



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Environment & Climate Change' Series

The Impact of Climate Change on Nature: Challenges for Industry and Government

Expert Insight

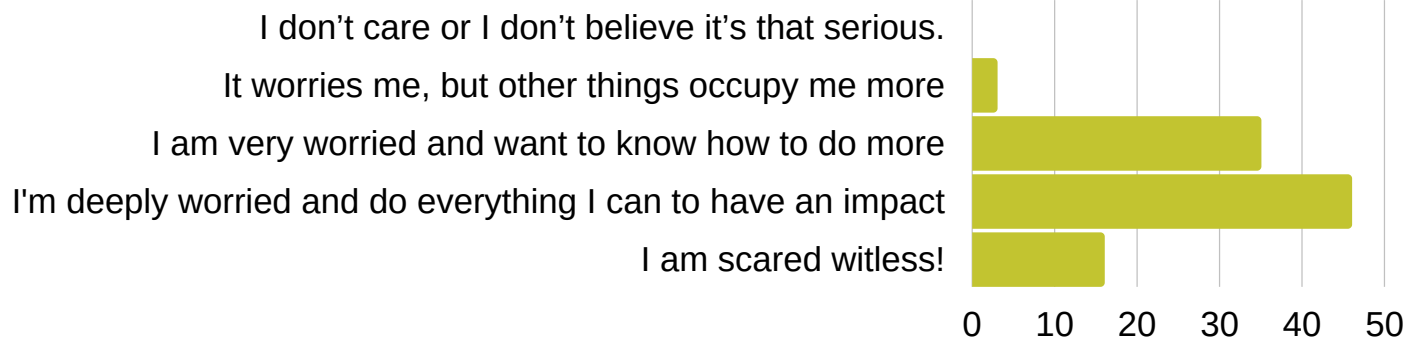
We were joined by Gareth Redmond-King, Head of Climate Change at WWF-UK, to discuss the impact of climate change on the natural environment. Taking a look at the major challenges faced by industry and government, Gareth touched on many points:



- Over the last 100 years, global temperatures have increased by more than they did in the previous 12,000; 19 of the 20 hottest years on record took place in the 21st Century; and from 1974-2014, we saw wildlife populations decline by 60%.
- The resulting impact includes extreme weather events that have displaced populations across the world; a rapid decline in the services provided by the natural world, such as carbon sequestration; and a rate of global warming that is twice the safe limit, as set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- In the midst of this climate crisis, businesses and governments must decide whether they want to prepare for 1.5-degree warming, or climate breakdown. Fortunately, the steps necessary to combatting climate change are also very good for the global economy: investing in green technologies, renewable energy, and resource efficiency, will provide significant savings over the long run as well as reskilling opportunities for the world's workforce. Moreover, for every £1 invested in green technologies, we can expect to see a return of 3-8 times that amount.

Cross-Sector Opinion

Over 100 attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them: How worried are you about the climate & nature crises?



Our members' questions

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

- The ways in which a new regulatory regime could minimise the wrong types of consumption - fast fashion, polluting products, disposable/non-repairable products
- Whether businesses are prepared to coordinate and share examples of best practice to improve climate change policy
- How Brexit could be used to advance the climate agenda rather than it being another complicating/impeding factor

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