



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Environment & Climate Change' Series

Achieving Net-Zero

22 September, 2020

Expert Insight

We were joined by Sinead Lynch, UK Country Chair, Shell, to discuss the route to net-zero. Sinead touched on many points, including:

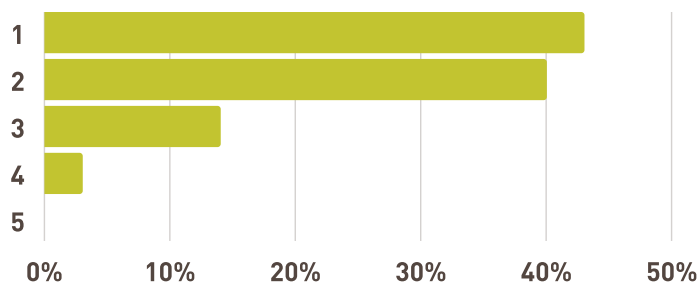


- According to the Committee on Climate Change, the policy frameworks needed to reach net-zero must be in place by the end of this parliament. There is a clear will for action on decarbonisation. What's needed now are the means to achieve this.
- 3 principles that underpin a green recovery include: government focus on areas that deliver low-carbon investment and create jobs quickly, such as hydrogen, renewables and CCS; support from existing industries, such as oil & gas, that is explicitly linked to carbon reduction commitments; and demand-side measures that stimulate consumer spending on lower carbon technologies.
- The Contracts for Difference framework has made the UK a world leader in offshore wind. The CfD framework could be used to cut the costs of the next generation of wind power technology: floating wind turbines.
- We need to focus on the delivery of 2-3 low carbon technology clusters in the UK, that tackle the hard-to-abate sectors such as steel cement and chemicals. This would include significant investment in CCUS and hydrogen.
- Industry and government will need to work closely with one another, to ensure that the appropriate measures are put in place to deliver these infrastructural changes.

Cross-sector Opinion

Over 100 attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them:

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all, 5 being very), how confident are you that global temperature increases will kept within a safe limit?



Our members' questions

Our members asked some challenging questions. Some of the issues raised included:

- Whether Electric Vehicles are truly better for the environment in the long term, and if energy would be better spent focusing on hydrogen
- Whether the UK should consider a policy framework in line with the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Proposal
- How evidence on the safety of new technologies can be shared between countries, and to what extent international collaboration on net-zero will be necessary, as the UK cannot reach its goals alone
- What is needed to transition the UK Oil & Gas sector away from hydrocarbons and into supporting the renewables industry

WIG members can listen to Sinead's presentation [here](#)
To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk