


CEN's Councillor magazine

Winter edition



CONSERVATIVE ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Alexander Stafford MP | Cllr Deborah Urquhart | Cllr Sunita Hirani
Policy briefings | CEN campaigns | Councillor success stories

Conservative Environment Network

We are the independent forum for conservatives in the UK and around the world who support net zero, nature restoration, and resource security.



“ I am proud to support CEN and the excellent work that you do. CEN has played an invaluable role in our Party over the last decade, with some notable achievements, including campaigning to scrap VAT on insulation, and securing a Natural History GCSE. ”

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak



“ We as conservatives understand the importance of conservation. We understand the importance of preserving our planet. We can lead it to a greener form of growth. That's what we're about and what the CEN is about. ”

Former Prime Minister Theresa May

Join the Conservative Environment Network

If you want to get involved and learn more about conservative environmentalism, join our growing networks.

Supporter Network - Benefits include exclusive events and newsletters on key environmental debates.

Councillor Network - Benefits include exclusive briefings, case studies, discussions and newsletters for councillors leading on the environment locally.

Join us now using the QR codes.



Become a CEN Supporter



Become a CEN Councillor

www.cen.uk.com

@CEN_HQ



In this edition

Director's note
By Sam Hall

MP's letter
By Alexander Stafford MP

Boosting electric vehicles in your local area
By Cllr Sam Payne

How West Sussex County Council is supporting the uptake of electric vehicles
By Cllr Deborah Urquhart

Community benefits for new energy infrastructure
By Megan Batchelor

How the Rampion offshore wind farm has benefitted the local area
By Megan Batchelor

Delivering for residents on waste
By Kitty Thompson

A community-led biodiversity project in Brent
By Cllr Sunita Hirani

Water corner
By Kitty Thompson

Upcoming events and supporting CEN
By Isabel Goodwin

Our work

We bring conservatives together to debate environmental issues, find consensus, and champion conservative solutions.

As conservative environmentalists, we believe that man-made climate change and the decline of nature are a threat to our national prosperity and security.

We believe only a conservative approach can unite people, grow our economy, and protect our environment.

We support science-based environmental action, which empowers individuals and harnesses the power of the free market.

Our network

We work with like-minded conservative parliamentarians, councillors, and supporters from the UK and overseas.

- Over 135 MPs and peers are members of CEN's Parliamentary Caucus.
- Over 450 councillors are members of CEN's Councillor Network.
- Over 900 conservatives have joined CEN's Supporter Network.
- More than 300 legislators from over 45 countries have signed our Centre-Right Climate Action Declaration.

Join our growing network today.

Director's note

Conservative environmentalism can build a positive and popular electoral vision



Welcome to CEN's second councillor magazine. In this edition, we will be sharing policy ideas and case studies to help you deliver your environmental priorities. We have pieces on a wide range of topics, from EV charge-points and renewable energy developments, to recycling and community gardens. We hope you find lots of helpful information and inspiration for your work as a councillor.

Making progress towards our environmental goals isn't just important for protecting our natural world and safeguarding the planet for future generations. It's an electoral imperative for any party seeking to win power. 2024 is going to be a bumper year of elections. While the cost of living will be at the forefront of voters' minds, polls show that the environment remains a top five priority for voters. That's why we believe positive environmental policies must be at the heart of manifestos.

Conservatives should start by talking more about their positive record. Conservatives across the UK have taken big steps to improve the environment - whether at the national level overseeing policies to cut emissions faster than any other G20 nation and build the biggest offshore wind sector in Europe, or locally with work to roll out more EV charge-points and create more biodiverse habitats to connect people to nature. This shouldn't be a surprise: conserving is in the DNA of all conservatives. Yet many are unaware of these achievements.

The scale of the environmental challenges we face, however, and the fact we are still only halfway to net zero and haven't yet turned the corner on nature's decline, mean that we can't rest on our laurels. We have to put forward bold ideas to build on and accelerate this environmental progress.

That's why CEN is publishing an update to our 'campaigning on the environment' toolkit. As well as giving you the best political and economic arguments

or environmental leadership, it provides a list of campaign ideas and pledges which can demonstrate your environmental commitment to voters through policies that are rooted in conservative principles. You can read our 'campaigning on the environment' toolkit by scanning the QR code below.

Whether it's setting a tree planting target or leading an application to get a popular local river designated as a bathing water to help more people access nature, supporting more 'school streets' schemes and school bus services to cut pollution from the school run or expanding the provision of public EV charge-points, we propose a plethora of practical, popular policies that councillors and aspiring councillors can champion to deliver environmental goals at the same time as improving our communities and benefiting the economy.



Environmental policies are an asset for conservatives at the ballot box. Polling by Focaldata from last summer found around two thirds of all voters support the 2050 deadline, with support among Conservative voters slightly higher at 73 percent. They can unite the Conservative voter coalition, as they complement and reinforce core conservative values of intergenerational responsibility, the importance of prosperity and security, and our love of home.

We hope you make the environment a central part of your campaigns this year. Thank you for reading.

Sam Hall is Director of the Conservative Environment Network

MP's letter

Only conservatism can deliver for the environment. That's why I support CEN



This is a vital year for both our party and our country. With elections looming at council, mayoral, and parliamentary levels, we must work together to put forward a positive vision for the UK's future prosperity and security.

This vision must be rooted in conservative principles. It must unlock the UK's economic potential by utilising the free-market toolkit we know works. Most importantly, we need to get Britain building, restore consistent growth to our economy, and create high-paid, skilled jobs for people across the UK.

We must also remember that it is our duty as conservatives to conserve; we take the environment that past generations have gifted us, preserve it, and pass it on, enhanced, to future generations.

And these are the principles that the Conservative Environment Network (CEN) champions.

It has pioneered conservative environmentalism - combining both free-market principles and conservation of both Britain and our planet - for over a decade. Its membership includes Conservatives from right across our party.

That is why I am proud to be a CEN caucus member and to have worked side by side with CEN on numerous campaigns that will grow Britain's economy and tackle climate change.

In particular, I have worked with CEN to champion an approach to net zero that attracts new investment and levels up opportunity across the UK.

Thanks to our world-leading science base, skilled workforce, and unique geography, the UK is well-placed to lead the world in the industries of the future. Reindustrialisation through the net zero transition can create high-skilled, well-paid jobs for constituents like mine in Rother Valley. But, only a conservative approach - seizing advantage

of the economic opportunities net zero brings, unleashing private sector innovation, and providing targeted incentives to support households - can deliver on the UK's net zero potential. That is why I am looking forward to speaking at their upcoming event on net zero and job creation.

But green policies play a vital role in strengthening energy security as well as reducing emissions. That is why I am now campaigning, alongside parliamentary colleagues in CEN, to cut stamp duty for energy efficient homes. This would help more households to afford insulation and permanently reduce their energy bills, putting more money in people's back pockets. Perhaps most importantly, it will tackle energy waste ensuring our country's long-term energy security.

As you will see from reading this magazine, CEN's work extends well beyond these two areas. They work with MPs, councillors and grassroots conservatives to champion projects ranging from nature restoration to green industries, from air pollution to plastic waste.

I am thrilled to introduce this publication and invite you to learn more about their campaigns. If you aren't already a CEN councillor, I encourage you and your Conservative councillor colleagues to sign up to their network for free today.

Alexander Stafford is the MP for Rother Valley and Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party for Policy



CEN policy briefing

How can councillors boost electric vehicles in their areas?



Whilst huge progress has been made on the rollout of electric vehicle (EV) chargers, roadblocks still remain, particularly for those without a driveway. But with the help of councillors, this challenge is not insurmountable.

Now the government has introduced a zero-emission vehicle mandate, the number of EVs will rapidly increase until the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles is phased out in 2035. Although there are an estimated 680,000 household and workplace chargers in the UK, over 90% of EV owners also use the public charging network. With 53,000 public charge-points at present, there needs to be a significant increase to meet demand.

But what can councillors do to address the barriers to more charge-points in their communities?

Whilst government grants for public chargers are available to local authorities, bringing in private investment via contract tenders can be preferable.

But the process for tendering could be made simpler. CEN will be campaigning for a standardised process across local authorities, making it as simple as possible for commercial operators.

Whether successful in funding applications or not, councillors can also tackle local planning barriers that make it harder for EV owners to charge their cars. For example, the installation of cable gullies, which allow EV charging cables to be safely trailed from a house under the pavement to on-street parking, are often prevented by local bye-laws. A change in bye-laws could allow households without a driveway to safely charge their cars at home. The government is trialling an extension of the Electric Vehicle Charge-point Grant to include the installation of cross-pavement solutions, and should make this a permanent change.

CEN publishes case studies from Conservative-led councils across the country of projects aimed at increasing accessibility of EV charging, which can be found on our website. We are always looking to grow this list, so if your council has an EV project underway or completed, please get in touch with me at sam.payne@cen.uk.com to discuss how you are boosting EVs in your area.

Cllr Sam Payne is the Climate Programme Manager at the Conservative Environment Network



Scan the barcode to view CEN's 'EV infrastructure briefing' briefing. Or you can contact the CEN team on info@cen.uk.com or visit our website at cen.uk.com.

Local success story

How West Sussex County Council is supporting the uptake of electric vehicles



The number of electric vehicles (EVs) on the road will only increase, especially now that the zero emission vehicle mandate has been introduced to ramp up supply and cut prices. We as councillors must help to ensure there is the infrastructure in place for local residents, businesses and visitors to charge up their vehicles.

EVs have significant benefits for our communities. They reduce air pollution, create quieter streets and cut our emissions. As conservatives this should be in our nature - creating a better environment for future generations. At present, 90% of EV drivers use the public charging network. The number of public chargers now stands at 53,000, a 45% increase on 2022, but the majority of these are in London. It is the Government's ambition to increase the number of public chargers to 300,000 by 2030, ensuring that the estimated 10 million electric vehicles by this point are able to reliably access charging stations.

At West Sussex County Council, we are embarking on the largest rollout of EV charge-points in public spaces in the country. Over the next ten years, thousands of EV charge-points will be installed across the county, both on-street and in public car parks, providing better access to chargers for those without driveways.

The shortage of public charge-points is a significant barrier to households without off-street parking. Currently, only 9% of EV owners are from households without driveways. If this is to change and we are to see a wider move away from petrol and diesel vehicles, increasing public charge-points is going to be vital.

Fortunately, given the significant financial pressures that councils face, there are government funds available to assist with EV infrastructure installation.

In England there is the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund, to support the delivery of public charging infrastructure. In Scotland there is the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund. There is also the On-Street Residential Charge-point Scheme, open to local authorities from any of the UK nations. West Sussex was awarded £1.8 million in 2022, which part-funded 450 on-street charge-points and 100 charge-points in public car parks.

As local authorities, there is more that we can do to remove the barriers to EV uptake, even if we do not apply for Government funding. Here in West Sussex we awarded a county wide concessionary contract to the private sector to roll out charging points, thus eliminating the cost to the local tax payer and reducing technological risk.

Other authorities have looked to change local by-laws to allow the use of cable gullies on pavements, as highlighted in the previous edition of the CEN Councillor Magazine.

Whilst there has been significant movement from the government to support the uptake of EVs, as councillors it is our responsibility to make the most of this support and ensure our communities benefit.

Cllr Deborah Urquhart is Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change at West Sussex County Council



Scan the barcode to view information on electric vehicles in West Sussex, and please feel free to contact me at deborah.urquhart@westsussex.gov.uk with any questions.

CEN policy briefing

Community benefits for turbines and pylons could help budget-constrained councils

Councils have a key part to play in helping the UK reach net zero through their role in the planning system, but can sometimes find it difficult supporting low-carbon projects such as pylons and wind farms their residents oppose. So what can we do to try and get more communities on board?

The UK already has more than enough low-carbon power generation in the development pipeline to reach net zero, but the difficulty these projects face in getting planning approval is a major barrier to their deployment. The government recently announced that communities who agree to host transmission infrastructure like pylons and substations could be entitled to electricity bill discounts and local investment packages, paid for voluntarily by developers. Residents are set to receive £10,000 off their energy bills over 10 years, and over £200,000 per kilometre of power lines and per substation to be invested in a fund for the wider community.

Community benefits spell good news for councillors for several reasons. Elected representatives can sometimes struggle to make the case to their residents for transmission infrastructure due to a lack of direct local benefits to point to. Objections to these projects often arise from concerns around construction, noise pollution, perceived harm to property values, or impact on views and sightlines. Coupled with historically poor engagement by some developers, this has led to communities feeling they don't want to put up with such disruption, particularly if they feel that those responsible for it aren't interested in engaging with them or listening to their concerns. Community benefits will help councillors - especially those that serve on councils that have declared climate emergencies - feel more comfortable championing transmission infrastructure, knowing that their residents will be compensated

for hosting it.

The second reason is that, with local authority budgets so squeezed, the wider community benefit package could help plug the gaps in local investment that councils can't afford to. Community benefits will enable areas to still get local investment in things like new school buildings, town hall refurbishments, or the repair of war memorials.

Finally, as polling from Public First last year showed, renewables are also electorally popular, including in Conservative-held constituencies, when accompanied by generous financial benefits for the local area. Indeed, 73% of those who voted Conservative in 2019 in a poll of 19 rural seats would be more likely to support renewables in their area if they saved money on their energy bills each month. Half of those polled said they would also support local renewable projects if the developer gave money to the local community through a community fund.

Further guidance on who will administer community benefit schemes will be released in 2024. The government is exploring making it mandatory for developers to offer guidance for pylons and substations - at the moment, the guidance is voluntary while they work out how to do so. CEN is also working on asking them to extend mandatory benefits to electricity generation as well as transmission, as the concerns that residents raise around power lines are very similar to those raised around solar and wind farms.

The case study opposite of Rampion offshore wind farm can also provide an example of how community benefits can work well for both the developer and local residents.



Local success story

How the Rampion offshore wind farm has benefitted the local area and brought residents on board with net zero infrastructure

No two energy projects are alike, and it is therefore right that no two community benefits packages or engagement processes should look the same either. Energy infrastructure could be onshore or offshore. It could be generating energy or transmitting it across the country. With each project should come sincere engagement from developers and a financial contribution to the local area. A great example of community engagement, and one of the best known wind farms in England, is the Rampion wind farm.

Thirteen kilometres off England's south coast, Rampion's 116 turbines, visible from Brighton Beach, produce enough power to supply energy to nearly half of Sussex. The planning application was submitted in 2013 by developer E.on, and it became operational at the end of 2017.



Rampion started publishing newsletters three years before the site's planning application was even submitted. The developer engaged landowners, held 14 public exhibitions on its draft proposal plan, and actively encouraged residents to submit feedback online, at exhibitions, or in writing via email or post.

Developers were attentive to and implemented local feedback: the project ended up reducing its proposed size as well as tweaking construction routes in response to residents' suggestions. Neighbouring local authorities were also asked to participate in a 'top-up' consultation, and a telephone hotline was set up while surveys of the area were done for onshore cabling.

New energy projects can act as an economic boon to the areas that host them; the benefits of the wind farm to the Sussex area continue to be significant seven years after it became operational. The developer made sure to maximise the benefit to local businesses, creating supply chain projects in partnership with local authorities to identify businesses who could help with products and services.

The £3.1 million Rampion Community Benefit Fund was set up by the developer as part of a wider £4 million benefits package. Grants were administered by the Sussex Community Foundation and awarded to local community groups, with a preference for projects that benefited disadvantaged communities. To maximise local trust in the process of instating benefits packages, such funds must be bespoke to a project's local area and administered fairly, transparently, and competently.

The developer made a £100,000 donation to four local RNLI stations, as well as provided £800,000 for a visitor centre.

This is just a snapshot of what good engagement and community benefits can look like. No two projects are the same, but each represents an opportunity for local authorities and residents to gain from development. Mandatory guidance for new energy projects would reassure communities that there is a baseline level of engagement to expect, giving them a tangible stake in the transition.

If you'd like to find out more about this campaign or share your thoughts with the team on community benefits, please email me at megan@cen.uk.com.

Megan Batchelor is the Climate Programme Officer at the Conservative Environment Network



CEN policy briefing

Delivering for residents on waste with new government changes for councillors



Last summer, rumours were rife that the government was going to make every household in the country have seven bins. In September, the Prime Minister put an end to these rumours by ruling out seven bins. Defra followed up shortly afterwards with its plans for ‘simpler recycling’ (previously referred to as consistent collections).

Along with the extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging (EPR), the deposit return scheme for drinks containers (DRS), and reforms to producer responsibility for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), ‘simpler recycling’ represents a big shake up to our waste collection and management system and, as a result, the role of local authorities in delivering this vital service to residents.



These reforms aim to provide everyone in England with a frequent and comprehensive waste collection. The current proposals include:

- Weekly food waste collections
- At least fortnightly general waste collections
- A kerbside collection of waste electronics
- Free council collections of bulky household electronics

We will be helping members of our councillor network to stay up to date with these reforms, through events and briefings. Later this year we will be hosting a webinar discussion and Q&A about the simpler recycling reforms. We are also organising a waste and resources conference for councillors and local leaders to take place in-person this summer. This will be an opportunity to find out how the reforms will impact local authorities, to learn about under-discussed sources of waste such as textiles, and to get ideas for local projects that can make you stand out nationally, as well as lots of opportunities for networking.

Register your interest for these upcoming events by scanning the QR code.



In the meantime, be sure to check out our suite of councillor briefings on waste and resources at www.cen.uk.com/resources-for-councillors and get in touch with any questions at kitty@cen.uk.com.

Kitty Thompson is the Senior Nature Programme Manager at the Conservative Environment Network



Please scan the barcode above to view CEN's briefing on recycling for more information and tips on how to manage waste as a local authority.

Water corner

What CEN, the government, and councillors are doing to enhance water quality



Water quality has been a defining environmental issue of recent years, with only 14% of English rivers in good ecological condition. In response to public concern, the government has taken clear steps to tackle water pollution.

In 2010, just 7% of storm overflows had monitors installed so, in 2013, the government announced its intention to rapidly accelerate their installation. On the 30th December 2023, ten years on from the initial call for action, the government announced that every single storm overflow in England is now monitored. Accurate data should underpin all policy decisions and so monitoring is an essential step in understanding how frequently storm overflows are used and how best to address that. By comparison, data provided by the Marine Conservation Society from 2022 revealed that only 3.4% of overflows in Scotland are monitored.

In other positive news, the government launched its Plan for Water in March 2023 which included many of the policies that members of CEN's parliamentary caucus had been championing as part of our Changing Course water manifesto. This included adopting our headline policy idea: to scrap the £250,000 cap for civil fines that polluting water companies can receive and to ring fence the revenue created by these fines to fund restoration projects. Over one year on from publishing the manifesto, 12 out of the 18 policies we called for have been either adopted or consulted on by the government.

Scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to read the manifesto in full.

However, while significant action has been taken by the UK government, there is still a long way to go to fully restore our waterways, and the positive impact of this action will not be felt overnight. As a local leader, there are many opportunities for you to establish your own projects and campaigns to improve water quality in your communities, from greening urban areas and cutting out chemicals, to partnering with water companies to fight fatbergs and install water butts.

Find out how you can work with local stakeholders and improve local bathing spots and water quality by reading our Bathing water toolkit. You can read our toolkit by scanning the QR on the right.

This spring, CEN will be hosting a webinar for local councillors and activists to discover local campaign ideas to improve water quality and security. This webinar will be accompanied by two briefings with more ideas and resources for you to use. If you would like to register your interest for this webinar and these resources, scan the QR code to the left.



Kitty Thompson is the Senior Nature Programme Manager at the Conservative Environment Network



Please scan the barcode above to read our Water manifesto. Or you can contact Kitty at kitty@cen.uk.com with any questions

Local success story

A community-led biodiversity project in Brent



At the end of my road in the Kenton ward of Brent Council is an alleyway that runs along the back of the local primary school. Along this alleyway, which is a public right of way, was a neglected, fly-tipped piece of council land where people took drugs and which had been left to overgrown brambles, weeds and self-seeded trees for over 40 years.

Along with a local group of residents in February 2021, I helped establish the Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project (BWCBP) which was later registered as a community interest company. Our initial supported efforts cleared the 45m by 5m area with the help of Veolia and small grants from Brent Council such as the LoveWhereYouLive grant. We were able to remove the fly-tipped waste, turn over the soil, and cover it with donated topsoil.

The local primary school was dismantling its temporary classrooms, so we were able to rescue some seasoned timber and, with the help of a local carpenter, recycle this timber into raised flower beds. Along with donated turf from a local DIY store, and donated and purchased pollinator plants and fruit trees, we quickly established our biodiversity project.

There was more nectar available for the Mason bees we introduced and butterflies were once again visiting our area. We put up bird and bat boxes on local trees and saw our first residents this year when a family of blue tits nested in one of the boxes.

Our efforts have been recognised with further grants under the National Community Infrastructure Levy, CO2GO, and Groundworks. These grants have helped to extend our biodiversity improvement programme into the local park and other green spaces under the banner of 'Greening Kenton.'

Our work has extended beyond clearing neglected

and derelict green spaces and into biodiversity art murals which have the support of local primary and secondary schools and involvement of professional artists.

We will continue to expand our work to improve our local biodiversity, by protecting other green spaces, improving our local park and encouraging local residents to use a space in their gardens to support improvements in our local environment.

Biological data collected last year shows that we are seeing an increase in the range of insects on our project sites and that our biodiversity objectives are beginning to bear fruit. As with all such projects, it will take years, not months, to establish the contribution our biodiversity projects can make to improve the local environment. Our efforts have been recognised so far with awards from the London in Bloom and Groundworks and we have held two opening events with the Mayors of Brent in attendance along with local community residents.

My approach is to start small and build big. As a local Conservative councillor, I believe that being involved in local projects like these is vital in establishing the trust of the local community.



Cllr Sunita Hirani is a Conservative councillor for Kenton ward on Brent Council and Director of the Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project CIC



Scan the barcode to view the Brook Way Community Biodiversity Project CIC and please feel free to contact me at Cllr.Sunita.Hirani@brent.gov.uk with any questions.

CEN councillor highlights



Scan the barcode to watch our latest councillor event on planning and nature

It was a busy end to the year for the CEN team. We attended the Conservative Councillors' Association's councillor development weekend to talk about how councillors can campaign on the environment and find out more about the local environmental issues you are tackling.



We also hosted a webinar for local councillors looking at the practical implications of new policies for nature in planning policy and, in particular, how local councillors should approach Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).

We were pleased to be joined by former Defra minister Trudy Harrison MP, Councillor Marisa Heath, Matt Browne (Wildlife and Countryside Link), and Tom Noble (Create Streets).



The Environment Act instructed all local authorities in England to publish a LNRS by March 2025. LNRS will map important local habitats, identify suitable locations for nature recovery, and outline the practical steps that can be taken to improve local biodiversity.

In a wide ranging discussion, we addressed whether the guidance local authorities had received was sufficient, what should be included in LNRS, and how they could contribute to the UK's target to protect 30 percent of land for nature by 2030.

Local councillors on the call also had the opportunity to share their experiences of designing LNRS and ask our expert panel for their advice.



It was particularly interesting to hear our panellists' thoughts on the challenges urban areas face in providing good access to green spaces, whether these new policies would prevent new homes from being built, and how local communities could be involved in the process of designing LNRS.



The role of local councils in making our built environment more sustainable and protecting the natural world is increasingly important. LNRS, combined with recent changes to our planning system, could help the UK to build more homes, more sustainably, and ensure that homeownership is no longer a distant prospect for young people.

Thank you to everyone who attended and put their questions to the panel. In case you missed the webinar, you can catch up on a recording by scanning the barcode above to hear our panel's and your fellow councillor colleagues' tips for approaching LNRS.

If you have any questions about LNRS or would like to share your experiences, please email our Nature Programme Manager, Jordan Lee, at jordan@cen.uk.com.

Join us at our upcoming events



Scan the barcode to register for our upcoming events

In conversation with Andy Street

As Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street has consistently championed ambitious action on the environment. Whether it's been through delivering innovative schemes to retrofit local homes, upgrading the public transport network, or supporting the creation and joining up of green and biodiverse spaces, the West Midlands Combined Authority has been rated highly for their green plans.

As the next mayoral elections approach, the centre-right is thinking how they can continue to deliver ambitious action on the environment given the urgent need to grow the economy, cut the cost of living, and alleviate pressures on local government finances.

Join CEN for our latest webinar, where Andy Street and Laura Sandys will be exploring why they think action on the environment is still a priority and vote winner for the centre-right at this exclusive event for CEN councillors and supporters.

Will net zero be a job creator or job destroyer?

We hold regular virtual events to give conservatives an opportunity to hear from interesting speakers and debate topical environmental issues.



Our next event will discuss how the net zero transition will impact jobs. Our panellists will include CEN MP Alexander Stafford, who sits on the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee, and Douglas Lumsden, MSP for the North East Scotland region and Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy, and Transport.

Undoubtedly the UK's net zero transition will impact the labour market with rapid change expected over the next decade. Should workers in carbon-intensive jobs be worried about their futures?

Or will the net zero transition create new, higher-skilled and future-proofed job opportunities for these workers which will result in them being better paid?

How can we make sure workers have the skills and training so they're prepared to seize the opportunities created by the net zero transition? And who should be responsible for this? Should the government get involved or should it be left to industry to make sure workers have the skills needed to drive growth?

To debate these questions and more, join us via Zoom at 18:00 - 18:45 on 19th March 2024. Scan the barcode above to register.

Get involved in CEN

Join our ambassadors programme



If you'd like to get more involved in CEN's work, then apply to become a CEN ambassador.

Our ambassador programme is designed to support our work promoting conservative environmentalism among grassroots supporters.

We offer ways for our ambassadors to get involved with our work, feed into our campaigns, and shape our supporter network.

We have an existing network of ambassadors but we recruit new ambassadors to our programme all year round, so we welcome applications at any time.

We are seeking well-connected ambassadors of all ages and backgrounds within the conservative movement based across the country who are passionate about the environment.

We offer our ambassadors priority invites to in-person events hosted by CEN, including our exclusive quarterly drink receptions. We also list our ambassadors on our website and publish their blogs.

We hold virtual meetings every four months with ambassadors to update them on our work, get their feedback and suggestions, and ask for their advice on future supporter events.

We also host an annual away day, including dinner and drinks, for ambassadors, where they can discuss environmental policy and review CEN's campaigns and grassroots work. The day will include talks from interesting speakers and be an opportunity to meet like-minded people.

We would like ambassadors to be at the heart of our growing supporter network, helping to bring conservatives together to discuss environmental policy, and promote more ambitious action within the conservative movement. We ask that ambassadors support this work by helping CEN with events, recruitment, representation, and feedback.

Scan the barcode above to find out more about our ambassador programme and apply to join.

Join our councillor network

If you haven't already become a CEN councillor, you can join for free today. Please also share details of how to join with councillors in your group who might be interested.

The CEN councillor network is a community of like-minded, environmentalist Conservative councillors, who participate in events, collaborate on green campaigns, and learn new ways of delivering on the environment for their residents.

CEN councillors receive regular mailings, which include briefings, case studies, and invites to our events.

We send out copies of our councillor magazine to our network. In the build-up to the local elections we have also published a campaigning on the environment toolkit.





**CONSERVATIVE
ENVIRONMENT
NETWORK**