



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Environment & Climate Change' Series

COVID-19 and the Climate Crisis: Initiating a green, clean, resilient recovery

Expert Insight

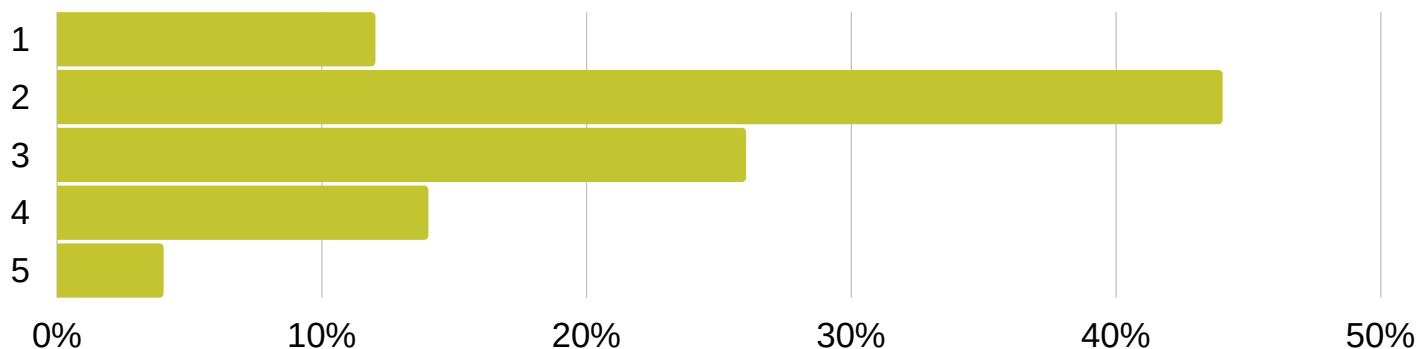
We were joined by Lord Deben, Chair of the Committee on Climate Change, to discuss the UK's pathway to a clean, green resilient economy. Speaking on the turning point in the fight against the climate crisis, Lord Deben touched on many points, including:

- COVID-19 hasn't changed what we need to do on climate change. It presents an opportunity to form a greener economy, precisely because this is necessary for resilience after the pandemic.
- There is no choice for how we 'bounce back better'. It has to be green and resilient, as no other pathway is financially possible, cost-effective, or sustainable.
- COVID-19 has changed the way that the public perceive threats as the virus went from an abstract concern, to a dangerous reality. This gives strength to the call to tackle the real and present threat of climate change.
- With cleaner air through lockdown and further record temperatures across the globe, the world is seeing that climate change is not on the horizon, but is here now and is a result of human activity.



Cross-Sector Opinion

Over 300 attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them: on a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all, 5 being very), how confident are you that the UK's plans for economic recovery will prioritise tackling climate change?



Our members' questions

Our members asked some challenging questions. Some of the issues raised included:

- The issues constraining the UK to Net-Zero by 2050, which gives only a 66% chance of avoiding warming above 1.5 degrees
- Whether recent housing reforms are doing enough to account for the impact of property development on the environment, resource use, climate change, and a circular economy
- Where the investment for CCUS projects has been redirected, and whether the UK is lagging behind its European counterparts when it comes to climate spending

WIG members can listen to Lord Deben's presentation [here](#)
To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk