



In lead up to COP27: How could the UK government show leadership and deliver an example of a SME sector transformed to a low carbon sector.

As a representative of one of the following:

The Business Visits and Events Partnership
The Event Industry Board
Department for Business Energy and Industry Strategy
SME Climate Hub
Net Zero Accelerator Programme
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Department for Culture, Media, Digital and Sport
Cabinet Office

You are invited to a zoom meeting which will be a facilitated conversation by not for profit Positive as part of their Road to COP27 series.

on: Tuesday September 6th 9.30-11am

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5422867093?pwd=ZS81QjdiREZrMUI3clJpd0dtaGhjQT09>

The intention for the meeting is to explore how the following could be possible for launch at COP27:

1. UK government announce 100% of their event supply chain is being asked to make a net zero carbon commitment. (This is in line with new Race to Zero criteria and could be delivered if all UK government event procurement was directed to The Race to Zero Accelerator Programme for event sector SMEs)
2. UK government announce they have supported the UK SME event supply chain to join The Race to Zero, in collaboration with SME Climate Hub and Race to Zero Accelerator for Event SMEs Positive Impact and with the support of Business Visits and Events Partnership.

Please RSVP to fiona@positiveimpactevents.com by Thursday 28th July

Detailed agenda will be provided one week prior to the meeting

This is an invitation only event and will follow Chatham House Rules



Context:

On June 15th 2022 The UNFCCC Race to Zero (the UN-backed global campaign representing 1,049 cities, 67 regions, 5,235 businesses, 441 of the biggest investors, and more) changed its criteria to include:

‘Align ..engagement...to the goal of halving emissions by 2030 and reaching global (net) zero by 2050.

‘Align” means ensuring that all external engagement activities (e.g. ... public relations campaigns ... that engage in public policy advocacy, etc.) are consistent with the objectives outlined in Pledge for halving emissions by 2030 and reaching global net zero by 2050.’

In addition to this focus there are other parts of the updated criteria which will impact the event sector.

Since 2005 not for profit Positive Impact has existed to create a sustainable event sector and in 2021 became a UNFCCC Race to Zero Accelerator for event sector SMEs. Throughout 2022 Positive Impact has worked on enabling a just transition to low carbon by providing free resources in collaboration with SME Climate Hub on carbon, human rights, ISO 20121 and more.

The Gaps or Opportunities between where we are now and the potential for COP27

1. **Opportunity:** The UK government can announce at COP27 that the UK event sector is an example of a majority SME sector that is experiencing a just transition to low carbon, using free resources from partners and building capacity to address future business opportunities.
2. **Opportunity:** The Cabinet Office can extend legacy from COP26
3. **Opportunity:** DCMS can ensure their partners (eg Visit Britain) are in action in line with government and global business commitment by joining The UNFCCC Race to Zero
4. **The Gap:** According to feedback from event sector associations event SME's are experiencing overwhelm following challenging covid years and staff shortages. Making a net zero commitment, joining The Race to Zero and utilising the free resources is an opportunity to future proof their business
5. **Opportunity:** Existing initiatives within The Race to Zero enabled by SME climate hub could be cross pollinated to other SME communities e.g.‘Green Street for Retail’ to be extended to events.
6. **Opportunity:** In addition to the UK Government, BEIS and SME Climate Hub will have an example of an SME sector experiencing a just transition to low carbon.
7. **Opportunity:** A further proofed UK event sector which can be marketed around the world to attract business.
8. **Opportunity:** Events will be used by the UK government to communicate low carbon commitments and achievements and this approach will ensure the integrity of the event.



The Longer-term Opportunities for the Development of a low carbon UK Event Sector

1. BVEP members could receive access to a Race to Zero Accelerator Programme workshop series enabled by Positive Impact, SME Climate Hub and other accelerators including Climate Action for Associations. This would enable the SME's to progress towards net zero as a community rather than the existing approach of providing free resources to each individual business.
2. 100% of UK universities which deliver event management education could give their students the opportunity to make a sustainability commitment and access resources including those from Race to Zero Accelerators.
3. Visit Britain could market the UK as an event destination with a supply chain with a net zero carbon commitment.

For more information see www.positiveimpacetevents.com