



# WESTMINSTER ENERGY FORUM

## OVERVIEW & VALUE

### The Purpose of the WEF is:

The [Westminster Energy Forum](#) (WEF) is a:

**‘Senior UK Leadership Network & Knowledge Exchange Programme for the strategic evaluation of climate and energy transition risks.’**

Founded and led by [Chris Lambert](#) since 2004, the WEF functions as a small, independent think tank, delivering nine meetings during the political year, with its primary Objectives being to:

- **Convene** expert practitioners in the fields of climate risk and energy transition.
- **Share** strategic information on the challenges and opportunities of decarbonisation policy, investment and innovation.
- **Inform** political and corporate decisions in support of Net Zero goals and ambitions.

### Measurable Value

The Westminster Energy Forum (WEF) provides **unique value** for senior-level stakeholders in government, and in the wider energy and climate arena, by addressing the UK’s strategic challenges in a cross-silo, integrated manner, evaluating both emerging threats to the delivery of energy and climate policy and infrastructure, and / or opportunities for its innovation and development.

During the past 20 years of continuous operations in support of the UK’s senior energy and climate constituency the WEF has, as its basic offering:

- Convened 175 meetings by invitation in London, involving 20,000 delegate practitioners
- Delivered >1250 actionable expert briefings within our programme meetings, including over 100 of them during COVID lockdown as part of a dedicated Outreach programme of webinars and films that reached >10,000 people internationally in the run up to COP26 to support the UK’s Presidency and the range of Ministers and COP Directors who took part.
- Provided > £1.5m in pro bono value to > 250 senior civil servants over 20 years (Depts, NDPBs + Regulators) via access to its resources, and by attendance at the WEF, on top of any qualitative value that they might have obtained from their engagement with the WEF.

Examples of wider, qualitative added value include the following:

- WEF has pursued a long term campaign of ‘nudging’ to encourage stronger understanding and appreciation of the potential of disruptive risks (tipping points) within climate scenarios and, thereby, the need to at least consider high impact-low likelihood events as becoming increasingly plausible, especially in the context of strategic national security. This campaign, for example, supported the push for a revised 1.5°C target in the run-up to COP21 by supporting climate security horizon scanning for the French MoD.

- Many senior civil servants and their wider teams have been supported on an ongoing basis by the WEF's recurring annual programme and holistic approach because it specifically cuts across sector silos within the increasingly complex and integrated arenas of energy transition and climate risk assessment. As a result uniquely diverse content is delivered to HMG, and a full value chain of stakeholders convened for interaction and follow up, that now provides an established resource for the public sector decision-makers to utilise pro bono.
- We have broadened the understanding of the cascading, multiplier threat from climate change across the private sector disciplines by embedding climate risk analysis and uncertainty throughout our programme, and integrating narratives that from emerging climate science and world-leading research organisations with regular metrics and input from the insurance sector so that risk becomes the common language for discussing climate and transition decisions.

### **Operation & Network Benefits:**

Approximately ninety corporate subscribers who represent the commercial value chain underwrite the WEF's operating costs, and this allows us to convene an equal number of organisations from the public sector, diplomatic and NGO domains who, together, form the WEF's **Knowledge Exchange**. This ensures that the WEF can convene, and brief, the right breadth of decision-makers and yet still being apolitical, unbiased and free of lobbying.

Corporate clients have guaranteed access to this uniquely, invite-only network, and these 'memberships' are also organisational in nature, not individual. This flexibility means that the most appropriate individuals for any WEF sessions each year may attend, and where space allows we can often provide the occasional extra seat for colleagues.

The WEF is intended to be inclusive, and provides continuity for a network of senior practitioners to help support them and their clients. Corporate attendance is generally at the level of partner / vice president / executive director, and / or the tier below, as opposed to C-suite. The emphasis very much on involvement and facilitation, a role that the WEF has fulfilled successfully for nearly twenty years. We always make all content from our seminars available for circulation, and we also support our members by linking them up with others in the WEF network outside of the seminars where we are approached with specific requests.

Furthermore, the overarching nature of the WEF programme cuts across typical sector 'silos' to provide insights that aim to be 'pathfinding' in nature, thereby helping to facilitate a wider understanding of the prevailing and emerging risks affecting long term decarbonisation. As a result, upon request we do allow less senior professionals in our member organisations to join seminars if senior representatives have last minute diary conflicts, or if specific areas of interest would support their colleagues' professional development. The WEF's network of individuals is maintained at c.1000 in total so that all participants are relevant and active practitioners, and CPD certification of WEF participation can be supplied upon request.

Organisations are allocated one or two guaranteed places per but we aim to fulfil requests for additional attendees on a first come first served basis and if venue capacity permits, and we can provide livestream access usually too. All our seminar venues are provided by our members pro bono, and we do not accept sponsorship – specific individuals and organisations are invited by the WEF Director to share expert views. We are also happy to make our network aware of relevant members' thought leadership and publications after events as part of our content outreach where relevant.

Agendas for every session are drafted several months in advance based upon the experience of what recurring and adjusted themes are likely to be of value, and in liaison with public sector agencies. These themes are finessed closer to the event date -organisations and experts are drawn from across the WEF network and are invited to contribute expert perspectives to inform WEF seminars, typically following a programme sequence that covers emerging energy and

climate issues in the design and delivery of: policy, regulation, investment, corporate roles, project delivery challenges, environmental and geopolitical contexts, and technology. The format works well, and each seminar is an intensive 0830-1315hrs session with at least 8 speakers.

### **Strategic Themes that define the WEF Programme:**

The WEF programme is based on powerful, qualitative gap analysis to identify which emerging risk issues need extra focus and debate for the benefit of all stakeholders. It gives senior civil servants a guaranteed forum in which to brief, and to exchange ideas in confidence, with a well-informed industry and NGO constituency, creating many opportunities for B2G and B2B follow up outside of typical trade association or commercial conference-type environments.

The WEF's Annual Programme is informed by five strategic themes which cut across our two workstreams and that drive the pathfinding nature of all WEF agendas throughout the political year. These Themes currently are:

- Uncertainties and Trends in Climate Science, and in Patterns of Climate Change Risks
- Geopolitics of International Energy Transitions, and Implications for Net Zero Delivery
- Delivering and Benchmarking the UK Energy Transition via its Policies and Regulation
- Energy System Transformation using new Infrastructure with a viable Licence to Operate
- Climate Impacts, & Transition Challenges, for Corporate Strategy and Financial Markets

The WEF is in a strong position to continue operating its Leadership Network and Knowledge Exchange Programme to 2030 and beyond.

### **Annual WEF Programme Calendar:**

Sep 26 2024	<b>Annual pre-COP Review of UK Energy Transition, Climate &amp; Nature Risks: Implications for Policy and Markets</b>
Nov 5 2024	<b>UK Onshore Energy System Review</b>
Dec 03 2024	<b>Global Issues in Nuclear New Build, Safety, Regulation &amp; Insurance – No.9 (NRI closed webinar)</b>
Dec 10 2024	<b>UK Offshore Energy System Review</b>
Jan 22 2025	<b>Annual post-COP Review of International Climate Risk, Resilience &amp; Response</b>
Mar 5 2025	<b>Annual UK Energy Transition Review: Progress in Context, &amp; Risks of Derailment</b>
May 7 2025	<b>Climate &amp; Nature Risks: Implications for Financial Markets and a Resilient Transition</b>

[www.westminsterenergy.org](http://www.westminsterenergy.org)

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