

Conference Session 1 Planet – Speakers Bios and Photos



Liz McEntee is Chair of EDAS. During her extensive career, she was latterly a Director with Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector has worked for a range of national and local charities and a major UK social enterprise as well as in further education and local authority economic development.

She brings to EDAS, a wealth of knowledge about people and place-based regeneration, as well as expertise in good governance through her work with SCVO, GCVS and extensive board experience. She is a passionate advocate for economic and social justice in Scotland and valued for her authentic leadership style, strategic thinking, interpersonal skills and collaborative approach to partnership working.

She holds an MSc (Distinction) in Local Economic Development from the University of Glasgow and is a Fellow of the RSA.

Twitter: @edas_scotland



Martin Valenti is an award-winning and internationally acclaimed champion for climate solutions. He is currently Head of Climate Enterprise and COP 26 Champion at Scottish Enterprise working on secondment from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Martin leads on the visionary approach to make the climate emergency Scotland's climate opportunity for solutions. Martin joint chairs a "Team Scotland" business mobilisation

group to ensure businesses have a strong role to play in addressing the climate crisis. He has extensive experience in strategic transformation and business innovation with over 30 years working in a variety of senior leadership roles. He has significant skills in shaping and delivering strategic initiatives including project managing major collaborative projects. He successfully delivered high profile projects for the Scottish Government on climate change on a range of environmental issues more recently on transformative ESG. Martin played an instrumental role in setting up Scotland's 2020 Climate Group and co-created the award winning 2050 Young Leaders Climate Group. He works with senior leaders from business and government and has developed high level political and industry focused network contacts. Martin is a trusted adviser who builds credibility quickly, excels in creating consensus among divergent groups, and communicates at all levels to transform challenges into opportunities.

Twitter: @MartinValenti1 @scotent



Susan Aitken became Leader of Glasgow City Council when the SNP became the largest party on the Council and formed a minority administration in May 2017. She was elected as a councillor for the Langside ward, where she lives, in 2012 and has been leader of the SNP group since 2014, having previously served as the group spokesperson on health and social care.

Before being elected, Susan worked in a variety of policy and research roles in the Scottish Parliament and the third sector, and as a freelance writer and editor specialising in health and social care policy. She grew up in Biggar in South Lanarkshire, moved to Glasgow aged 17 and is a graduate of both Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities.

Twitter: @SusaninLangside @GlasgowCC



Chris Stark is the Chief Executive of the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC), the independent authority on tackling climate change under the UK's Climate Change Act. Chris leads a team of analysts and specialists, offering expert insight into the challenges of reducing UK emissions and adapting to the changing climate.

Chris led the CCC's work to recommend a 'Net Zero' target for the UK – and has since directed detailed analysis and advice on the UK's path to carbon neutrality. He speaks regularly on the transition to a zero carbon economy and the need to confront climate change with urgency.

Chris has wide experience in government. He has designed economic policy in Whitehall, including in HM Treasury and the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. He was previously Director of Energy and Climate Change in the Scottish Government, leading the development of the Scottish energy and climate strategies.

Twitter: @ChiefExecCCC



Kersti Berge is Director of Energy and Climate Change at the Scottish government. She is responsible for climate change (domestic and international), energy, consumer issues, and water.

Prior to joining the Scottish Government, Kersti was a director at Ofgem, the energy regulator, where she held a number of senior policy roles including Head of Ofgem's Glasgow Office. Before joining Ofgem, Kersti was a senior economic advisor at the UK Treasury and prior to that she was a lecturer in economics at Oxford University.

Twitter: @ScotGovClimate



James Kenny is Head of Global Affairs at Arup, the global design engineering and consulting firm. He is responsible for advising on relationships with governments, key clients and stakeholder groups around the world on

behalf of the Group Board. In addition, James takes responsibility for managing reputational risk across the firm.

James started his career as a civil engineer in the UK before switching to journalism, later becoming Publishing Director of an international group headquartered in San Francisco. He subsequently worked in Brussels as a public affairs consultant, working on complex industry issues such as forest products, biofuels and chemicals. James returned to the UK, working as Chief Speechwriter to the Home Secretary and other senior Ministers within the UK government before joining Arup.

James has a keen interest in politics and economics and a particular interest in Asia, having been directly involved with a number of business and political initiatives in the region.

James holds degrees in civil engineering, management and law. He is based in London and lives in Brussels.

Twitter: @ArupGroup



Delivering clean, green electricity to homes and businesses is a key objective of **Lindsay McQuade** who was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of ScottishPower Renewables in February 2018. As CEO, Lindsay has responsibility for ScottishPower Renewables current fleet of over 2GW of onshore wind generation plant as well as leading the company in the delivery of a significant new project pipeline, including wind, solar and battery storage technologies.

Prior to her appointment as CEO, Lindsay held the post of Policy & Innovation Director of ScottishPower Renewables, having previously held a number of strategic roles across ScottishPower since joining in 1999. In her early career Lindsay also held roles with British Energy, Stakis Hotels, and Clydesdale Bank.

Lindsay is a board director of Renewable UK and former director of Scottish Renewables, helping shape and inform the policy and regulatory environment for deployment and integration of cost-effective, low carbon, renewable generation across the UK. She is also the Chair of SafetyOn, where she is helping position the onshore wind industry as a health and safety leader through industry knowledge sharing and consistency of performance standards.

Holding a BA(Hons) in Economics from the University of Strathclyde, Lindsay also qualified as an Associate Member of the Association of Corporate Treasurers and took part in the fourth edition of the Energising Leadership Programme in conjunction with ESADE Business School.

Twitter: @ScottishPower