



**WIG**

The Whitehall & Industry Group  
connecting the sectors



## 'Environment & Climate Change' Series

### COP26: The Role of Cross-Sector Collaboration with Matt Toombs, Director of Partnerships & Engagement, COP26

## Expert Insight

We were joined by Matt Toombs, Director of Partnerships & Engagement, COP26 to discuss how industry, government and civil society can collaborate in the fight against climate change ahead of COP26. Matt touched on some of the following:

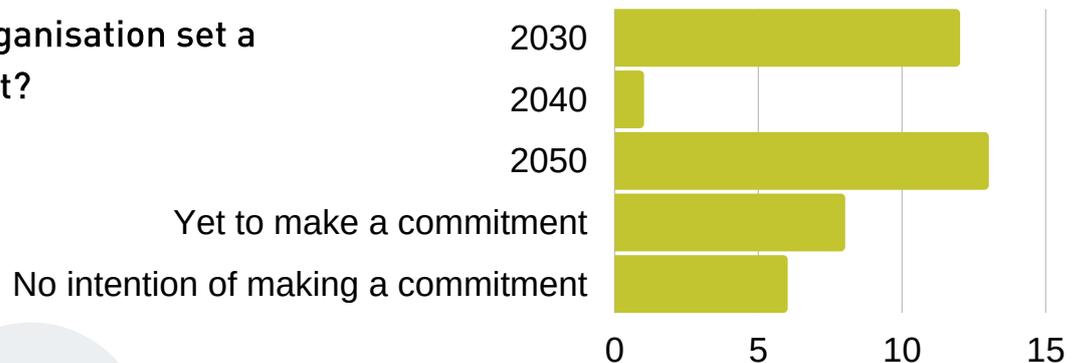


- COVID-19 has dramatically shown the need for countries to prepare and build for future shocks, including the effects of climate change and the need for stress-testing.
- COP 26 is a fantastic opportunity to showcase UK business and show what is possible. Businesses should try to set net-zero targets as early as possible and not wait until the statutory 2050 target. The earlier they can achieve this, the more influence they will have, especially when working with their supply chains to drive up ambition from a much broader number of organisations.
- Working with local government and cities will be a priority, as they have a key role to play in committing to specific climate actions.
- Engaging wider civil society is also critical in ensuring that COP26 is genuinely inclusive. Barriers need to be removed to give a voice to a diverse network within global civil society.

## Cross-Sector Opinion

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

By when has your organisation set a net zero commitment?



## Our members' questions

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

- If the UK's exit from the European Union will impact our ability to work in a collaborative way, and if so, how this can be helped.
- What the role of digital technology is in achieving net-zero targets.
- How businesses can directly engage with COP26, both during and in the run-up to the conference.

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