



Lancashire Net Zero Carbon Conference

Noel Ferguson, head of net zero and energy solutions, Trident Utilities

Noel works with organisations across all sectors to deliver cost and carbon reductions, focusing on making their net zero journey simple.

He works to break down barriers and develop user-friendly frameworks that guide businesses through their sustainability transformation.



Professor John Whitton, co-director, UCLan Centre for Sustainable Transitions

John made a career in industry as an environmental social scientist, joining the University of Central Lancashire in 2014.

His work and research, for which he has partnered with universities on multiple continents, focuses on understanding the social aspects of sustainability and the human and community resilience required for the transition to a zero-carbon society.



Jane Gaston, board member, North West Net Zero

Jane Gaston is a board member at North West Net Zero where she uses her 20-plus years experience in strategic business planning for infrastructure projects centered on energy generation and industrial decarbonization.

She recently led the development and launch of the Net Zero North West cluster plan, establishing the region as a hub for clean energy innovation and low-carbon growth in line with the government's 2030 target.



Lucy Boulton, solar manager, Thompsons Solar

With a keen interest in sustainability, Lucy has been involved in the renewable energy industry for the past 15 years. The formative years were centered around procurement and delivery of micro-generation equipment in the form of small-scale wind and domestic solar technologies. Progressing into medium-scale wind, her career has included numerous projects, from designing small-scale domestic installations to obtaining planning permission for 3MW solar farms.



Mick Ramsden, founder and procureneur, Essential Sourcing

Mick founded his business more than two decades ago to help businesses procure effectively for business success and also to help "procureners" make a meaningful impact while doing so. He is passionate about bringing ESG principles into procurement strategies, ensuring that procurement decisions made by businesses contribute to a sustainable and ethical future.



David Rothwell, deputy principal, Nelson and Colne College Group

David Rothwell is deputy principal at Nelson and Colne College Group where he is responsible for finance and resources. His role includes managing the efficient operation of three East Lancashire campuses and he is dedicated to ensuring the college is constantly moving to a more sustainable future, working alongside the estates team to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint, supporting a move to Net Zero.



Miranda Barker, CEO, Chamber Low Carbon

Miranda leads the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Low Carbon, which provides advice, support, and commercial services to promote low carbon and net zero business practices.

Miranda chairs the North West’s Regional Manufacturing Forum and sits on the ESIF committee, and the LEP’s Business Support Management Board. She also has 15 years of experience running her own environmental consulting SME.



Jacob Lane, material research & knowledge manager, Silentnight

Jacob has a PhD in chemistry and over four years of experience at Silentnight. He plays a pivotal role in driving the company's sustainability initiatives, focusing on reducing scope 3 emissions by analyzing the environmental impact of materials and components throughout their lifecycle.



Paul O’Brien, head of sustainability, The Senator Group

Paul has been at The Senator Group for ten years and is now head of sustainability for the group that manufactures more office furniture than pretty much anyone else in Europe. Paul leads the group's ESG strategy and carbon reduction plan for the UK operation. Part of Paul's job is also coordinating the group's 'Sustain' division, which offers circular solutions for used packaging and office furniture.



David Stanley, CEO, ELE Advanced Technologies

David is the CEO of ELE Advanced Technologies, an international business specializing in resolving complex engineering problems across many sectors. The business has recently reached a milestone of meeting its initial sustainability goals.



Ian Steel, owner, Atkinsons Coffee Roasters

As the driving force and ‘Keeper of the Flame’ behind Atkinsons Coffee Roasters, Ian is committed to sustainability through initiatives such as using energy-efficient roasting methods, renewable energy, and recyclable packaging. His dedication to environmental and social responsibility, highlighted by B Corp certification, makes him an inspiring voice for achieving net zero carbon goals in the coffee industry and beyond.



Graham Wilkinson, senior manager for IT, Ribby Hall Village

Graham is the senior manager for IT at Ribby Hall Village. Having worked at the resort for a decade, he has been integral in investment into new technology, changes in ways of working, engagement with guests and introducing solar to the village for the first time.

