



Pinsent Masons

## Net Zero Summit 2025

### Speakers

**Kerry McCarthy M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Climate), Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (Keynote)**

**Councillor Adam Hug, Leader of Westminster City Council and Chair of the LGA's Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board, Local Government Association (Keynote)**

**Claire Atkins-Morris, Director of Sustainability, Sodexo**

**Philip Glanville, Director of Advocacy and Engagement, UK100**

**James Hay, Principal Climate and Sustainability Advisor, Pinsent Masons LLP**

**Christine St John Cox, Platform Lead, Complex Site Decarbonisation, Energy Systems Catapult**

### Facilitators

**William Hall, Head of London Public Policy and Strategic Communications, Pinsent Masons LLP**

**Mike Sewell, Plan Zero Director, Mitie (Panel Facilitator)**

*The BSA, in collaboration with BSA member Pinsent Masons LLP, held an event to update on national and local government's policies and priorities for a more sustainable economy and society. The event explored the role that the business services sector can play in supporting the UK's transition to net zero.*

Peter Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive of the BSA, welcomed attendees to the event.

Hilary Robertson, Chair of the BSA, also welcomed attendees and discussed the scale of the challenge faced to achieve net zero, and the sector's role in spearheading the transition.

William Hall, Head of London Public Policy and Strategic Communications, Pinsent Masons LLP, outlined Pinsent Masons' commitment to achieving net zero.

William then invited Councillor Adam Hug to deliver the local government keynote speech.

Councillor Adam Hug, Leader of Westminster City Council and Chair of the Local Government Association's Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board, began by providing an overview of the LGA's recent work and publications, including on building collaboration between councils and the UK Government.

Councillor Hug discussed the importance of taking an area-based approach to local climate action, adapted to varied local needs. The importance of developing a skills offer relevant to the local community was also raised.

Participants then had the opportunity to ask questions. Discussion points included the importance of considering how communities may benefit from local energy infrastructure, opportunities to drive community wealth building, and supporting supply chain SMEs in the transition to net zero.

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Finally, Councillor Hug highlighted the centrality of climate action in contract delivery, and the importance of building relationships between local government and suppliers.

Colleagues forming the Industry Partnerships Panel were then invited to the stage.

James Hay, Principal Climate and Sustainability Advisor, Pinsent Masons, discussed the potential impacts of AI on net zero policy, including the amount of energy required to run national energy infrastructure such as data centres.

Claire Atkins-Morris, Director of Sustainability, Sodexo, outlined Sodexo's progress to net zero, including the role of supporting supply chain partners including SME's and VCSE's and the importance of aligning with social mobility.

Philip Glanville, Director of Advocacy and Engagement, UK100, discussed collaborative working with local authorities and the importance of demonstrating the practical value of net zero.

Christine St John Cox, Platform Lead, Decarbonisation, Energy Systems Catapult, raised the importance of innovation and change, both from a system and technological perspective, and the opportunities and challenges of digitising the energy system.

A panel discussion was then facilitated by Mike Sewell, Plan Zero Director, Mitie. Topics of discussion included opportunities for green skills, apprenticeships and youth mobility in the transition to net zero, alongside implications for health benefits.

Kerry McCarthy M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Climate) in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero was then invited to deliver the central government keynote speech.

The Minister began by discussing the industrial opportunity posed by net zero, including in terms of fostering jobs and export opportunities. The Minister gave an overview of the Government's announcements since the election, for instance lifting the ban on onshore wind, funding carbon capture and hydrogen projects, and founding Great British Energy.

The Minister emphasised the role of the business services sector in the transition, including the role of SMEs and local net zero delivery groups. The reporting challenges that many SMEs may face was referenced, including opportunities for industry to work with supply chain partners to address this.

A question-and-answer session was then facilitated by William Hall. Discussion points included how industry and government can work collaboratively to achieve net zero objectives and the role of hydrogen in the transition to net zero. The potential impact of international shifts on UK net zero policy was raised, including opportunities for organisations to posit net zero as a necessary cost to deliver long-term savings and added benefits.

The event concluded with gratitude expressed to all speakers and participants.