techUK
FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Climate, Environment & Sustainability
Programme overview

August 2024

- About techUK

- Team overview and structure

- What do we actually do?

- Government engagement and lobbying

- Programme structure

- How to engage with our team?

About techUK

techUK is the UK's leading technology membership organisation, with more than 1000 members spread across the UK. We are a network that enables our members to learn from each other and grow in a way which contributes to the country.

By working collaboratively with the Government and others, we provide expert guidance and insight for our members and stakeholders about how to prepare for the future, anticipate change and realise the positive potential of technology in a fast-moving world. techUK launched in 2013 to champion the technology sector and prepare and empower the UK for what comes next, delivering a better future for people, society, the economy, and the planet.

Our work is split into 3 main areas; policy/markets/tech+innovation and we have 20+ programmes and 90+ working groups.

Team overview and structure

Craig Melson
Associate Director, Climate, Environment & Sustainability

Weronika Dorociak (V)
Programme Manager – Sustainability

Josh Turpin
Programme Manager – Telecoms & Net Zero

Lucas Banach
Team Assistant

Core team

You might also see us work with Teodora Kaneva (Smart Infrastructure/Energy), Ashley Feldman (Transport), Luisa Cardani (Date Centres), Chris Hazell (Cloud), Ileana Lupsa (Public Sector/Nations and Regions), Katie Lester (DCF) and others.

Team overview and structure

techUK

Craig Melson
Associate Director,
Climate, Environment &
Sustainability

Weronika Dorociak (V)
Programme Manager –
Sustainability

Josh Turpin
Programme Manager –
Telecoms & Net Zero

Lucas Banach
Team Assistant

Split role – 80% under Climate, Environment & Sustainability, and 20% under Data Centres

Team overview and structure

techUK

Craig Melson
Associate Director,
Climate, Environment &
Sustainability

Weronika Dorociak (V)
Programme Manager –
Sustainability

Josh Turpin
Programme Manager –
Telecoms & Net Zero

Lucas Banach
Team Assistant

Split role – 50%
under Climate,
Environment &
Sustainability,
and 50% under
Telecoms

What do we actually do?

techUK

Bridging the gap between industry and government

- Monitoring sustainability-related policy and providing updates to members.

- Direct engagement with government departments such as DESNZ, Defra, FCDO, DBT and others.

- Responding to consultations, calls for evidence and parliamentary inquiries.

- Engaging with politicians, including those from the opposition.

Looking at tech as an enabler for sustainability and human rights

- Engaging with members to understand how technology can benefit sustainability and human rights.

- Educating the wider industry about positive impacts of technology on the environment and human rights via thought leadership and events.

- Raising awareness among government and other stakeholders.

- Click here to catch up with our Industrial Decarbonisation Series.

Addressing environmental and human rights risks within tech
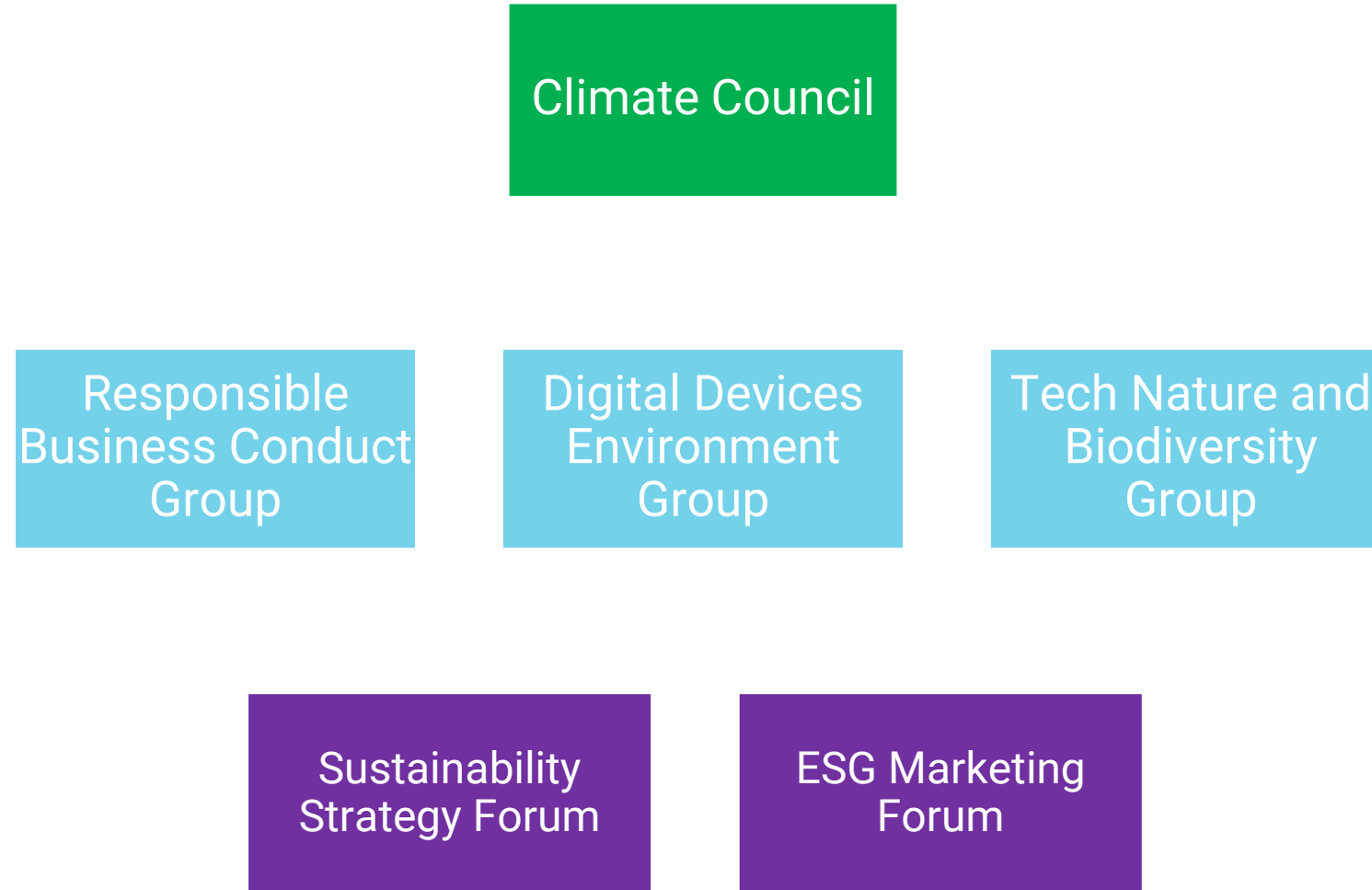
- Speaking to members about potentially negative impacts of technology on sustainability and human rights.

- Facilitating collaboration between tech companies to combat issues.

- Debunking misconceptions about tech.

Government engagement and lobbying

> We regularly speak to various government departments and respond to their consultations or calls for evidence.

> Parliamentary engagement includes responding to inquiries, both verbally and in writing:
>   - Response to a consultation on the introduction of a UK CBAM
>   - Response to a call for evidence on Scope 3 reporting
>   - Response to an inquiry on the Modern Slavery Act 2015
>   - Select committee appearance on modern slavery in tech supply chains
>   - Response to a consultation and Call for Evidence on e-waste

> We interact with MPs, including those from the opposition, e.g. we organised a roundtable on human rights due diligence with Alex Davies-Jones in May 2024.

Programme structure

techUK

```
                    ┌─────────────────┐
                    │ Climate Council │
                    └─────────────────┘

┌──────────────────┐ ┌──────────────────┐ ┌──────────────────┐
│   Responsible    │ │ Digital Devices  │ │ Tech Nature and  │
│ Business Conduct │ │   Environment    │ │   Biodiversity   │
│      Group       │ │      Group       │ │      Group       │
└──────────────────┘ └──────────────────┘ └──────────────────┘

        ┌──────────────────┐ ┌──────────────────┐
        │  Sustainability  │ │  ESG Marketing   │
        │  Strategy Forum  │ │      Forum       │
        └──────────────────┘ └──────────────────┘
```

Programme structure
Climate Council

> Focus areas include climate resilience, net zero transition, green digital skills, decarbonisation.

> Elected for a 2 year term, meets every 6-8 weeks.

> Current workstreams include a document summarising techUK's policy recommendations on various sustainability-related topics, as well as creating a wider net zero transition guide for the tech sector.

> This group sets the techUK position on different climate issues and acts as the group of members that approves what we say, think and do on climate and the net zero transition.

> Priorities are green-ops (green skills and green software), adaptation and resilience and promoting the adoption of digital tech.

> The Council does not execute the work though – Council and wider membership can get involved so it isn't a closed shop.

techUK

Chair
Susanne Baker, Partner
– Technology Sector
ERM

Vice Chair
Eric Zie, CEO
GoCodeGreen

Vice Chair
Victoria Doherty, Group Head of Client Engagement
QinetiQ

Programme structure
Working groups

techUK

Responsible Business Conduct Group

Co-Chairs: Moira Thompson-Oliver (Slaughter & May) and Richard Phillips (Accenture)

- Topics covered: sustainability reporting, human rights due diligence, forced labour, critical minerals, modern slavery statements, supply chain transparency.

- Each meeting includes a policy update, as well as short topical presentations on various topics.

- Meetings occur quarterly, however we do ad-hoc calls/meetings on key issues.

Click here to sign up

Digital Devices Environment Group

Chair and Vice Chair: Benedict Storer (Samsung) and Jonathan Perry (Dell)

- Topics covered: electronic waste and recycling, batteries, chemicals, packaging, eco-design.

- Each meeting includes a policy update, as well as short topical presentations on various topics.

- Meetings occur quarterly, however we do ad-hoc calls/meetings on key issues.

- Limited to manufacturers.

Click here to sign up

Tech Nature and Biodiversity Group

No elected Chairs

- Topics covered: nature-related disclosures, water conservation, biodiversity net gain regulations, nature tech.

- Each meeting includes a policy update, as well as short topical presentations on various topics.

- Meetings occur three times a year, but we do topical webinars more frequently.

Click here to sign up

Programme structure
Fora

techUK

❯ Sustainability Strategy Forum

- Sustainability Strategy Forum is a platform for members to engage in higher-level discussions about key aspects of digital sustainability.

- Meetings occur quarterly, with each session lasting 1.5 hours. Volunteer speakers, chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis, present their approaches, outlining both the advantages and challenges they have encountered. Each meeting selects a topic for the next session.

- Open to all techUK members, the Forum invites those who are committed to both giving and receiving insights.

- Operates under the Chatham House rule, fostering an environment where companies can openly share success stories, address pain points, and provide constructive feedback.

Sign up to receive updates on upcoming SSF meetings

❯ ESG Marketing Forum

- ESG Marketing Forum serves as a platform for professionals in marketing, communications, PR, and public affairs.

- Its purpose is to facilitate connections and foster discussions regarding best practices for seamlessly incorporating sustainability into communication and marketing strategies.

- The forum places a strong emphasis on preventing 'greenwashing' and 'greenhushing', ensuring that efforts to ESG initiatives are genuine and transparent.

- As a member of the ESG Marketing Forum, you can expect regular updates on regulatory changes as well as ad-hoc meetings designed for both education and networking.

Sign up to receive updates on upcoming meetings

How to engage with our team?

techUK

- Create a techUK account and sign up to our newsletter, working groups, fora or events. If you have issues, please email Lucas.Banach@techUK.org.

- Suggest things! techUK has an open door policy for members to suggest things that could be useful. Examples are the CSRD group and modern slavery statement peer-to-peer assessments.

- Follow techUK social media and connect with us on LinkedIn – Craig, V, Josh.

- Participate in our monthly Sustainability Policy Update call (every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3 PM).

- Sponsor an event or partner with us. For example, see how CGI led discussions on green skills at the Tech and Net Zero Conference 2023.

- Access our insights on the Climate Action Hub.

- Send us case studies that we will be able to use in our reports, on social media and in interactions with the government.

- Submit a guest blog for publication on our website. Guidelines can be found here.

- Ask questions or pitch ideas by emailing Craig.Melson@techUK.org, Weronika.Dorociak@techUK.org or Josh.Turpin@techUK.org.