

Your Net-Zero Journey and the Team You Need

Panel Event Information Pack

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EVENT OVERVIEW

Thank you watching our recent event: Your Net-Zero Journey and the Team You Need. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Our multi-disciplinary panel provided invaluable insights and advice along with an energetic audience participation which gave further opportunity to discuss particular sustainability challenges.

In this pack, the panel has shared information and resources on subjects discussed at the event as well as additional material to support you and your organisation on your journey to net-zero.



Karli Hiscock

Partner, Real Estate

Bates Wells



Karli specialises in commercial property transactions and advises organisations on how to embed ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) within their property strategy. Karli is establishing a specialism in the sustainability aspects of real estate and is working with impact-driven organisations to sustainably acquire, manage, and dispose of property assets.

Key Takeaways:

Collaboration is key

- Collaboration has increased significantly, and there is a real movement towards rolling up our sleeves collectively and not waiting to be told through legislation.
- Competitors are working together across many industries - even lawyers!

Challenges facing property owners

- Traditional leases aren't helpful in the need for properties to be net-zero.
- Restrictions on alterations, capital expenditure being recoverable, and landlord and tenant relationships are all barriers to sustainability.
- Karli emphasised the need to move to a [circular economy model](#).

**"Act now! Learn from each other and be bold.
Have the difficult conversations"**

Karli Hiscock

Resources:

1. Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES)

The [Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard \(MEES\)](#) established a minimum level of energy efficiency for privately rented property in England and Wales. From 1 April 2018, landlords of privately rented property in England or Wales must ensure that their properties reach at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E before granting a new tenancy to new or existing tenants. These requirements will apply to all private rented properties in England and Wales, even where there has been no change in tenancy arrangements from 1 April 2023 for non-domestic properties. We are likely to see increased requirements – it remains to be seen whether enforcement action will be taken.

2. Changes to Climate Law

In July 2022, in a Judicial Review challenge, the court found that the 2021 net-zero strategy is inadequate, and the government needs to provide more information. This [article](#) by [Friends of the Earth](#) provides more information.

3. Better Business Act

The [Better Business Act](#) is seeking to change a specific section of the companies act to empower directors to align duties to shareholders with people and planet.

4. Chancery Lane Project

[The Chancery Lane Project \(TCLP\)](#) is a collaborative initiative of international legal and industry professionals whose vision is a world where every contract enables solutions to climate change. They create new and practical contractual clauses ready to incorporate into law firm precedents and commercial agreements to deliver climate solutions.

Check out [Green Element's recent podcast](#) featuring The Chancery Lane Project.



Paul Coverdale

Membership Coordinator Volunteer

Business Declares



**Business
Declares**

Paul Coverdale is the founder of [purpose AMPLIFIED](#), a consultancy that helps SMEs to understand how they can become better businesses. Paul is also a volunteer for [Business Declares](#), a network of businesses that actively come together in different ways through events, sharing of useful resources, and nascent working groups e.g., small business across various sectors to support each other on the journey to net-zero. Collectively it pushes for relevant regulatory change with other aligned organisations. It also acts as a gateway to other networks e.g., [B Corp](#), [Race to Zero](#), [Fashion Declares](#).

Key Takeaways:

Biodiversity

- Biodiversity and nature are increasingly being discussed alongside carbon - you cannot tackle one without tackling the other.
- Practically all businesses should be looking to measure their natural impact including that of their value chain, especially if you require land, water, or other natural resources to grow or manufacture your products.
- If you are a service business, consider the impact on biodiversity of your client base. If you have premises, how much is nature incorporated into their design or operation?

**"Apart from 'just start', be bold and brave.
Don't wait for frameworks, policymakers to
tell you what to do!"**

Paul Coverdale

Frameworks:

The two global frameworks below are in various stages of development and not yet mature enough for companies to actively use, but they are coming.

1. Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD)

The [Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosure](#) is a risk management and disclosure framework that aims to shift financial flows from being nature negative to nature positive. More than 50% of the world's economic output (\$44tn) is either moderately or highly dependent on nature. It is aligned with the [TCFD](#) in its structure and requirements.

2. Science-based Targets Network

The [Science Based Targets Network](#) extends the work of [SBTi](#) to encompass all earth systems including nature. It comprises 45+ organisations that are developing methods and resources for SBTs for nature for companies and cities. One particular initiative is the [FLAG \(Forestry, Land and Agriculture\) Project](#) to help businesses that operate in those sectors to better capture their emissions and move towards greater sequestration.

Resources:

- [Business in the Community](#) has a strand of work around nature stewardship, and one of its 7 steps for climate action is investing in nature. The website contains practical examples.
- The WWF has a [Corporate Blueprint](#) that goes beyond Science-based Targets (SBTs) to include climate and nature in corporate strategy.
- As part of [The Environment Act \(2021\)](#), the [Office of Environmental Protection](#) was created. Although its principal task is to hold the government to account, it has introduced the principle of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to assess an area or project's value for wildlife. It will be mandatory to measure the BNG for public projects from November 2023.



Fran van Dijk

Chief Executive Officers
One Stone Advisors



Fran is the Chief Executive Officer of [One Stone Advisors](#), an environmental consultancy helping businesses become more effective sustainability leaders. Fran is an expert in supporting ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) leadership and accelerating positive impact. Fran's forte is to help sustainability leaders focus on the things that matter most, especially when it comes to sustainability opportunities and risk.

Key Takeaways:

Engaging Stakeholders in Net-Zero

- Stakeholders want to hear a very clear strategy; they want to know where you are now, where you want to get to, and how long it will take the organisation to get there.
- Do not rely on volunteers to be sustainability champions - build it into their job descriptions and make sure it is part of their performance reviews.
- Use the Sustainable Development Goals as a tool for storytelling within your organisation. Find out more about the interconnected nature of the SDGs [here](#).
- Fran emphasises the need to inspire your supply chain to take action. [Carlsberg's Together Towards Zero and Beyond](#) ESG strategy is a great example of this.
- Using sustainability apps such as [DoNation](#), [Giki Zero](#), and [Pawprint](#) are great tools to involve your team and incorporate some fun into your sustainability journey.



Emma Littlewood



Strategy Director

Green Element & Compare Your Footprint



As Strategy Director for [Green Element](#) and [Compare Your Footprint](#), Emma advises organisations on climate plans, and designs analytical tools to enable calculation of sustainability performance indicators. She developed Compare Your Footprint in 2017, an online tool that semi-automates the carbon footprint and benchmarking process using a comprehensive software platform.

Key Takeaways:

- There has to date been a lack of clarity about corporate climate change definitions and claims of net-zero, carbon neutral, carbon negative and even the confusing term "carbon positive".
- If you hear net-zero by 2025 or 2030, it will probably include offsetting; this is problematic because offsets either remove carbon over a very extended time period, or don't remove any carbon at all.
- With the approach of COP27, organisations would do well to ensure they've committed to science-based reductions through one of the [UNFCCC's Race to Zero programme](#), preferably through committing to science-based net-zero through SBTi (but there are other partners - see the list [here](#)).
- Biodiversity and greenhouse gas reductions are inextricably linked; we won't achieve net-zero if we continue with the current rate of human-caused species extinction. [Business Declares](#) has provided a great set of resources to help you get started factoring biodiversity into your business model.

Guidance:

1. Reducing Emissions - where to start?

Organisations can reduce scope 3 emissions much more steeply than they might at first believe. Switching to 100% renewable electricity combined with behaviour change around energy consumption can quickly reduce scope 2 carbon emissions. Heating buildings without fossil fuels is easily achievable, but the upfront cost is high, so moving to heat pumps, storage units, and radiative panels needs some planning and investment, and can take 5 to 10 years to implement depending on the building.

Scope 3 emissions are in your value chain - but these can be addressed through a combination of behaviour change incentives for colleagues and clients, investing in decarbonised fleets and using lower-carbon public transport, and most importantly collaborating with value chain partners to find ways of lowering embodied emissions in products and services.

2. Climate Justice at the Centre of your Carbon Reduction Plan

With indigenous people largely in the global South being hit hardest and fastest by negative impacts of climate change, whilst having contributed the least to global heating, climate justice is going to be hard to achieve, and that's why we at Green Element and Compare Your Footprint promote it to such an extent. Be careful if you pay into carbon offset or carbon credit projects; some of the biggest land grabs in history have been conducted in the name of carbon removals, paid for by the global North but implemented in the global South.

[Survival International](#), [Climate Justice Alliance](#) (North America), [Rainforest Action Network](#), [Climate Just](#) (UK), and other organisations can help you put climate justice at the centre of your climate strategy.

3. Addressing Climate Risk

If your organisation has not addressed its climate risks, now is the perfect time to start. Begin by considering your supply chain and stakeholder network and start imagining what would happen if climate change caused travel, transport, energy supply, water supply, sea-level rises or other disruptions. Look at whether you are part of the forward-looking transition to a decarbonised world, or at risk of getting left behind or holding stranded assets.

“If you just look at carbon, you’re missing the point. All of the other environmental impacts that humans have on the planet all feed into the net-zero strategy as well”

Emma Littlewood

Resources:

1. Science Based Targets initiative

The [Science-based Targets initiative](#) (SBTi) is a consortium of various NGOs and think-tanks such as the [World Resources Institute](#), [United Nations Climate Change Committee](#), and [CDP](#). In October 2021, the world's first and only corporate science-based net-zero standard was launched by the [Science Based Targets initiative](#) (SBTi), giving the corporate world a science-based framework facilitating greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets in line with what climate science says is required to maximise the probability of limiting global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. However, many corporations around the world are either unaware of this standard or don't realise the importance of adhering to it, so some unscientific claims of net-zero still exist.

SBTi's net-zero targets permit only 10% of baseline emissions to be remaining at the net-zero date, and these 'residual' emissions must be permanently removed by the net-zero year, and every year, while any unmitigated emissions remain.

2. Calculating Scope 1, 2, and 3 Emissions

The way forward for organisations is to calculate their full scopes 1, 2, and 3 baseline emissions following the [GHG Protocol Corporate and Accounting Standard](#) either through internal systems or using a third party calculator like [Compare Your Footprint](#). Using this, companies should sign up to validate near-term and long-term (net-zero) science-based targets through the SBTi, ensuring that carbon reductions are at the centre of their sustainability goals, and that funds are not diverted away from real carbon reductions into 'offsets', which do not remove the carbon on their labels within any specified time period.

Check out Compare Your Footprint's [Business Road Map to Net-Zero](#) for further guidance on reaching net-zero.



Phil Korbel

Director of Advocacy

The Carbon Literacy Project



In 2012, Phil co-founded the [Carbon Literacy Project](#) that offers everyone a day's worth of carbon literacy learning, covering climate change, carbon footprints, how you can do your bit, and why it is relevant to you and your audience. In his role as Director of Advocacy, Phil meets leaders across many sectors to enable their use of his NGO's unique framework for climate action training.

Key Takeaways:

- Phil emphasises the intersectionality of climate action, and that just focusing on carbon is not enough to make effective change. The Manchester based B Corp [One and All](#) are a great example of this. They were looking at fair trade and employee ownership before they came to the Carbon Literacy Project, and their embracing of climate action completely aligns with their other SDG actions.
- The public are ready to act on climate, but they need the right tools and permissions to move forward.
- It is all about enabling your people. Start working within your organisation and culture, and the passion for the environment becomes infectious.
- [BBC](#) Children's department was the Carbon Literacy Project's first carbon literate organisation. [Listen to employees at BBC Children](#) talk about how the Carbon Literacy Project helped their organisation.



THANK YOU

A huge thank you to our panel members [Emma Littlewood](#) of [Green Element](#) and [Compare Your Footprint](#), [Karli Hiscock](#) from [Bates Wells](#), [Paul Coverdale](#) from [Business Declares](#), [Fran van Dijk](#) of [One Stone Advisors](#), and [Phil Korbel](#) from [The Carbon Literacy Project](#), for providing fantastic insights and advice on how to start or accelerate organisation's net-zero journeys.

We are also very grateful to [Adrian Clamp](#) of [J Coffey](#) for being interviewed about his net-zero journey and the experience of implementing and integrating an environmental strategy in a large organisation. Watch his full interview [here](#).

We would like to extend a huge thank you to [X+Why](#) for hosting our event, [Toast Ale](#), [When In Rome](#), and [Greedy Vegan](#) for providing outstanding food and beverages, and sustainable media production company [Velvet Green](#) for capturing this fantastic event.



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