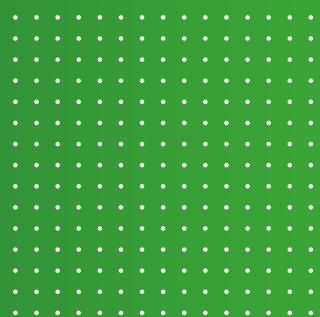


# Climate, Environment and Sustainability Programme

Technology offers significant opportunities to support the net zero transition, climate adaptation, and a healthy and clean environment. We work closely with members, government, regulators and stakeholders to realise the positive benefits of tech as we transition to more sustainable systems and business models.

[Visit the Climate, Environment and Sustainability page on our website.](#)





# 2021 Achievements

## Positioning technology as a pathway to net zero

In 2021 we showcased member innovations and advocated for policy that positions tech as a solution to the climate crisis. Examples include our [Climate Tech: The Innovators](#) report, our most successful ever [podcast](#) on Tech and Net Zero, and our events at COP26 championing digital.

## Helping our members understand and set carbon targets

40% of the world's tech sector have net zero commitments. As tech firms made tough carbon pledges we joined and championed the Race to Zero campaign. However, many members were unsure on what exactly a climate target is, or how to measure progress so we [produced a climate hub](#) with guidance documents and case studies, and ran webinars and events to educate the sector.

## Defending the sector on environmental issues

As environment became a tier one issue, techUK publicly defended the sector on environmental performance and rebutted negative stories. These include [FAQs on energy consumption](#), re-balancing the debate on right to repair/e-waste, and highlighting the improvements in renewable adoption in tech.

## Business, human rights, and ESG reporting

Our [Responsible Business Conduct](#) group helped members navigate the complex and interconnected world of due diligence, supply chain transparency, human rights and ESG reporting. The group ran events on audits, differing legal frameworks and lobbied on new legislation. Furthermore, we ran webinars with lawyers, NGOs and consultants to educate and upskill members on ESG.

## Effective green UK regulation for tech and digital devices

In 2021 techUK represented the views of members on the following issues:

- Ahead of the Environment Act, techUK represented the views of members on EPR.
- Highlighted to BEIS the challenges in rolling out UK energy labels for consumer electronics and the importance of non-divergence from strong EU standards that represents a major cost risk for device manufacturers.

# 2021 Achievements

## Effective green UK regulation for tech and digital devices (continued)

- Highlighted to Defra the priorities for producers of electricals and electronics for the 2021 review of the UK waste EPR regime for electronics leading to Defra support for incentives for circular business models.
- We made recommendations on how the Treasury Net Zero Review, BEIS 10 point plan, DCMS data and AI strategy, and Energy White Paper reflect the importance of digital tech.
- Lobbied the Home Office on international harmonisation to avoid being overly prescriptive on modern slavery reporting.
- Lobbied the Cabinet Office on how green considerations within public sector ICT procurement can be best managed.
- Pressed Defra and the HSE for alignment between the EU and UK REACH.
- Worked with international industry groups to encourage global alignment on regulation.

# 2022 Objectives

## Helping scale the clean tech sector

We want to help clean tech grow by identifying barriers to deployment and making it easier to embed clean technology. We will work with stakeholders to identify and overcome the market, financial, policy and regulatory barriers to help clean tech firms grow, export and succeed.

## Help members measure and implement net zero targets

2022 will see tech firms expected to set out how they will implement, measure and be transparent about carbon targets. Working with our members and other experts we will deliver a series of reports, papers and case studies on how the tech sector can adopt sustainable business practices to reach net zero.

## Showcase member environmental action

techUK will run events, write reports [and champion member work on the environment](#), helping members get wider exposure for the work they are doing and amplify the sector's commitment to sustainability.

## Lobbying for effective green UK regulation for tech and digital devices

We will work closely with government as new UK policy regimes are developed this year, including:

- Working with HMRC as it implements the Plastic Packaging Tax.
- Responding to the consultation on post-Brexit WEEE, Batteries, Packaging EPR legislation while defending the sector on e-waste and eco-design regulations as the UK and EU diverges.
- Working with Defra as it finalises the structure of RoHS and REACH.
- Lobbying for a tax, R&D, innovation and business environment that helps clean tech grow and makes it easier to invest in carbon cutting digital tools.
- Lobbying for harmonised approaches to ESG disclosures and business friendly reporting burdens as the UK/EU introduces TCFD, considers mandatory due diligence, consults on Sustainability Disclosure Requirements, green taxonomies, and new regulations on net zero.

# 2022 Objectives

## Lobbying for effective green UK regulation for tech and digital devices (continued)

- Supporting legal compliance with emerging UK green legislation
- Building on our regular alerts, member communications, FAQ documents, fortnightly Parliamentary Newsletter and our new regulatory database, we will work closely with members to develop tools and resources, share best practice, and help members keep on top of emerging UK green legislation.

## Responding to due diligence and human rights risks

UK and EU legislation continues to evolve to hold companies more accountable for activities in their supply chain and how tech is used. This includes an update to the UK Modern Slavery Act and new requirements for public sector contract tenders. techUK will run events and webinars, publish guidance for SMEs, and keep members aware of global due diligence requirements.

## Creating discussion, debate and insights on emerging ESG issues

Sustainability is a fast-evolving area for businesses and there will be capacity to respond to emerging issues. techUK will lead the debate where tech meets sustainability and policy.