

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

What is COP26?

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is attended by countries that signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed in 1994. The 2021 meeting will be the 26th meeting, hence COP26. Discussions at COP meetings revolve around obligations with the Paris Agreement reached in 2015 when 195 countries attended COP21 in Paris.

The Paris Agreement says nations must:

- Reduce the amount of harmful greenhouse gases produced and increase renewable types of energy such as wind, solar and wave power
- Keep global temperature increase 'well below' 2°C (3.6°F) and to try to limit it to 1.5°C
- Review progress made on the agreement every five years
- Spend \$100 billion a year in climate finance to help poorer countries by 2020, with a commitment to further finance in the future.

COP26 comes at a critical time in the challenge of halting dangerous climate change. The devastation from severe floods and wildfires, coupled with extreme heat with record-breaking temperatures in many parts of the world, brings into sharp focus the urgent need to take action. With this as a backdrop, there is much that needs to be achieved in the discussions at COP26 to drive real action that creates positive change.

The objective of the session is to develop some key messages that we, as the transport and logistics sector, would like to send to the decision-makers at COP26. Our sector has a huge role to play and we have brought together a number of fantastic speakers who will give a transport perspective along the themes being discussed at COP26.

The session will start with a keynote speaker, Martin Baxter, Director of Policy and External Affairs, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. His presentation will give an overview of the aims and objectives of COP26, the key issues that need to be resolved, and the UK's goals that will reflect a successful outcome.

This will be followed with experts discussing:

- Achieving net zero
- Adapting to protect communities and natural habitats



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- Mobilising finance to support sustainability
- Working together to deliver targets

Kevin Richardson, Chief Executive, CILT, will join the discussion, giving his perspective on the role of professional bodies in developing a robust and sustainable approach to responding to climate change. As the membership organisation for professionals leading supply chains for the movement of goods and people, the imperative to reach net zero emissions by 2050 is a key element of the activity and engagement of the Institute. CILT is welcomed in decision-making circles because of who we are: a non-political, modally agnostic and evidence-based organisation.

Many of CILT's Forums, Policy Groups and National/Regional Groups have been contributing to a major study of transport decarbonisation over several years. In February 2021, we published a year-end report summarising our activity to date. Our conclusions and views have also been given in consultation responses, evidence to parliamentary committees and other published papers and a new set of updates is in preparation for publication in the run up to COP26. Paul Le Blond, Chair, Aviation Policy Group, who pulled together the year-end report and its updates will review these as part of this session.

Kevin McPherson, TRL, will join us to talk about predicting and adapting to climate change in the logistics context, exploring how future scenarios may impact UK roads and what that may mean for logistics companies. He will discuss how climate change is impacting road networks and look at measures being undertaken to improve network resilience, physically and operationally. He will describe how the

measures being taken to improve road network resilience are also making transport smarter and less carbon intensive, and give an overview of recent developments and trends in those areas.

Ensuring that investments are climate aligned – that is, that they are consistent with a downward trajectory to a decarbonisation target – requires the development and wide adoption of rigorous climate-alignment methodologies and tools. Nish Rehmatulla, UCL, will explore the issue that there is no agreed decarbonisation pathway and methodology in freight transportation that allows investors to evaluate climate risk of their portfolios in a rigorous and comparable manner. These are particularly relevant for the freight sector as assets have long lifespans often exceeding 20 years and current investments therefore create a carbon lock-in for the next crucial decades. Focusing on three types of freight transportation – road, rail and shipping – he will provide insights on the existing climate alignment tools, identify those used by financiers of the freight transportation assets to screen their investments, the barriers faced in adopting these tools and recommendations to overcome the challenges in making portfolios climate aligned.

We have gathered some exciting speakers, so join us to help establish what we, as a sector, need COP26 to deliver. We will conclude the session with a discussion: *What one thing would you like to say to the decision-makers at COP26?* We look forward to hearing your views.

To join the event, visit: <https://ciltuk.org.uk/Events/Events-Listing?evcid=4642>

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