



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Environment & Climate Change' Series

The Impact of Climate Change on the Global Economy

Expert Insight

We were joined by Jean-Francois Coppenolle, Head of Credit and Sustainability Risk at Aviva, to discuss the impact that Climate Change could have on the global economy. Speaking on the costs of inaction, Jean-Francois touched on many points, including:

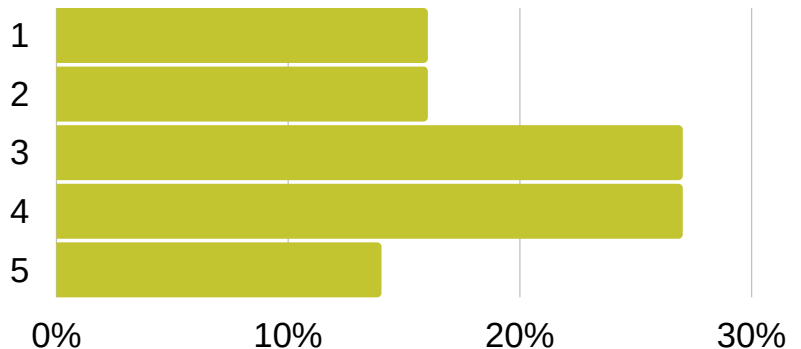


- If we are to avoid the worsening of climate change related impacts, global temperature increases must be kept below 1.5°. We are currently on track to surpass this by the mid 2030s, with most of London set to be below the flood level as soon as 2050.
- This will create severe economic shocks across the world, as environmental damage and extreme weather events cause supply chain disruption, resource scarcity and weakened market participation (especially in poor countries).
- Addressing climate change should therefore not be seen as incompatible with growth, but essential to it. Quicker action on mitigating climate change will result in a smoother transition to a green economy, and lower physical risk from the effects of climate change (such as from rising sea levels and natural catastrophe).
- To meet the 1.5° benchmark, countries must half their carbon emissions every 10 years, starting now. This is the 'carbon low'. If we fail to meet this target, we will fail in the fight against climate change.

Cross-Sector Opinion

Over 130 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 concerned are you about the cost of a green, climate-friendly economy?



Our members' questions

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

- The global nature of climate change and the role of international policies such as 'carbon border taxes'
- Whether GDP needs to be replaced by a new measure of economic health that accounts for the environment
- What must happen at COP26 to ensure that existing targets are met, and appropriate new ones created
- The role of hydrogen, nuclear, wind and solar in the world's energy mix, and where economic tensions exist within the energy sector

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