



Zemo Partnership NEWS

Thursday, 1 February 2024

Council for Net Zero Transport formed to accelerate UK transport decarbonisation

A new Council for Net Zero Transport, convened by Zemo Partnership, comprising senior stakeholders will help steer UK transport's decarbonisation transition as it moves into the crucial delivery phase.

The Council will be chaired by Lord Deben, formerly UK Environment Secretary and Chair of the Climate Change Committee. It will engage senior figures from government, industry, environment and academic sectors to help focus the Partnership as we work together to forge a clear, strategic direction for road transport decarbonisation.

Lord Deben said: "Our generation faces no greater challenge than that of tackling climate change.

"With transport responsible for over a quarter of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, if we're going to solve this problem we have to effectively decarbonise transport. We must do this for our environment, and we will reap rewards both politically and economically from doing so."

Zemo's new Executive Director, **Claire Haigh**, said: "Decarbonising transport is a vital – and particularly challenging – element of the UK's legally binding net zero targets.

"The policy prescriptions needed to do this are complex, nuanced and cross-sectoral, and achieving a successful outcome will be of huge benefit to the UK's

environment, society and economy. This is too vital a task for us to be distracted by over-simplifications and the short-term vagaries of our political system.

“We have some world-leading targets but we’re at a key moment in the transition and what we need now is a laser-like focus on delivery. To achieve this, we’ll need the full participation of government (nationally and locally – to the level of each town and parish council) industry, consumers and operators.”

Zemo Partnership (formerly Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership/LowCVP) is a uniquely broad stakeholder partnership. A not-for-profit organisation, it has been working for over two decades to provide unbiased guidance to government and industry around the policy and initiatives needed to accelerate road transport decarbonisation.

As a trailblazer project for the rest of the UK, Zemo Partnership is also announcing today an exciting new project on behalf of the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Commercial Vehicle Decarbonisation programme will deliver a bespoke strategy for Wales covering heavy and light-duty commercial vehicles, with focus on sustainable fuels, electrification and the potential role for hydrogen. Zemo will be working closely with the Government of Wales to develop the strategy and routes to delivery.

Commenting on the project, **Lee Waters**, Deputy Minister for Climate Change in the Government for Wales said: “We’re excited by the potential of this project to stimulate and accelerate the decarbonisation of commercial vehicles in Wales which we view as a key challenge on our path to net zero.”

Zemo Partnership’s Chair, **Philip Sellwood CBE**, said: “The new Council for Net Zero Transport along with the invitation to work alongside the Welsh Government come at a key time in transport’s decarbonisation transition.

“We’ll be working even more closely with our wide-ranging membership to focus on what we need to do together to deliver the targets in the best interests of our environment and the UK’s industrial future.”

To download a copy of Claire Haigh’s report ‘Delivering Net Zero in a Changing World’ [CLICK HERE](#).

For further information, please contact:

Neil Wallis, Head of Communications. neil.wallis@zemo.org.uk M: 07974 255720

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. About Zemo Partnership

Zemo Partnership (www.zemo.org.uk) is a public-private partnership working to accelerate a sustainable shift to low carbon fuels and zero emission vehicles. Prior to 2022, the organisation was known as the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership. Zemo convenes the widest network of stakeholders to help advise on decarbonisation policy initiatives, identify key barriers and take initiatives to resolve them. Around 230 organisations are engaged from diverse backgrounds including automotive and fuel supply chains, vehicle users, academics, environment groups and others. Zemo Partnership celebrated the achievements of the past twenty years with an anniversary conference held at London's City Hall last June. [Zemo's 'Top 20' achievements](#) was published alongside the occasion. (Also [see this video link.](#))

2. About the Zemo Partnership Consultation

Last year, as a member of Zemo Partnership's Board of Directors, Claire Haigh carried out a wide-ranging survey of the views of senior stakeholders on the past role and future opportunities for the Partnership. The study provided the basis of a strategic review commissioned for the Partnership's 20th anniversary year. The key conclusions of the review were that working in closer cross-sectoral collaboration is essential in order to accelerate the transition to net zero transport in the UK. The Council for Net Zero Transport is a key component of that vision.

The Partnership's c230 member organisations and sectoral working groups will be the 'engine room' which will formulate optimal pathways (roadmaps) to meet decarbonisation targets.

Zemo's members have already been introduced to the concept behind the Council with a high proportion engaging with the process and expressing their strong support.

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