



NET ZERO 
energy transition week

Speaker biographies



Host:

Janet Wood



Editor

New Power

Janet Wood has been a journalist covering the power and energy sector for 30 years, covering technology, policy and politics as editor of magazines including Power Engineering, Asian Electricity, Middle East Electricity and Utility Week. She is currently editor of New Power Report, (www.newpower.info), which covers the UK energy transition.

She is a member of the Customer Engagement Group for gas network Cadent and the Transmission User Group for SPT. She is also a council member of the BIEE and the Parliamentary Group on Energy Studies.

She has a BSc in Physics and Chemistry and is the author of two books for the IET, on nuclear energy and on local-scale heat and power projects in the UK.

Carbon Trust speaker:

Tom Delay CBE



Chief Executive
Carbon Trust

Tom was appointed as the first Chief Executive of the Carbon Trust in 2001. Since then, he has grown the company to become a world leader, advising businesses and governments on carbon emissions reduction and the development of low carbon technologies, markets and businesses.

More recently, he has taken the company's unique capabilities to China, Singapore, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa, extending its mission to accelerate the move to a sustainable, low carbon future.

A chartered engineer, Tom worked for Shell for 16 years in commercial and operations roles in Africa and Europe before moving into management consultancy with McKinsey and A.T. Kearney.

Tom is a member of the UK Energy Research Partnership and the advisory boards of the Centre for Climate Finance and Investment at Imperial College London and the Global CO2 Initiative at the University of Michigan. He studied mechanical engineering at the University of Southampton and completed an MBA at INSEAD, Fontainebleau.

In 2018, he was awarded a CBE by the Queen for services to sustainability in business.

Carbon Trust speaker:

Andrew Lever



Director

Carbon Trust

Andrew joined the Carbon Trust in 2014 during which time he has developed the company's energy systems innovation and advisory service into a trusted source of expert knowledge and support for businesses and governments in the UK and internationally.

A key thought leader in the energy system transition, Andrew co-authored the influential report 'Can storage help reduce the cost of a future UK electricity system?', which remains one of the most comprehensive reviews of the benefits of storage at a UK-system level.

Andrew is a champion of whole systems thinking and applies this to support new approaches and innovation in renewable system integration, local energy systems, consumer engagement and smart grid development.

Prior to joining the Carbon Trust, Andrew spent 16 years with E.ON working across both commercial and strategy roles in the UK, Germany and Europe. He developed E.ON's energy services business and managed the organisation's European retail innovation portfolio.

Andrew studied chemical engineering at the University of Strathclyde and completed an MBA at Warwick Business School

Carbon Trust speaker:

Hannah Evans



Manager

Carbon Trust

Hannah is part of the energy systems and offshore wind teams and has worked in the energy sector since 2011 across the public sector, regulatory bodies and research organisations. Prior to joining the Carbon Trust, Hannah was the bioenergy strategy lead at the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) and Energy Systems Catapult (ESC), examining the role for bioenergy in a whole systems context.

Before this, Hannah specialised in licensing policy for the Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) regime at Ofgem.

Hannah has an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London and a BSc in Natural Sciences from the University of Bath.

Carbon Trust speaker:

Oliver Richards



Senior Associate
Carbon Trust

Oliver is a Senior Associate in the Carbon Trust's energy systems team. He has five years of experience supporting public and private sector clients, both in the UK and internationally, to understand how different sources of flexibility can help to increase the penetration of variable renewable energy in energy systems.

Oliver is also an Incubation Manager in the Carbon Trust's incubation team, where he plans and delivers strategic support to early stage companies in the clean energy sector.

Oliver joined the Carbon Trust after graduating with a first class MEng degree in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London, where he focused on clean tech innovation in the energy sector.

Carbon Trust speaker:

Manu Ravishankar



Associate Director
Carbon Trust

Manu has been working in the low-carbon energy sector for over a decade, across a variety of technical, analytical and innovation roles. He has championed the use of whole systems thinking to develop effective policies and innovation strategies to aid a cost-effective energy transition.

He has led projects across a range of key topic areas including flexibility in electricity networks, public sector decarbonisation, local area energy innovation models and consumer engagement on smart metering. He is the project manager for Carbon Trust's latest cross sector consortium project– Flexibility in Great Britain.

Manu holds an MSc (Distinction) in Carbon Management from the University of Edinburgh and an MSc in Managing Environmental Change from the University of St Andrews. He has also recently completed a certificate program in Systems Thinking from Cornell University

Keynote speaker:

Dan Hamza Goodacre



Climate and Energy Advisor

25 years providing climate solutions to governments, philanthropic foundations, international organisations and businesses. Currently supporting the COP26 High Level Champions team, the Energy Transition Council, and the COP26 Presidency Unit. Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and Chartered Environmentalist

Keynote speaker:

Richard Smith



Co-Director of Energy Systems
Management & Security

Ofgem

Richard is Co-Director of Energy Systems Management & Security working alongside Charlotte Ramsay in Ofgem's first Executive level job-share arrangement. He has worked in the energy sector for over 20 years, holding a number of engineering and operational leadership roles in National Grid ESO. His wider portfolio of experience includes time as a School Governor; a Parish Councillor; and as a Pension Board Trustee

Keynote speaker:

Julia King



Baroness Brown of Cambridge
Chair of the Carbon Trust

Baroness Brown chairs the Climate Change Committee's Adaptation Sub-Committee and acts as the UK's Low Carbon Business Ambassador.

She is Chair of the Sir Henry Royce Institute for Advanced Materials, a Non-Executive Director of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and a Council member of Innovate UK. She is a Fellow of both the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society.

Previous roles include a decade spent as the Vice-Chancellor of Aston University, serving as Principal of the Engineering Faculty at Imperial College, London, and a series of senior business and engineering posts at Rolls-Royce plc.

Keynote speaker:

Chris Stark



Chief Executive
Climate Change Committee

Chris Stark is the Chief Executive of the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC), the independent authority on tackling climate change under the UK's Climate Change Act. Chris leads a team of analysts and specialists, offering expert insight into the challenges of reducing UK emissions and adapting to the changing climate.

Chris led the CCC's work to recommend a 'Net Zero' target for the UK – and has since directed detailed analysis and advice on the UK's path to carbon neutrality. He speaks regularly on the transition to a zero carbon economy and the need to confront climate change with urgency.

Chris has wide experience in government. He has designed economic policy in Whitehall, including in HM Treasury and the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. He was previously Director of Energy and Climate Change in the Scottish Government, leading the development of the Scottish energy and climate strategies.

Keynote speaker:

Professor Goran Strbac



Professor of Energy Systems
Imperial College London

Goran Strbac is a Professor of Energy Systems, with extensive experience in advanced modelling and analysis of operation, planning, security and economics of energy systems. He led the development of novel advanced analysis approaches and methodologies that have been extensively used to inform industry, governments and regulatory bodies about the role and value of emerging new technologies and systems in supporting cost effective evolution to smart low carbon energy future.

He is currently Director of the joint Imperial-Tsinghua Research Centre on Intelligent Power and Energy Systems, Leading Author in IPCC WG 3, Member of OFGEM RII0-2 Challenging Group, Member of the UK Smart System Forum, Member of the European Technology and Innovation Platform for Smart Networks for the Energy Transition, and Member of the Joint EU Programme in Energy Systems Integration of the European Energy Research Alliance.

Keynote speaker:

Matt Hastings



Head of Innovation – Energy
Systems

InnovateUK

Matt Hastings has been developing and delivering disruptive change programmes across energy and utilities for the last 15 years.

He's currently working at UKRI as Deputy Director for the OFGEM Strategic Innovation Fund. Prior to this he was Head of Innovation on the Prospering from the Energy Revolution Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund with a focus on data and digitisation.

Before Innovate, Matt spent 5 years at Centrica where he was Programme Director of the multi award winning Cornwall Local Energy Market and managed an ECO programme with British Gas and Cornwall Council. Prior to Centrica Matt led on energy at the Eden Project reducing emissions and costs by 25%, setting up the UK's first staff owned PV installation (Solarfair) and the first collective switching project in the UK, Cornwall/UK Together.

In his early career he set up several start ups and worked in the Video Games industry prior to studying renewables in 2005.

Panellists

What are the major energy system developments that will be required to achieve net zero by 2050?



Steve Hargreaves

Strategy Director, EDF Energy

Steve Hargreaves joined the Energy Industry in 1987 as a graduate trainee with the Central Electricity Generation Board directly following his graduation in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from the University of Nottingham. Steve joined Seeboard plc in 1989 where he remained until the purchase of Seeboard by EDF. Steve has fulfilled a diverse set of roles over his career including a key role in the privatisation of Seeboard, Energy Risk Management, Power Station Project Development, and leadership roles in the Customers Business.

For the last ten years Steve has acted as Strategy & Energy System Economics Director, and played a key role in leading EDF Energy's input into the UK electricity market reform programme and in developing the economic case for the Hinkley Point C project. Over that time Steve has played a key role in aligning EDF's UK strategy towards addressing climate change and very recently he has taken on formal responsibility for EDF's Sustainability agenda.



Becky Hart

Strategy Manager, National Grid ESO

Becky has been working in and around the energy sector for the past 15 years, giving her an inevitably whole system view of the world. Starting at Centrica, she worked on EU Policy before undertaking an MSc in Environmental Management whilst working across their power generation fleet. She moved into sustainability consultancy with WSP, specifically working on sustainable building design and led the development of sustainability strategies for new schools, hospitals, offices and homes. After a few years living in Turkey, Becky took a role with Calor Gas, where in the Corporate Affairs team, she led on policy as well as the development of the responsible business plan for the company. Most recently, Becky joined the ESO, initially to write the Future Energy Scenarios and is now leading the FES follow-on project called Bridging the Gap

Panellists

What are the major energy system developments that will be required to achieve net zero by 2050?



Alex Coulton

Head of Policy & Insights, Low Carbon Contracts Company

Alex has spent the last 10 years working on GB energy policy and decarbonisation agenda which was proceed with 10yrs in the construction sector. His career in policy started at RenewableUK, the trade body for the wind and marine energy sector, during the development of the Electricity Market Reform. For the last 4 years Alex has been instrumental in building the necessary capability in the Low Carbon Contracts Company to be able to support the Government's evolving energy policy including the providing advice on the development of new policies for Industry Carbon Capture and Hydrogen sector.



Nathan Wyatt

Senior Policy Advisor, National Infrastructure Commission

Nathan Wyatt is a Senior Policy Advisor at the National Infrastructure Commission looking at the long-term evolution of the energy sector. He has previously worked at the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Committee on Climate Change and HM Revenue and Customs.

He holds degrees in mathematics, operational research and environmental policy from the Universities of Edinburgh, Warwick and Birkbeck.

Panellists

What is the role of smart technology in unlocking the benefits of flexibility?



Chris Curry

Head of Flexibility, Bryt Energy

Chris Curry heads up the Optimisation operation at Bryt Energy. He is focused on delivering propositions to help businesses unlock the inherent flexibility in their operations as well as supporting the uptake of transition technologies such as batteries, heat pumps & EVs. Chris has a background in renewable energy, energy storage & EV fleet development, as well as 10 years in finance, spanning the UK, Europe & Latin America.



Jay Zoellner

Chief Executive, Kiwi Power

Jay is an experienced, successful executive in both public and private energy companies. He has served as the CEO / President of venture backed energy companies, public and private energy technology company executive experience, and 30+ years P&L experience. He co-founded an energy technology startup that grew revenues through internal cash flow to \$17 million annually with \$100 million in forward contract values before outside funding. Jay has developed, built, owned, operated and financed renewable and CHP projects in long term PPA structures and is now in London focusing his efforts on growing Kiwi Power's energy technology business internationally.

Panellists

What is the role of smart technology in unlocking the benefits of flexibility?



Dhara Vyas

Head of Future Energy Services, Citizens Advice

Dhara leads a team that's focused on putting people at the heart of the transition to net zero. She is responsible for ensuring the consumer voice is heard when it comes to designing and planning the future energy market. Dhara advocates for consumers across a range of issues including decarbonising heat, improving the efficiency of homes, electric vehicles, local area energy, smart homes and energy data.

Dhara has worked on energy issues for over a decade, and has a broad range of strategic policy, research and advocacy experience. Prior to this she led a number of different projects that impact on people's lives outside the energy market - including community engagement, local authority scrutiny, localism and devolved budgeting.

Panellists

What is the role of networks in supporting the energy system transition?



Roger Hey

DSO Systems & Projects Manager, Western Power Distribution

Roger joined the electricity industry as a graduate trainee in 1990. Originally known as East Midlands Electricity successive owners and brands followed including Powergen, Central Networks and E.ON. He has managed a variety of operational and central business areas incorporating power engineering, information systems and digital technologies.

Since 2011 Roger has led WPD's innovation and business change programmes. More recently as Electricity System Manager he has also taken on the responsibility for policy related to customer connections and system design, supporting customers as they adopt low carbon technologies in response to UK net-zero ambitions.

A key component of delivering net-zero is upgrading the electricity network into a digitally enabled and flexible grid. Therefore, to drive this transformation Roger's department also encompasses leadership of teams accountable for digitalisation and operational control systems.



Melanie Bryce

Programme Director, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)

Melanie Bryce is the Oxfordshire Programme Director at Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN), and has worked across SSE since joining the company as a Graduate Engineer in 1996. She has wide ranging energy sector experience gained from roles that have spanned Wholesale Risk Management, Networks Regulation and Asset Management. This has most recently included leading Engineering and Investment teams, focussing on the Asset Management of the Distribution Network. Melanie has a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Birmingham University.

Panellists

What is the role of networks in supporting the energy system transition?



Keith Owen

Chair of Hydrogen Committee, IGEM and Head of Systems Development, Northern Gas Networks

Keith has led and supports a variety of energy research programmes such as the NGN H21 programme and the Cadent / NGN HyDeploy project. He also leads the development of the NGN InTEGReL facility, a collaboration between Industry, Academia and wider stakeholders to create a whole energy systems research and development centre, which aims to drive out the benefits of energy sector coupling and accelerate pathways to net Zero.

Keith is the chair of the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers Hydrogen Committee, seeking to revise all UK gas industry standards to support the transition to 100% hydrogen.



Stathis Mokkas

Energy Markets Lead, UK Power Networks

Stathis is the Energy Markets Lead in the Smart Grid Development team. He is driving UK Power Networks distribution flexibility markets activities and innovation projects that support the whole electricity system, such as the Power Potential Project.

Previously, he spent 7 years in Ofgem focussing in the implementation and monitoring of the RII0-T1 price control. Also, he has led business development activities for an energy group in Southeast Europe in the gas and electricity sector. Stathis holds an MSc in Composite Materials from Imperial College and an MBA from Warwick Business School.

Case studies

Whole system approach



EDF Energy

Philip Valarino, Electric Vehicle Lead



Carbon Trust

Jan Matthiesen, Director



Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

Melanie Bryce, Programme Director



Greater London Authority

Rick Curtis, Programme Director



Institute of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM)

Keith Owen, Chair of Hydrogen Committee