SustainCERT; **Vincent Loubinoux**, *Head of International Development*, ClimateSeed; **Joseph Hargreaves**, *Co-Founder*, Thallo; **Ryan, King**, CCO, UNDO

This session aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the voluntary carbon market and its relevance for corporate brands. Discover the mechanisms, types of carbon credits, and key players in the market. Learn about the challenges and opportunities of participating, including evaluating carbon offset projects, navigating certification standards, and managing risks. Get practical insights and guidance to make informed decisions about engaging in the voluntary carbon market and advancing your sustainability goals. This is a critical opportunity to deepen your knowledge and make informed decisions considering offsetting emissions.

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“ We can speak to people. We can actually find out about new trends. We can learn from each other. So I think this event is a great place where you can not only speak to the people from organisations which are similar to you, but also see what others are doing and really expand your horizons ”

*Principal Consultant, Ricardo*



Rewired Earth exhibited at Reset Connect London 2023 and were "pleased to see this fabulous event going from strength to strength." With some great interactions both at their stand and on their panels, they saw almost 400 people from 25 countries add their voice to the thousands that they have already, using the Citizen Tool, to share their sustainability priorities.

To find out more about how the not-for-profit rewired.earth can help your business understand what matters to your stakeholders, engage your employees and help you define your business case for sustainable action, please click [here](#).

## THE RESULTS:

### Priorities:

#### EVERYONE



It's no surprise that climate action was top given the nature of the event; and this is consistent with what we see generally. The other top priorities are linked to energy and consumption, which often correlates with more professional respondents.

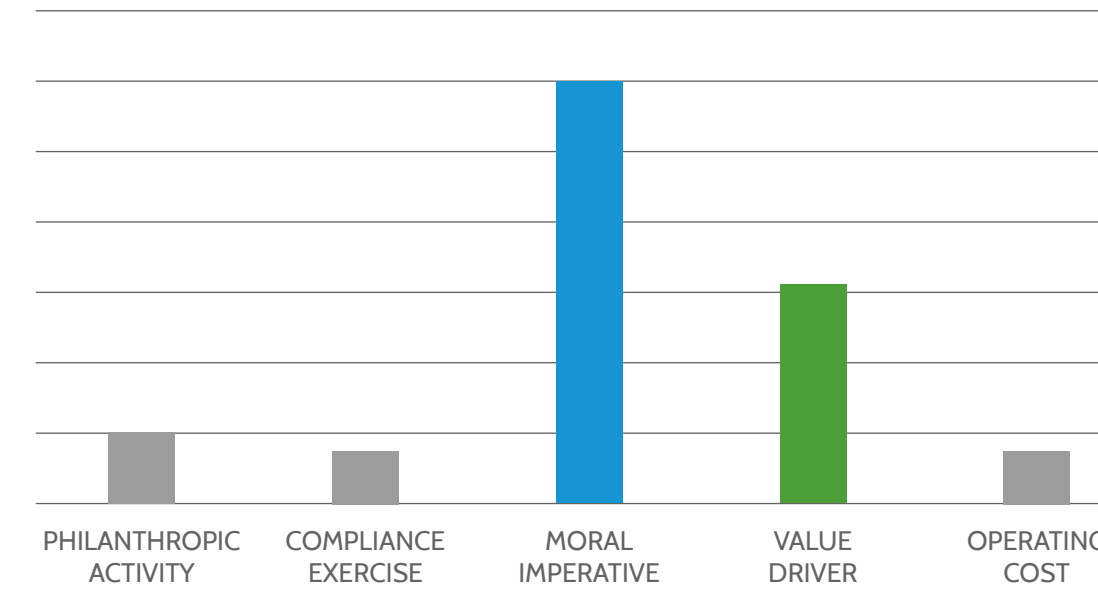


There was an even split amongst respondent genders and whilst the top priorities were fairly consistent, the second tier saw a really interesting difference with men focussing more on issues of people (poverty, health and hunger) and women more on planet (life on land and below water).

It should be no surprise that sustainability means different things to different people – helping to understand this dynamic is what rewired.earth is all about. It does suggest that companies need to avoid the one-size-fits-all approach which is often taken.

### The value of sustainability:

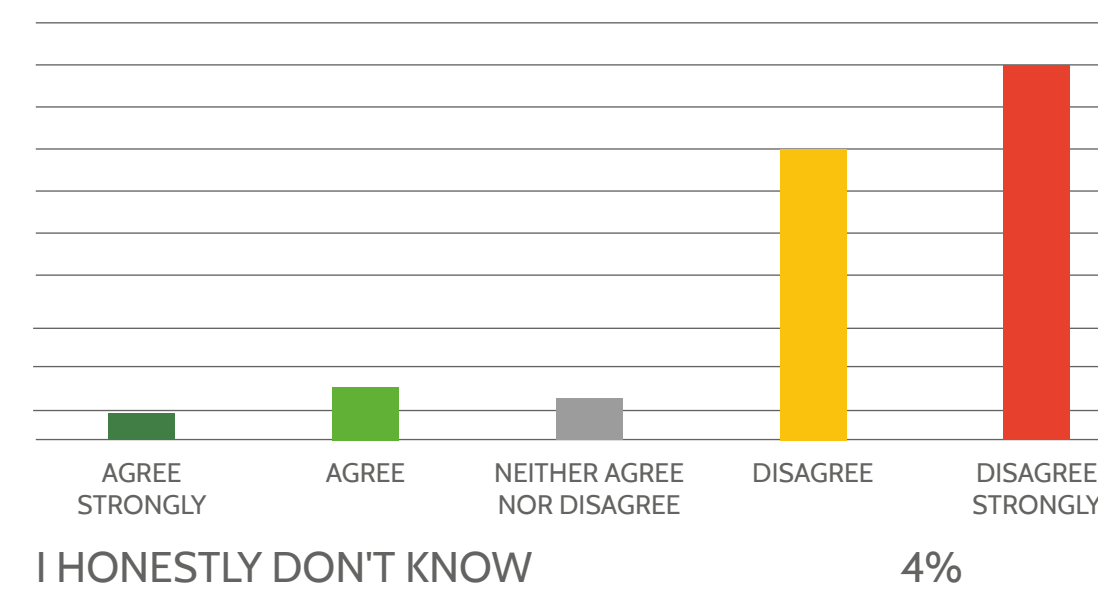
#### SUSTAINABILITY IS A...



Whilst there was a very strong consensus on the moral reasons to pursue sustainability, it is currently only a driver of value for around half of those who responded. As the next questions will show, we need more people to access the value of sustainability at the pace required.

### Because regulation alone is too slow:

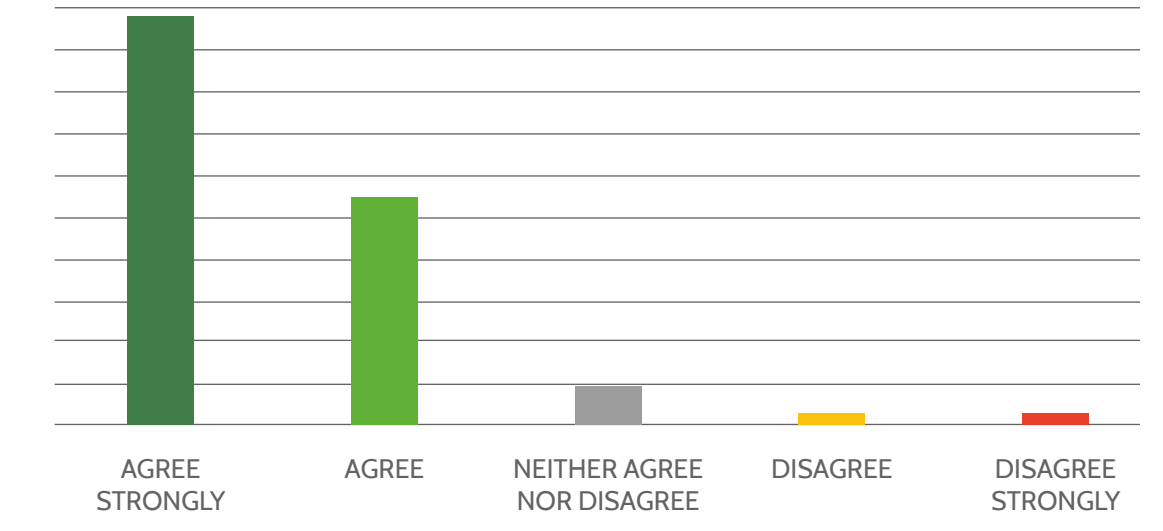
#### REGULATION AND POLICY IS MOVING FAST ENOUGH TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE



There is lots of focus on regulation to drive better action through reporting, but this result suggests that we need other approaches (we would argue this starts by understanding what matters most to your stakeholders).

### This is a growing political issue:

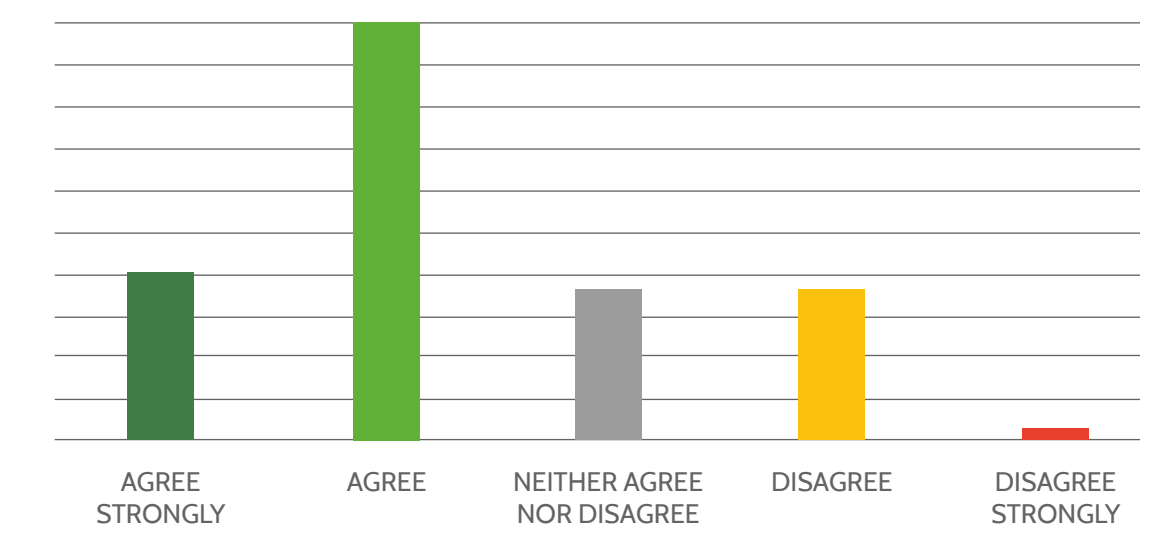
#### I WILL TAKE SUSTAINABILITY INTO ACCOUNT WHEN VOTING IN ELECTIONS



I honestly don't know 3%. If we didn't know it already, the shifts in sustainable views will impact political outcomes as well as commercial.

### And finally.....

#### MY OWN PERSONAL ACTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH A LOW CARBON FOOTPRINT



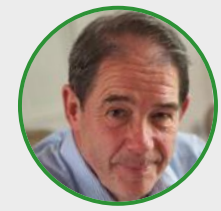
I honestly don't know 5%. It's good to know that the vast majority of attendees didn't fly in, and only plant-based food was consumed at the event!

“ Thanks again! It was great to see you all and interact with so many. Please do get in touch to run this tool in your organisations and see you at next year's Reset-Connect! ”  
The rewired.earth team



## DAY 2 KEYNOTE

### ‘Enough of the Delay on Net Zero!’



**Sir Jonathon Porritt**, *Founder Director, Forum for the Future; Member of the Green Party, Ex-Director, Friends of the Earth, Former Chair, UK Sustainable Development Commission and Published Author*

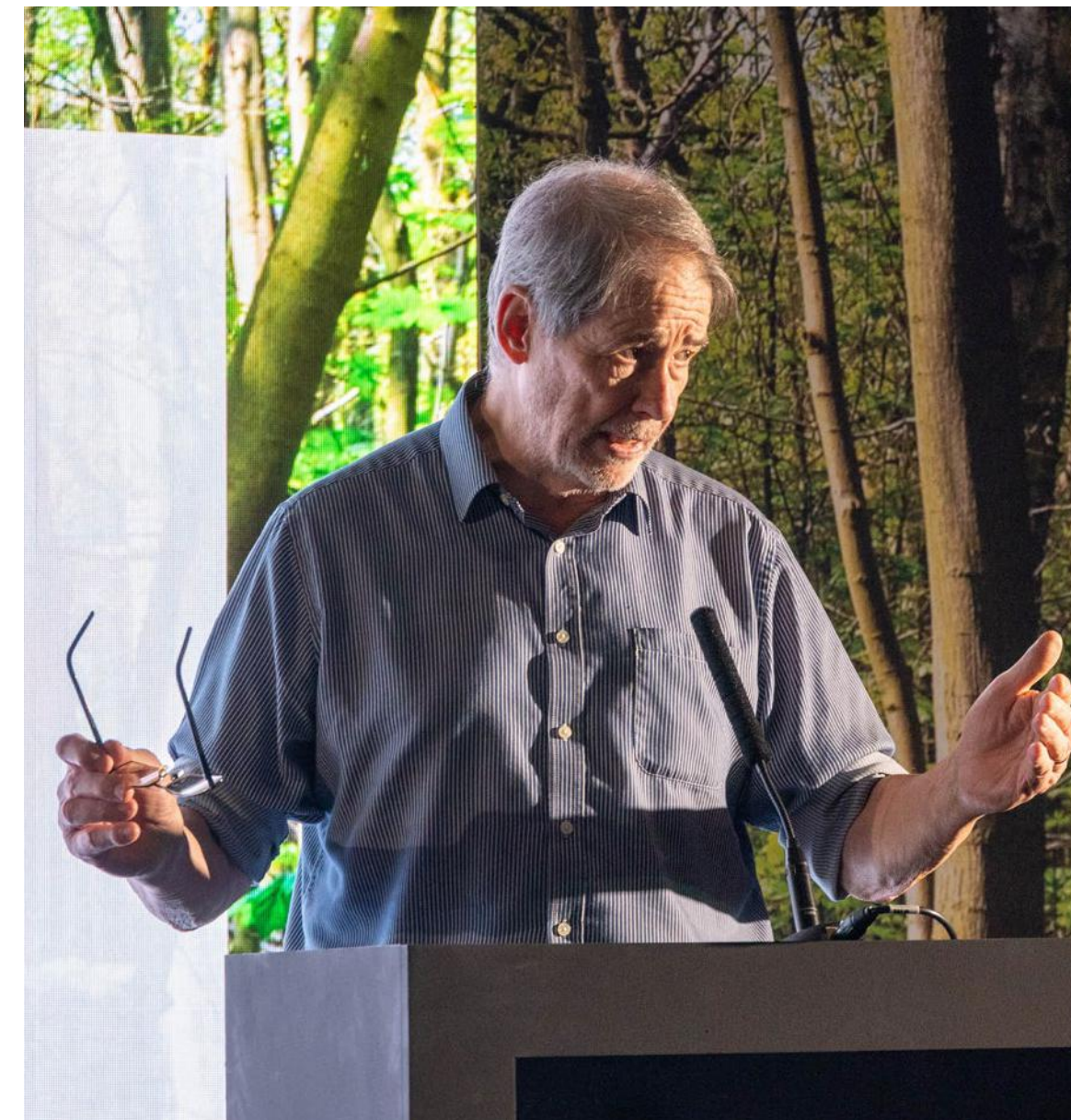
Sir Johnathon Porritt, a renowned campaigner, author and co-founder of Forum for the Future is constantly working on and pushing forward transformative, challenging ideas with the ambition of sharing innovation and excitement to promote sustainable advocacy across industries. “Why isn’t it happening at the rate it should be happening”. His opening keynote at Reset Connect focused specifically on the government’s role and responsibility for the delay to net zero and held their lack of leadership and general political failure accountable.

The Climate Change Committee is an independent body advising the government on what it should be doing to accelerate the UK’s net zero transition. Johnathon described their latest report to parliament from the committee as “devastating”. In summary, stating the UK is effectively going backwards with its net zero efforts. He pinned incoherence at the heart of the government responsible for this. Within the UK any claim or involvement the government may have to climate leadership is based around targets and strategies. Whilst they set targets and write numerous strategies, they lack knowledge and the ability to implement mechanisms resulting in these targets being missed on nearly every front.

John Gummer, Lord Durbin, the Chair of the Climate Change Committee, stated the UK has “lost the leadership”. Explaining the government has essentially a foot in both camps; holding a big foot in the world of fossil fuels whilst the other is trying to find a route to or walk beyond fossil fuels, to the world of renewables efficiencies, storage, grids and innovative materials. Neither of these feet are similarly sized.

“Every single one of the principal indicators, which would tell us and give us some comfort that we were moving in the right direction, are still moving in the wrong direction”

The government’s commitment to grant new UK oil and gas licences is a prime example of this. Porritt explained the new licences for oil and gas, particularly if they confirm Rosebank, the biggest remaining oil and gas asset in the North Sea, is described by the committee as “utterly unacceptable”. Despite the surge of government investment in renewables, as a result of these licences and with the general energy use still growing, our use of fossil fuels and the destruction of rainforests has increased from 2021 to 2022. Greenhouse gas emissions aiming to be halved by 2023, have also experienced an increase of 1.8% in 2022 alone.



The Climate Change Committee stated, “not one single sector here in the UK, not one has a viable roadmap to net zero” Jonathan challenged the audience asking if this is due to over-excitement surrounding the concept of net zero. Overestimating targets without establishing if they are realistically viable and wasting time & brain power by not setting science-based targets. Porritt touched on his sense of durability, excitement and the potential presented by events such as Reset Connect. Whilst part of him feels excited at the prospect brought by innovation and the other is let down by the waste of potential not being put to good use by the government.

Another throw away comment made by the Committee stated the government holds no coherent programme to encourage people to change their high-carbon lifestyles and behaviours. Due to the fact they simultaneously contribute to the world of fossil fuels whilst trying to disassociate themselves, they don’t want to engage with people today to explain what this transition is going to look like and how challenging it actually will be. Whilst also ignoring how rewarding it’s going to be for communities, individuals, businesses and organisations to perceive what the transition will look like.

“My recommendation to you is do not believe governments, in particular, do not believe this government. It is made up mostly of hypocritical and totally dishonest ministers who are very comfortable having a foot in the old world of fossil fuels and a smaller foot in the world of the future.”

Using Jeremy Hunt’s recent energy efficiency target as an example, demanding management within the economy to reduce the total energy use in the UK by 15% by 2023. Compromising targets lower than claimed to be effective whilst lacking the know-how to accomplish it. To expand the volume of low-carbon heat across the UK, the government have strategised to fit 600,000 pumps a year across the UK by 2028. Meaning 27,000 engineers must be trained in the art of installing heat pumps. Porritt quotes “That supply chain is a figment of people’s imagination”. These illogically written, unrealistic, severely economically and time-intensive strategies further support the incapacity of our government doing what needs to be done.

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# Rethinking the Science, Economics, and Diplomacy of Climate Change



**Simon Sharpe**, *Director of Economics, Climate Champions Team*

Simon Sharpe, Author, Climate Risk Expert and Director of Economics at Climate Champions Team delivered a keynote address on Day 2 of Reset Connect London 2023.

In his book, *Five Times Faster*, Sharpe says to meet climate change goals, we have to decarbonise the global economy five times faster this decade than we managed over the last two decades.

He focuses on three key areas, science, economics and diplomacy.

### SCIENCE

Sharpe tells us that we don't just need science, we need risk assessment. If we don't tell our political leaders how bad the threat is, how can we expect them to act on it in a proportionate way? Most climate science gets communicated to governments in the form of prediction, what's most likely to happen. But risk assessment asks what's the worst that could happen, and then how likely is that?

Human beings' physiological tolerance for heat stress; at its worst, if you were young fit and healthy lying in the shade, naked, tipping cold water on you to keep cool, you would die of heat stress. Currently the Earth's climate never experiences these conditions but during the 2030s, tens of millions of people per year could be exposed to these conditions.

That's a shocking risk and it was buried deep in a chapter in the IPCC's fifth assessment report and wasn't in the summary for policymakers. In contrast, there were a dozen papers each on the risk of climate change to skiing and grape growing in Europe.

20 years ago, scientists thought tipping points were high at four or five degrees of global warming, now it's one or two degrees. Expert judgement on thresholds have changed over time, we should be studying these harder. We need proper risk assessments for Heads of Government and Cabinets that tells them how bad it's going to be.

After 30 years of IPCC reports and 15 years of the Climate Change Act, we still don't have that in the UK. When Boris Johnson wanted to know if he should worry about climate change, Number 10 rustled up an ad hoc slide pack with help from the Met Office. There's no serious institutional process for proper risk assessment for Government, not in the UK and not as far as I can tell anywhere else. We need help with that.

### ECONOMICS

Most economics that inform government policy is based on the idea of equilibrium, where nobody has any immediate reason to change their actions so that the status quo can continue, at least temporarily.

But that's not how the economy really works. The real world economy is like an ecosystem. It's uncertain. It's constantly evolving in different directions.

The IPCC says to tackle climate change and meet our goals we need rapid and far reaching system transitions in each emitting sector of the global economy, where many people have many reasons to change their actions quickly so the status quo is replaced. This gives us a very different way of imagining the economy and understanding the role of policy. He goes on to talk about the three main levers of policy; investment, regulation and tax.

When you invest in new technologies and new systems, you directly strengthen the reinforcing feedbacks of their development and diffusion making them better, cheaper, more useful, and so more investment goes into them. If you just put a tax on the old technology and system, you don't get any of those increasing returns on your effort.

The transition from horses to cars, for example, happened because we invested in motors, in cars, in factories. We built the highways, we wrote the highway code. It didn't all happen because we'd put a tax on horse excrement. The low carbon transition is no different.

On tax, Norway saw the world's fastest transition of road transport because they did something really obvious. They made electric vehicles cheaper to buy than petrol cars with a combination of tax and subsidy.

### DIPLOMACY

Diplomacy is not well structured to help us on climate change.

If we act together in the right kind of way, we get larger economies of scale, stronger incentives for investment, faster innovation. That's what diplomacy should achieve if we reorganise it in three ways.

1) The scope of climate diplomacy for the last 30 years has been economy-wide emissions. Scope diplomacy is only useful when it breaks up a problem into a size that's manageable. For example, we don't try to negotiate on world peace anymore, peace agreements are successful when they're more targeted.

Global emissions sectors like agriculture, transport, steel, each have their own structure, technologies, financial flows and international connections. We have to take each separately to make useful diplomatic agreements.

2) Participation. If you have every country in the world around the table, it's great for legitimacy and norm setting but not for substantial agreements. Look at cars, the top three car markets account for over half the global market. If just those three aligned with all new cars being zero emission by 2035, they would bring forward the cost parity tipping point by about five years. We need the main actors around the table agreeing what they're going to do to make it easier for everybody else.

3) Timescale. We obsess too much about targets not action. What are we going to do today? What are we going to do tomorrow?

For the last 30 years, climate diplomacy has been focused on a point of least leverage, universal participation economy-wide scope and long-term targets. This decade to give us a chance of meeting the goals, Climate diplomacy needs to move to the point of maximum leverage, sector specific small groups and actions rather than targets.

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## DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – FINANCE & INVESTMENT STAGE

### PANEL DISCUSSION: Creating the Right Financial Support and Ecosystem Collaboration to Fast Track the Climate Tech Revolution



**Toni Coulson**, *Director of Asset Portfolios and Sustainability, Starling Bank*



**Claire O'Neill**, *COP26 President Designate and Advisor, Hambro Perks*



**Margarita Skarkou**, *Principal, 2150*



**Councillor Stephen Cowan**, *Leader, Hammersmith and Fulham Council*



**Fazel Nejabat**, *COO, Algra*

This panel discussion was focused primarily on how to create the right environment for businesses to utilise technology to help tackle climate change and transition to a lower-carbon economy. Moderating this discussion is Toni Coulson, Director of Asset Portfolios and Sustainability at Starling Bank, who utilises her experience working with SME customers who have sustainability as a core part of their agenda and purpose. It is her view, and the view of all the other panellists, that technology is vital to enabling a feasible and cost-effective transition to a lower-carbon economy.

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One of the first topics discussed was how SMEs can find success while prioritising ESG and sustainability. Fazel Nejabat, from Algra, goes on to detail how putting ESG first can give SMEs a distinct advantage in many ways, in terms of resonating with their consumer base as well as working with the government and regulators. In addition, sustainable goals help to attract some of the best talent to the firms, as it's common knowledge that most Gen Zs are extremely value-conscious. They are looking to work for companies that align with their values and serve communities in real and meaningful ways. This sentiment was echoed by Councillor Stephan Cowan, who believes that customers and investors want to put their money towards ethical projects that intend to tackle climate change.



Margarita Skarkou, as an investor, discussed the need for a shift in mindset when investing in climate tech, as it often involves real assets and hardware-based technologies. The discussion also touched on the impact of regulatory policies, such as the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act), which has led some businesses to leave Europe for the US. Fazel also spoke about the vision that exists in the US but, surprisingly, not in the UK, where you can launch a company and have it grow into a truly global company.

Wrapping up the panel discussion, the panellists were asked to give an example of a scale up story or ESG incentive that resulted in a positive outcome. Some exemplary and inspirational companies were named, such as one that creates coatings of algae that can be put on buildings, converting CO2 to oxygen. Another from Pakistan that is a pseudo-Uber for hair care, nails, and massages, which provides jobs for many women in the region. Maybe the most impressive of all was a company called Iceotope that Claire O'Neill brought up.

What Iceotope does is increase efficiency in the cooling of data centres, with statistics like reducing emissions by 50% and reducing water usage by 80%. They go to show that innovative start-ups can be built right here in the UK and become global, reaching markets like that in Singapore with only more potential to grow with the advancements of AI, which is a monster when it comes to emissions and water.

Finally, the panel took some thought-provoking questions from the crowd to conclude. Perhaps the most intriguing of these questions was about the role that art and culture must play in shaping the way in which our communities view climate change and sustainability initiatives. Claire fielded this question and spoke about how there is a certain audience that can only be reached through art, culture, and experiences. She made the point that simply imposing regulation and taxes is not enough to change people, and that the social aspect must play a role as well. Councillor Stephen echoed Claire's sentiments, stating that when you want to build a good society, "arts and culture are the vanguard of shaping that."



## PANEL DISCUSSION: A Fast-Track to Supply Chain Decarbonisation



**Susan Hooper**, *Founding Director, Chapter Zero, Chair Designate, InterEarth, Chair, Tangle Teezer, Carbon Gap, Board Member, Moonpig, EUROWAG and Uber UK*



**Joanna Gilroy**, *Group Sustainability Director, Balfour Beatty*



**Giulia Usai**, *Procurement Sustainability CoE, GSK*



**Sriram Rajagopal**, *Sustainability Leader (Climate), IKEA*



**Mary Cole**, *CEO, Whitespace Group*



**Owen Bethell**, *Environmental Impact Lead Global Public Affairs, Nestlé*

This panel focused on the urgent need for decarbonisation of procurement to mitigate the impact of climate change. Leading experts from Balfour Beatty, GSK, Nestle, IKEA and Whitespace, discussed practical and innovative solutions to reducing carbon emissions across all stages of the supply chain. Covering topics from energy efficient transportation, low-carbon materials sourcing and collaboration between suppliers, manufacturers and customers. Moderator Susan Hooper, with 40 years of executive experience & founder of two NGOs, introduced the panellists representing different companies making a conscious effort to tackle scope emissions and deliver a sustainable impact within their supply chains.

The panellists began by providing insight on how their companies are working with suppliers to decarbonise procurement.

Joanna Gilroy explained the three key learnings on grappling the enormous challenge of decarbonisation within the carbon intensive construction industry. Firstly, stopping headline grabbing and competition around net-zero. Stating it's not a race and companies should unite to support to reach net zero together or else it's not going to happen at all. Secondly, look at how we build our business cases for change, suggesting moving back to the original triple bottom line approach by looking at natural and societal capital value. And thirdly, the importance of being very clear around the aim, whether to promote sustainable development or net zero. Low carbon technologies, despite their positive low carbon impact, can have a negative impact on biodiversity and we cannot achieve net zero without a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity, proving the importance of pushing for natural capital as opposed to only low carbon.

Giulia Usai, touched on the decarbonisation of pharmaceutical supply chains and explained their set targets, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 80% and hitting net zero by 2045. With their ideas not only targeting climate, they have also been admitted to SBTN, setting up targets towards nature. Procurement takes a large role, with 90% of emissions being within their supply chain, to combat this they must collaborate with their suppliers and other pharmaceutical sponsors. "Procurement should move away from the pure execution and delivery role into more of an influencer and advocacy role without the business function within the company." Further explaining the importance to get the basics right in terms of sustainability within the function and to move away from a typical delivery role into more of a strategy and leadership role within the organisation.

Owen Bethell, mentioned the importance of collaboration in reaching their net zero targets. With their supply chain transformation going on for many years after making their net-zero commitment, there's been an increasing level of ambition and investment and as a result they're spending hundreds of millions supporting farmers in terms of extensions services and premiums. Promoting the use of sustainable agricultural machinery, such as biogas digesters, and encouraging suppliers to look at regenerative agriculture, forestry, and land use change presents an opportunity to develop the scope emissions of both parties. The food system should be looked at in a holistic way, recognising carbon is the main driver but other factors within social issues, natural capital and healthy diets should also be taken account for.

Sriram Rajagopal, states to be more climate positive, they aim to remove more emissions from their value chain than they emit. 98% of their emissions are scope 3. Whilst working with 1600 suppliers, IKEA highlights the recurring importance of collaborating with suppliers and sticking with them through the transition. Their main focus is to enable suppliers to move towards 100% renewable energy by 2030. Supporting suppliers with a toolbox of energy conservation and efficiency management and assisting with the transition of this energy into renewables.

Whilst both IKEA and Nestle use their scale to accelerate change, Mary Cole, representing SME Whitespace, covered the obstacles within her small business. With their circular sustainability aspect going strong, the most challenging aspect looms around suppliers and transport. Hoping to develop the carbon heavy exhibitions industry, by thinking more strategically in terms of how they deliver their products. Working at multi stand events, used as an example, helps reduce the level of carbon produced by transportation by participating at events with stand requirements. Mary further stated the importance of investing as a small business and this can help achieve sustainability and working together towards that common goal within the industry.

All of these companies whilst being representatives of change they have also faced their challenges. "Don't let perfection be the enemy of progress". To finish off, the panel covered their experiences with failure and how they pushed through to change the culture.

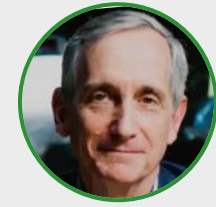
IKEA stated the importance of providing competence. Acknowledging suppliers are at different levels in terms of maturity and understanding and helping them form the fundamentals to understand and make tools and resources available to them. It is equally as important to take into account the competence within the organisation. Staff working with suppliers on a daily basis need to understand climate sustainability and the company's role in supporting it. Nestle touched on the supplier engagement side, reminding us the fact that the path to net zero is not straight, you have to be prepared to adjust, readjust, learn, incorporate and then at a certain level put milestones of requirements or incentives. Celebrating successful failure was a positive light shed by Balfour Beatty. "Focus on those key priorities and be proud of successful failure because we didn't invent the light bulb the first time going. 236 times" Keeping an internal and external diary of everything that didn't work and noting points of successes and failures can help us learn, adapt and identify unintended consequences.

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## DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – FINANCE & INVESTMENT STAGE

### PANEL DISCUSSION: Investing for a Just Transition – Case studies and best practice



**Jamie Broderick**, Deputy Chair,  
Impact Investing Institute



**Bruno Gardner**, Head of Climate  
Change, Phoenix Group



**Anna Draganova**, Director,  
Pollination



**Karima Ola**, Partner, LeapFrog  
– African Financial Services  
investment team



**Lauren Peacock**, Responsible  
Investment and Stewardship,  
Scottish Widows

Almost everyone would say that investing in a just transition is not only an admirable goal but a necessary one at that. What sets these panellists and their respective firms apart is that they are taking decisive action to try and make this vision a reality. Moderator Jamie Broderick, of the Impact Investing Institute, goes over the ways in which his company is promoting the flow of capital towards investments that create a positive social and environmental benefit while still achieving a financial return. Jamie qualifies that these transitions must be just and gives examples of previous ventures that were unsuccessful, as some groups felt like they were getting the short end of the stick, so to speak. These included the 2018 French protests over the rising cost of carbon, fishermen in Britain opposed to an offshore wind farm, residents of Oxfordshire opposed to the construction of a massive solar farm at Glenham Palace, and the Great Green Wall project in Africa.

These projects experienced setbacks due to resistance from people or groups or a lack of engagement, so in response, Jamie and his firm set a list of criteria from which to judge the viability of future investments.

Criteria:

- Products that you build must advance climate and environmental action
- Must be improving socioeconomic distribution and equity
- Need to incorporate and enhance the voices of the community

After introductions from all the panellists, Jamie hands it off to Karima Ola, partner at LeapFrog, to detail a case study on the company Sun King. This business designs, manufactures, and distributes solar systems to underserved populations across Africa and has powered the lives of 100,000,000 people to date. This system has allowed for the replacement of kerosene lanterns and torches, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Karima goes on to describe the "leapfrog" effect as these people are moving from little to no energy to 100% energy in a low-carbon pathway. The combination of delivering for the environment and improving the lives of people without access to energy makes this a model of just transition investment.

Next, we hear from Anna Dragonnova, who serves as director for Pollination. She shares a case study on the East Kimberly Clean Energy Project, the first 100% green energy, green hydrogen, and green ammonia export project in Australia. Anna goes into detail about how 1000 megawatts of solar energy will be combined with hydrogen to generate green hydrogen ammonia. While that is impressive in itself, another attribute stands out from this project, which is that it is a joint venture between Pollination and indigenous community-led organisations in Australia. These communities will benefit from self-determination and economic independence as these indigenous groups are shareholders, which is something that just doesn't happen in the traditional oil and gas sector. Anna closes this example by arguing that we should not see the three dimensions of just transitions in terms of tradeoffs, but rather "as creating synergies and safeguards."

While these are two incredible examples of companies leading the way in the push for a just transition, they are both in the private markets, and most of the capital still sits in the public markets. Bruno Gardner, from Phoenix Group, and Lauren Peacock, from Scottish Widows, shed light on the ways in which the public markets engage with the issue of just transition. Lauren is of the opinion that the knowledge on just transition is out there, but the particularly tricky part is the implementation. She gives the examples of Exxon and Chevron, saying that they need to be persuaded that a transition is even needed at all, but that progress is being made with unions and other bodies leaning on them to begin formulating plans. Bruno sees net zero as a systemic risk, and because of that, he thinks integrating just transition into our thinking is fundamental to protecting and maximising long-term value. He stresses the focus on stewardship and outlines how Phoenix Group has identified 25 companies they're currently invested in that have a less than satisfactory level of action when it comes to climate change. Phoenix Group is engaging with them directly because of their worrying emissions, vague just transition commitments, and lack of meaningful policies that will incite change. This engagement is a positive and telling sign, as the idea of just transition is becoming more and more fundamental to how asset managers in the public sector approach these other companies.

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# DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTED SESSION – NET-ZERO BUSINESS STAGE

## PANEL DISCUSSION: Developing New Metrics of Business Performance



**William Armitage**, Director, Route2



**Danny McNeice**, Sustainability Manager, Pensana



**Rupert Bull**, Founder, The Disruption House



**Richard Edlmann**, Founder and MD, Odysseus Capital Management



**Laura Babbs**, Global Head of Sustainability, No7 Beauty Company



**Quin Murray**, Chief Product Officer, Route2

This panel discusses the importance of measuring the wider impacts of business performance beyond profit. Moderator William Armitage, of Route2, considers how traditional forms of financial accounting do not accurately reflect commercial returns anymore. Carbon footprints and ESG commitments now play a major role in calculating positive benefits and negative costs.

There is a popular belief that shifting to renewable energy is costly, but as Rupert Bull, of The Disruption House, points out, this is not a viable excuse; “Sustainability price is no longer a blocker. If you don’t want to be sustainable, you don’t want to be sustainable...But if you do, cost is not going to prevent you [from] doing so, which has been one of the major frictions” in the past.



These sustainability projects are in fact economic and social opportunities for corporations. Rupert goes on to discuss a study Rabobank conducted with 20,000 of their customers that found the organisations with better credit risk and financials are the ones with higher ESG scores. He explains that by running a sustainable business, you inherently begin running a better business overall - without the introduction of expensive, external consultants. To Danny McNeice, of Pensana, there are scarce challenges that come from introducing environmentally conscious practices. Even without perfect data and metrics, steps to estimating carbon footprints can still be taken, pushing organisations in the right direction. In fact, Quin Murray, of Route2, highlights the importance of simply communicating via data along the supply chain, as transparency itself can yield quality statistics

Richard Edlmann, of Odysseus Capital Management, describes how he organically implemented ESG into a real estate project. An office building he acquired in Edinburgh for its location and future returns turned out to have high ESG credentials. This surprise has allowed for greater future interest and will hit the London Energy Transformation Initiative 2023 metric for carbon development. And Laura Babbs, of No7 Beauty Company, also explains that while their products were not developed with sustainability solely in mind, it has become a framework that supports their journey and agenda in terms of bringing “best in beauty for everyone” to all people, everywhere.

Overall, this panel session highlights the growing importance of measuring and valuing the broader implications of business activities, integrating sustainability considerations into decision-making processes, and the rise of new metrics to assess business performance beyond financial profit.

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## MORE FROM THE MORNING OF DAY 2

### PANEL DISCUSSION: How Do We Build and Finance New Clean Energy Capacity?

Clean Energy Summit

Moderator: **Caroline Saul**, *Partner*, Osborne Clarke

Speakers: **Suzanna Hinson**, *Lead of Emerging Sectors and Lead of Battery Workstreams*, Green Finance Institute; **Peter Radford**, *Director of MEEF*, Amber Infrastructure Limited; **Rubina Singh**, *Deeptech/ Cleantech Principal*, Octopus Ventures; **Katie Marsh**, *Senior Corporate Development Manager*, Field Energy

The Clean Energy Summit aims to foster knowledge exchange, facilitate dialogue, and generate innovative ideas to accelerate the development of clean energy.

This opening session brings together industry experts and financiers to explore strategies for accelerating the development and financing of new clean energy capacity.

Panellists will share insights on the various financing mechanisms available for clean energy projects, including public and private financing, multilateral funding, and innovative financing models. They will also discuss the role of tax incentives, subsidies, and carbon pricing, in attracting investments and promoting clean energy development. It will also analyse the social and environmental implications of clean energy projects, including community engagement, job creation, and environmental sustainability.

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: Clean Energy Procurement Clean Energy Summit

Moderator: **Annabel Sarling**, *Policy and Commercial Development Lead*, LCCC

Speakers: **Joscha Kirschke**, *Head of Europe*, STX; **Alberto Toril Castro**, *Manager, Europe*, Breakthrough Energy; **Ben Tutt**, *Strategic Account Manager*, Bryt Energy; **Tom Parsons**, *Head of Sales and Origination*, Good Energy; **Mark Howitt**, *Chief Technical Officer and Co-Founder*, Storelectric

Join buyers, suppliers and regulators to address the latest thinking on sourcing clean energy in the most efficient and sustainable manner.

The session will explore the challenges and opportunities of clean energy procurement, including navigating regulatory frameworks such as the CfD system, PPAs, evaluating renewable energy options, leveraging data and analytics for decision-making, and implementing best practices for procurement processes. Attendees will gain insights on how to optimise their clean energy procurement strategies to drive positive environmental and financial outcomes, while contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

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“ I think Reset Connect for me is really about the power of community, the power of networks, and the power of focusing on the opportunities that we can tap into if we focus on the solutions to the world’s biggest sustainability problems ”

*Head of Impact Investing, M&G Investments*

### PANEL DISCUSSION: ‘What Makes Impact-Oriented Funds Different?’

Finance & Investment Stage

Moderator: **Cliff Prior**, *CEO*, GSGII

Speakers: **Ben Constable-Maxwell**, *Head of Impact Investing*, M&G Investments; **Seb Beloe**, *Partner, Head of Research*, WHEB Asset Management; **Sarah Hessel**, *Senior Manager, Impact & Sustainability*, Finance in Motion; **Wayne Bishop**, *CEO*, King & Shaxson

How are ‘impact funds’ different from sustainable, screened or themed funds? What impacts can they deliver? How do different asset classes and regions vary?

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: Driving Climate Action Through Responsible Technology Production and Consumption

Net-Zero Business Stage

Moderator: **Sophia Kesteven**, *General Manager*, Tech Zero

Speakers: **Michael Wyatt**, *Director*, ChromeOS EMEA; **Amael Parreaux-Ey**, *CEO*, Resilio Solutions; **Darren Long**, *Sports Technology Integration Project Lead*, Warner Bros. Discovery; **Ben Tongue**, *Digital Net Zero Lead*, NHS England; **Natasha Early**, *Head of Partnerships*, Good Things Foundation

The accelerating pace of technological advancement has revolutionised the way we live and work, but it has also contributed to environmental challenges.

Providing thought-provoking discussion, exploring the interconnection between technology and climate action. They will delve into topics such as sustainable technology manufacturing practices, circular economy principles in the tech industry, and reducing electronic waste. The panellists will also discuss the role of responsible consumption, including extending the lifespan of technology devices, promoting repairability and upgradability, and fostering a culture of responsible tech usage among consumers.

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## MORE FROM THE MORNING OF DAY 2

### PANEL DISCUSSION: Energy System Decarbonisation Clean Energy Summit

Moderator: **Philip New**, *Non Executive Director*, Norsk Hydro ASA

Speakers: **Grace Millman**, *Senior Energy Analyst*, Regen; **Jodie Giles**, *Head of Innovation, Prospering for the Energy Revolution*, Innovate UK; **James Walker**, *CEO*, Nano Nuclear Energy Inc; **David Wright**, *Chief Engineer, Electricity & Gas*, National Grid

This panel discusses the imperative of a system-wide transition to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly energy system. The session will delve into key strategies and technologies for decarbonising energy-intensive industrial sectors, including renewable energy integration, Green Hydrogen, Nuclear, energy storage, electrification of transportation, grid modernization, policy initiatives, and highlights the importance of raw materials and minerals to the transition.

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: A Day In the Life – Managing Sustainability in Major Organisations Net-Zero Business Stage

Net-Zero Business Stage

Moderator: **Kalyani Inampudi**, *Independent ESG and Carbon Consultant*

Speakers: **Renat Heuberger**, *CEO*, South Pole Group; **Elisa Moscolin**, *EVP, Sustainability & Foundation*, Sage; **Dr. Maximilian Schnippering**, *Head of Sustainability*, Siemens Gamesa; **Abi Duff-Walker**, *Head of Sustainability Risk & Excellence*, DWF Law LLP; **Mattie Yeta**, *Chief Sustainability Officer*, CGI

- Navigating Stakeholder Engagement
- Integrating Sustainability into Organisational Strategy
- Overcoming Financial Barriers
- Navigating Regulatory Landscapes
- Measuring and Reporting Impact
- Driving Innovation and Collaboration

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: Scaling Sustainable Aviation – The Rapid Transformation Required To Decarbonise Air Travel and Transport, and The Critical Role That SAF Has To Play Clean Energy Summit

Clean Energy Summit

Moderator: **Matthew Gorman**, *Chair*, Sustainable Aviation, *Director Of Sustainability*, Heathrow

Speakers: **Maxime Molenaar**, *Head of Sales and Propositions*, SkyNRG; **Antoine Poulallion**, *Director – Sustainability*, Boston Consulting Group; **Brett Orlando**, *Managing Director – Global Head of Commodity Transition | Global Commodities*, Bank of America; **Carrie Harris**, *Director of Sustainability*, British Airways; **Julia Fidler**, *Environmental Sustainability - Fuel & Materials Decarbonisation Manager*, Microsoft

The success of the proliferation and development of the Sustainable Aviation Fuels market across Europe, and globally, holds the potential key to achieving net zero aviation. The industry has grasped this opportunity with both hands, but cross-sector collaboration, policy adoption, access to project finance and funding new infrastructure are the key pieces of the puzzle that this session will address.

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: New to ESG? What do Wealth Managers, Investors, IFAs and Intermediaries Need to Know About Net Zero? Finance & Investment Stage

Finance & Investment Stage

Moderator: **Julia Dreblow**, *Founding Director*, SRI Services

Speakers: **Kate Elliot**, *Head Of Ethical, Sustainable And Impact Research - Rathbone Greenbank Investments*; **Karen Ermel**, *Director - Responsible Investing*, Coutts; **Tom Blathwayt**, *Director of ESG, Europe*, RBC Brewin Dolphin; **Ben Palmer**, *Lead Portfolio Manager*, LGT Wealth Management; **Wayne Bishop**, *CEO*, King & Shaxson

What is (and is not) Net Zero?

What are the key recent developments, what is required now and what does leadership look like – and what should advisers be telling clients?

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“ It was wonderful to play an active role in Reset Connect 2023. The event attracted an impressive range of climate related businesses and expertise, creating an atmosphere of hope, innovation and collaboration. It was incredible to see the range, quality and quantity of content within the conference. For My Net Zero, being a hub sponsor and speaker was a powerful way to engage in intimate conversation, opening a large number of prospects for the business. ”

*Founder, My Net Zero*



## Is your tariff as green as it seems? Five essential questions for organisations to ask their supplier.

*Many organisations are securing energy tariffs labelled “100% renewable”, but are they as green as they seem? Jaron Reddy, UK & Ireland Manager at ENTRNCCE, explains how organisations can gain greater transparency.*

In April 2023, energy supplier OVO announced it will stop using renewable energy guarantee of origin (REGO) certificates to label its tariffs as green. Why? Because “100% green” electricity bought under a REGO-backed tariff is no greener than any other grid energy. REGOs are issued to generators as guarantees of the energy’s source (one REGO per MWh of green power) but can then be sold separately from the energy itself. This allows suppliers to buy cheaper dirty (or dirty-ish) energy on the wholesale market and then label it as green through the purchase of a raft of unconnected REGOs.

Unfortunately, many customers don’t realise this, and quite reasonably believe that “100% green” means what it says. The misleading nature of REGO-backed tariffs has been a cause of concern for quite some time, and the UK government has been looking into ways to make the selling of energy to consumers more transparent. In the meantime, organisations on “green” tariffs should be scrutinising the details of their own contracts and asking those suppliers some tough questions – especially if renewal time is approaching.

### 1) Where does your electricity come from?

If your business sites are connected to the grid and your contract is a conventional business tariff with a licensed supplier, then the energy reaching you from the grid will obviously be the same mix everyone else is receiving. But this doesn’t mean all tariffs are equal. The crucial element that determines how well your business is decarbonising is how your supplier invests your money.

The greenest option here is for the supplier to either run its own renewable generation assets and/or have direct agreements with renewable energy generators. Suppliers who do neither of these things are likely to be “greening” the purchase of fossil fuel power (or a mix of generation sources) through the retrospective purchase of REGOs. This is effectively a green accounting fiction that does not help your company’s money to support the growth of new renewables.

### 2) Can you say how much of our energy is coming from clean sources?

As a customer, you can’t demand that your supplier actually does immediately switch to 100% renewables. The reality is that 24/7 clean energy isn’t actually possible yet. But you can ask for the data behind whatever label they have given your tariff. It is possible to take half-hourly snapshots of exactly what mix of energy sources is in the grid at any one time, and it is also possible to track your consumption to work out how well it aligns with renewable output. This is why ENTRNCCE created [the Matcher](#): to finally give businesses an accurate picture of how green their consumption really is. Your supplier should be able to share such a picture with you too.

### 3) What is your view of the OVO decision and the current marketing of tariffs?

OVO has made a bold move in the direction of greater transparency. Others could follow suit in the future. Before you commit to renewing with a supplier, you should find out whether they see this move as a model for their own future, or what else they are considering to contribute towards the growth of renewables in the UK.

### 4) The government is reviewing the marketing of green energy tariffs. How will this affect our contract with you?

The government’s consultations and calls for evidence on the UK energy market were somewhat overtaken by other priorities in 2022. But it seems that the government is about to restart its review into the way suppliers market energy to customers. This could mean a complete overhaul of the system and an end to the labelling of REGO-backed offerings as “100% green”. Your supplier should have a plan for how it will keep its customer offering compliant with new, stricter regulations.



### 5) Can we report zero Scope 2 emissions and is this likely to change?

We know that REGO-based green tariffs are causing many businesses to seriously overestimate emissions reductions. Many are incorrectly reporting their Scope 2 emissions (those from purchased energy) as zero because they are on a tariff misleadingly labelled “emissions-free” or “100% renewable”. This could cause compliance headaches in future, especially since the Greenhouse Gas Protocol has been reviewing its guidance on Scope 2 reporting. There are other potential sources of reputational risk, such as failing to meet the criteria for a science-based target or wrongly reporting progress on net zero goals. Your supplier should support your business in its decarbonisation efforts by offering clarity on exactly what kind of energy you are consuming and how this relates to your reporting.

Now that one supplier has raised the bar on fighting greenwash, it is likely that others will follow suit. More again will act in response to the wave of regulatory change expected later this year.

If you’re a high-volume energy user with reporting responsibilities, we can help you ask the tough questions now to ensure your clean energy strategy is transparent and futureproof. We can also help you understand where your energy is really coming from, every half an hour, and model a pathway to carbon-free energy. To find out more, get in touch or book a demo of the Matcher.

[www.entrncc.co.uk](http://www.entrncc.co.uk)



## DAY 2 LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE

### The Lessons learned from the Net Zero Review



**The Rt Hon Chris Skidmore OBE MP,**  
*Chair, Net Zero Review*

Former Energy Minister, Chris Skidmore, discusses his authoring of the Net Zero Review Report and its implications for governments and businesses. This report is not simply a list of what actions need to be done to achieve net zero emissions, but highlights why this task is so important and the benefits it will bring.

Skidmore suggests that in this race to a carbon free world, “net zero is not simply an environmental policy tool that seeks to balance our carbon dioxide emissions set out in the Paris Agreement...net zero is now the economic opportunity of this decade, if not the century”.

Environmental regulations, such as the termination of CO2 production, have positive economic and social consequences. With the shift away from fossil fuels, we will see 480,000 new jobs by 2023, as more and more corporations invest in renewable projects to meet their ESG commitments. There is a common misconception that shifting to green energy will hurt jobs and economic opportunity, but that is simply not the case. It is equally as important to fight misinformation and maintain confidence from the public.

“ I think Reset Connect is a fantastic platform for driving change within the energy sector in the UK. I’ve seen myself not just from the contributions by speakers, but the businesses and companies that are demonstrating here today ”

Skidmore explains the only way to move forward is to create an “overarching programmatic structure” that puts in place “the frameworks around policy, data, transparency, [and] governance” rather than individual policy actions. It is important to allow every sector to feel ownership over their recommendations to bolster collaboration efforts. This structural change is not a linear process. Sometimes when taking 3 steps forward, you risk taking 2 steps back, but as long as we are looking in the right direction, positive change is possible.

In the Net Zero Review, Skidmore lays out the “4 C’s” critical to this mission-based approach: certainty, clarity, consistency, and continuity. And when these are secured, the “5th C” of confidence is earned. This is the “confidence of the business community and the private sector to come and invest...in the UK”. These investments for the future can only be achieved through bipartisanship and widespread support. The United Kingdom’s leadership in climate policy comes critically from sectors entering the UK and investing in projects here. It is thus important to maintain the conditions that yield these finances from businesses.



This support can be achieved through the passage of long term programmes rather than short term projects. This means that regardless of the party affiliation and beliefs of the next leaders, these initiatives will be set in place and unmoveable.

These actions must critically happen at the regional level as well. In fact, when looking at the majority of UK cities, “many of them will meet net zero way before 2050”. Skidmore addresses the importance of localised knowledge and putting “power in the hands of communities that know what is needed”.

Skidmore concludes by addressing the unease that is often coupled with these kinds of big, structural changes: “The actual process of change... is no different from when we went off coal fires to gas boilers. When we moved from single pane windows to double glazing. When we moved from DVDs to Netflix. When we moved from plastic, big telephones to mobile phones. We’ve done it before. We can do it again. We’ve got to have the confidence and the enthusiasm and the positivity that this change can be achieved”.

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## MORE FROM THE AFTERNOON OF DAY 2

### PANEL DISCUSSION: Optimising the Role of Innovation and Technology in the Energy Transition

Clean Energy Summit

Moderator: **Yumann Siddiq**, *Policy Manager, Energy UK*

Speakers: **Manu Ravishankar**, *Innovation Lead, Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund, Innovate UK*; **Andy Hackett**, *Policy Manager, Centre for Net Zero*; **Stephen Brooke**, *Partner, Environmental Technology Fund, Hambro Perks*; **Matthew Willis**, *Senior Innovation Manager, Carbon Trust*

This session gathers industry disruptors to discuss cutting-edge technologies, novel business models, and innovative solutions that are driving the transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon energy future.

Discover breakthrough advancements in renewable energy, energy efficiency, digitalization, grid management, emerging trends and opportunities in energy markets, and what the increasing investment in Technology and Innovation means for future energy demand in the UK, Europe and beyond.

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### PANEL DISCUSSION: Housing & Mortgages; How Can We Play Our Part in Sustainability and The Path to Net Zero?

Finance & Investment Stage

Moderator: **Rachael Hunnisett**, *Green Mortgage Campaign Lead, Green Finance Institute*

Speakers: **Richard Merrett**, *Director of Strategic Relationships, SimplyBiz Mortgages*; **Chloe Timperley**, *Senior Policy Adviser, AMI*; **Stephanie Charman**, *Strategic Relationships Director, Sesame Bankhall Group*; **Trudy Woolf**, *Sustainability Director, Legal & General Surveying Services Ltd*; **Lizan Kuster**, *Director Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Habitat for Humanity International* the impact of housing on the climate

Discussion on: the impact of housing on the climate; how mortgage finance can assist consumers in retrofit; what mortgage lenders are doing to support this; what advisers need to be aware of; and why it is important for intermediary businesses to get behind

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### PANEL SESSION: Disruptive Business Models and Partnerships: Engaging Customers in the Circular Economy

Net-Zero Business Stage

Moderator: **Dr. David Greenfield**, *Vice President, Circular Economy Institute (CEI), Co-founder and Urban Miner, etsaW*

Speakers: **Martin Bunch**, *Managing Partner, Bates Wells*; **Ben Kellard**, *Director of Business Strategy, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership*; **Loïc Le Fouest**, *Customer Experience Lead, Clarasys*; **Merryn Haines-Gadd**, *Research Fellow, University of Exeter*; **Sophie Thomas**, *Chief Design Garbologist, etsaW Ventures*

The discussion will cover the latest trends and developments in the circular economy and how companies are engaging customers to drive change. Panellists will share their experiences in creating and implementing new business models and partnerships that support a circular economy, and discuss the challenges and opportunities of such initiatives. Topics of discussion will include the role of technology in the circular economy, cross-sector and private- public sector collaboration, and the importance of education and awareness in engaging customers.

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### Closing Keynote: The Future is in Our Hands



### Closing Keynote: The Future is in our Hands

Moderator: **Erinch Sahan**, *Business & Enterprise Lead, Doughnut Economics Action Lab*

Speakers: **Jarvis Smith**, *Co-Founder, My Green Pod*; **Maddie Booth**, *National Head of Sustainability, ETF (Education and Training Foundation)*; **Emma Askew**, *Founder & Director, Earth Minutes*

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“ Reset Connect is important to bring together practitioners, different areas and industries and combine it with real solutions and developments out there in the market. I like that it's combined with the financing aspect because ultimately financial investors and the finance community are key to driving change. It's really important we we stop discussing what to do but really do something and be actionable. So it's really important to be at such an event to see how you can become actionable to drive the change that our world needs. ”

*Head of Sustainability, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy*



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## Understanding the Voluntary Carbon Market Through Industry-leading Data and Intelligence

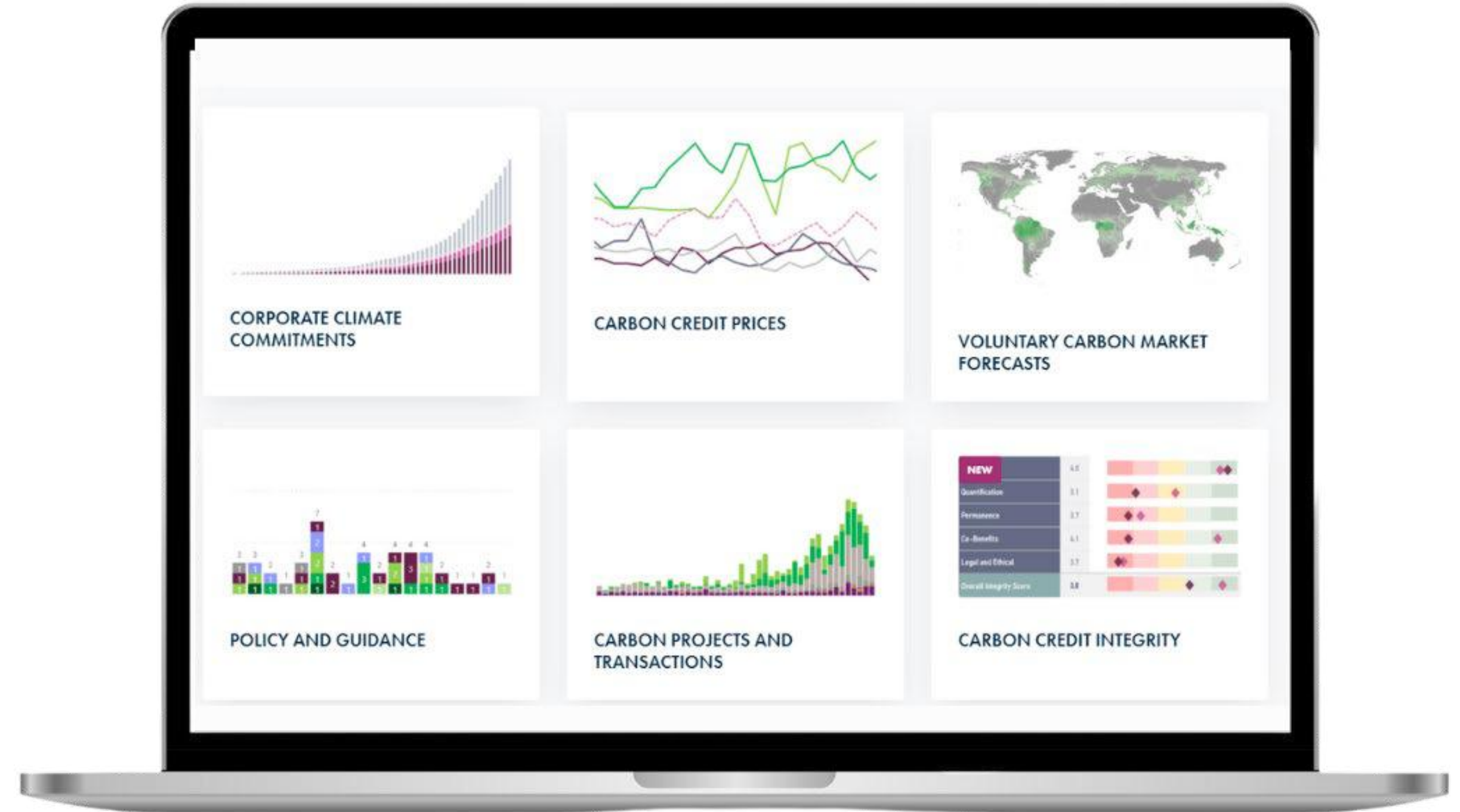
Trove Research, a leading carbon market data and research firm, has recently unveiled critical analysis that is set to revolutionize the decarbonization landscape. According to their review of over 4,000 corporate climate commitments combined with data on the purchase and utilisation of carbon credits, Trove Research has discovered a statistically significant trend: companies that embrace a substantial volume of carbon credits are achieving decarbonization quicker than their counterparts, observed at around twice the rate. Firms utilizing significant quantities of carbon credits are consistently decarbonizing at an annual rate of approximately 6%. Comparatively, similar firms that do not engage with carbon credits are only achieving a modest decarbonization rate of around 3% per year.

Moreover, the report indicates that companies employing higher integrity and higher-priced credits are achieving even faster emission reductions, although the strength of this trend is relatively milder when compared to sector or regional variances. These findings dispel the notion that companies voluntarily purchasing carbon credits are obtaining a "license to pollute." On the contrary, the evidence accumulated over the past five years overwhelmingly suggests that the voluntary acquisition of carbon credits provides a powerful incentive for companies to expedite their emission reductions.

One possible explanation for this phenomenon lies in the fact that when companies purchase credits, they voluntarily assign a value to their emissions, resulting in a yearly cash expenditure within their budgets. As a result, these companies actively strive to minimize their costs, thereby strengthening the internal business case for emission reduction initiatives during the firm's investment and budget approval processes. Companies actively engaging with carbon credits are likely to demonstrate a genuine commitment to addressing their climate impact and possess well-developed strategies for mitigation and carbon credit utilization. The analysis also highlights the dual role of credits: not only do they assist companies in mitigating their emissions impact, but they also serve as powerful incentives for driving down their overall carbon footprint.

Trove Research are able to conduct insightful analysis due to their comprehensive database of voluntary carbon market projects, corporate climate commitments, carbon credit pricing and tracking of ongoing policy updates. This information is accessible through their Trove Intelligence subscription platform.

To learn more about Trove Research, and how it can help your firm make more informed climate-related decisions, contact the team at [info@trove-research.com](mailto:info@trove-research.com) or visit their website: [www.trove-research.com](http://www.trove-research.com)



Trove Intelligence: the leading data and insights platform for corporate climate commitments, carbon credit pricing, policy & guidance, carbon projects & transactions, carbon credit integrity, and carbon market forecasting.



# SHOWFLOOR HUBS

## Innovation & Technology Hub

Sponsored by:  **Starling Bank**


This Hub highlighted the work of sustainability pioneers and out-of-the-box thinkers who are leading the charge for groundbreaking climate solutions. These innovators come from all industries, business stages and sizes.

## Collaboration Corner

Sponsored by:  **CIRCULAR ECONOMY INSTITUTE**

This area showcased speakers and case studies from across the ecosystem working on cross-sector initiatives, from events, corporate giving, logistics and transportation, utilities, energy-intensive sectors and supply chains who are working to lower emissions, create better energy efficiency and productivity, along with seeking new, experimental and disruptive ways of decarbonising and reusing

## People & Careers Hub

Sponsored by:  **MY NET ZERO**

At this Hub sustainability heads and business leaders shared best practices for building a great sustainability team and sustainable business. Green recruiters provided advice and knowledge to newcomers to the sector and already-established professionals looking to develop their sustainability careers.

## Wealth & Investment Management Hub

Sponsored by:  **M&G Investments**

This was a dedicated space hosting the full cross-section of finance and sustainability stakeholders, which included ESG and ethical fund managers, financial advisers and intermediaries, and financial services providers to help attendees advance their agendas and address objectives.



## Industry Systems Hub

Hosted by:  **CAFA**

CAFA will hosted this Hub for a second time. An interactive focal point of the show, designed to bring sustainable solutions to life and couple innovation with sector transformation, the Hub showcased the critical role that associations and membership bodies play as catalysts for climate action.

## EnergyTech Hub

Connecting innovative clean energy businesses with potential clients and funding, the Hub offered a dedicated space for stakeholders across the energy value chain to meet a targeted cross-section of innovators within the EnTech ecosystem. We also be hosted a range of relevant content sessions, across our other stages throughout both days of the event.

## Sustainability Hub

This Hub was space for innovative start-ups and scale-ups showcasing their products and solutions.

## London Climate Action Week Hub & Bar

Sponsored by:  **EXCEL LONDON**  **whitespace group**

A dedicated space for in-person events from the wider LCAW week of activities and thought leaders, it also provided a space for the Sustainable Events industry to discuss updates and case studies, as well as key players contributing to London's net-zero transition.

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We are currently putting together our draft programme for Reset Connect 2024 whilst keeping an eye on emerging themes to come out of COP28.

**DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED?**

A key element of Reset Connect London is the thought leadership opportunities on the main stages and the hubs. We make the event as inclusive and accessible as possible so we do not charge visitors for these sessions. We want Chief Sustainability Officers, green teams, investors & advisers, sustainability directors & industry professionals to come in their thousands so we offer free tickets to all. This in turn means we need to charge exhibitors and sponsors for stands and speaking slots. If you have a non-commercial, end-user or policy session we may make an exception to this policy.

Please submit a Call for Papers form and you may get selected. But the way the guarantee you get on a stage is by paying. We prioritise payers because without them we can't run the show.

**RC RESET CONNECT**

**25 – 26 June 2024 | ExCeL London Climate Action Week**

**The leading sustainability & net-zero event for business, investors & innovators**

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