

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for Biodiversity Net Gain in England

Timing: Morning, Monday, 13th January 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
The Rt Hon Lord Grayling, former Secretary of State for Transport (2016-2019)
- 9.05 **Overview of the current biodiversity landscape in England**
Dr Julia Baker, Head, Nature Services, Mott MacDonald
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Assessing Biodiversity Net Gain implementation - progress so far and key considerations for policy and implementation**
Richard Stanyon, Senior Auditor, National Audit Office
- 9.35 **Assessing the progress of implementation of BNG targets so far**
stakeholder and policy preparedness for BNG | putting in place enablers for achieving BNG targets in the long-term | monitoring planning application commitments | approaches to securing compliance | identifying and addressing potential legal loopholes | what can be learned from developments so far to inform future implementation
Poppy Sherborne, Countryside Advisor and BNG Lead, National Farmers Union
Craig Llewellyn, Associate Ecology and Biodiversity Policy Specialist, Atkins Realis
Dr Sophus Zu Ermgassen, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Oxford
Victoria Hills, Chief Executive, Royal Town Planning Institute
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
The Rt Hon Lord Grayling, former Secretary of State for Transport (2016-2019)
- 10.20 Break
- 10.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
The Earl of Devon
- 10.35 **Preparing industry for the BNG extension - supporting key stakeholders through transition and promoting collaboration**
Mike Burke, Programme Director, Sustainable Development, Natural England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Priorities for the effective management and operation of BNG going forward**
preparing for the extension to nationally significant infrastructure projects in 2025 | improving progress reporting and monitoring effectiveness | supporting local authorities in implementation | ensuring developers have access to necessary resources | market design and regulation to mitigate cost and other potential impacts of BNG | timely and effective communication and idea sharing | strategies for attracting long-term financing for habitat management and maintenance
Ross Simpson, Partner, Burges Salmon
Phoebe Tucker, Senior Nature Associate, Green Finance Institute
Oliver Lewis, Founder, Joe's Blooms
David Sutherland, Head, Planning and Environment, Buckinghamshire Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Quality habitat creation and the use of BNG Units**
Emma Toovey, Chief Ecology Officer, Environment Bank
- 11.55 **Biodiversity units, habitat banks, Land Management Schemes and support for developers and landowners**
assessing progress in implementing schemes that promote species and habitat preservation | priorities for natural resource quality improvements | frameworks for fostering collaboration between land managers, farmers and environmental stakeholders | strategies for the creation of secure green jobs in sustainable land management
Emma Clarke, Policy and Advocacy Lead, Wildlife and Countryside Link
Sam Bower, Head, Sustainability, Natural Environment, Balfour Beatty
Senior representative, landowners
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **The future for BNG Policy**
Aemelia Humfrey, Policy Lead, Biodiversity Net Gain, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
The Earl of Devon
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum