



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Infrastructure' Series WIG/UKRN Workshop: Balancing Infrastructure Renewal with Net- Zero Targets

Expert Insight

In this joint event with the UK Regulators Network on Net-Zero Infrastructure, we were joined by Niva Thiruchelvam, HM Treasury; Jane Dennett-Thorpe, Ofgem; Prof. Charles Donovan, Imperial College; and Suleman Alli, UK Power Networks. Our speakers touched on a vast amount of topics, including:

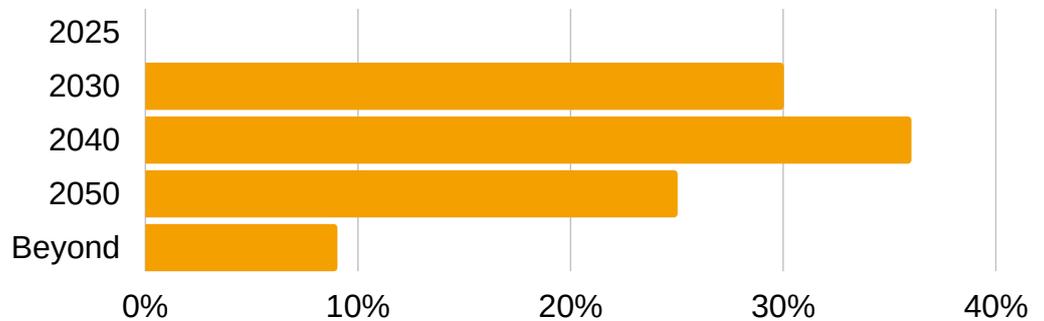
- 30 years was the difference between pagers and worldwide instant connectivity. This level of innovation must be mirrored to achieve Net-Zero, and past success shows it is feasible.
- To achieve effective change, investment in networks and low carbon infrastructure needs to be incentivised. However, it is vital that consumers interests are protected alongside the roll-out of new, innovative products and services.
- We need to move beyond a binary idea of 'green' and 'dirty' industries, thinking more about standards that apply to all sectors, industries and markets.
- Those living in flats currently pay more to charge an electric vehicle than those with their own driveway. As energy and infrastructure come together, inequality must be addressed. Similarly, there will be a concomitant need to enhance digital skills across the workforce.



Cross-sector Opinion

Over 100 WIG members from across the sectors tuned in live, we asked them:

When do you think the infrastructure needed to achieve Net-Zero will be in place?



Our members' questions

Our members raised some challenging questions to be answered. The issues raised included:

- Whether state intervention can be mobilised to facilitate the implementation of new technologies.
- How consumers can be incentivised to adopt greener utilities that don't provide value for money.
- If the net-zero agenda aligns with levelling up, and where there are opportunities for regions.
- The way to ensure that Net-Zero strategies do not detract from firms' viability and attractiveness.
- How infrastructure investment can be delivered at pace, given the range of pressing issues (both net-zero timeframes, as well as macro economic stimulus).
- The role of nuclear energy and fusion power in the Renewables Obligation (RO) programme.

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