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Expert survey: Decarbonised road transport by 2050 is possible but new policies – and focus beyond technology – will be crucial

- 80% of expert respondents to event survey say road transport can be decarbonised by 2050 but two-thirds say current policies not enough
- Majority of respondents say behaviour change will play an equal or greater role than technology in the transition to zero
- Transport minister: *“In the UK, nothing short of a green industrial revolution will do”*

A survey of stakeholder experts opened on 6 July, for today’s Zemo Partnership Annual Conference shows that most believe that the decarbonisation of UK road transport by 2050 is possible, but a significant majority (66%) say that policies so far enacted or announced are not enough.

Respondents also believe that while the electrification of road transport is an important component of the transition, there needs to be more focus on behavioural measures to achieve the goal.

Speaking at the Zemo Partnership Conference, with over 600 delegates in attendance, transport minister **Rachel Maclean MP** a leading Government proponent of the Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) said: “COP26 will be a crucial moment to test our global commitment to fight rising temperatures and prevent irreversible damage to our planet. In the UK, nothing short of a green industrial revolution will do.”

Ms Maclean described the recently published TDP as “rightly ambitious but achievable”.

The Plan provided the backdrop for the Conference – also held in association with Net Zero Week 2021 – which featured responses to the plan from the widest range of leading stakeholders including **Huw Merriman MP**, Chair of the Transport Select Committee, **David Bunch**, Shell’s new UK Country Chair and **Professor Sir Dieter Helm** of Oxford University.

Zemo Partnership's Chief Executive, **Andy Eastlake**, announcing details of the organisation's 'acceleration programme' said: "Our privileged position – bridging government and the widest range of members together – will enable us to work the detail of many of the 78 commitments seen in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan.

"Across all road vehicles and fuels our members have committed to drive progress to zero emissions. Our new acceleration programme of key projects and new initiatives embraces the much wider range of stakeholders needed and their appetite to accelerate the pace of change, not only in terms of technology, but of energy, infrastructure, information and behaviour. We aim to deliver this using hard evidence, clear targets and widespread engagement."

"As transport, technology and systems converge, so does our need to think differently. Operating in our traditional, closed silos is no longer enough.

"The TDP has set the finish line and fired the starting gun. We are now all in a race against the climate change clock in which no one can get left behind."

Other key interim findings from the survey of stakeholder experts¹ announced at the Zemo Partnership Conference are:

- More than 70% of respondents think that the 2030/5 phase-out dates for the sale of new cars and vans are realistic (17% have already made the switch, while 53% feel the timing is 'about right')
- Around 58% of respondents said that behaviour change will deliver as much, or greater, carbon reductions than technology (42% said we need to focus equally on technology shift/behaviour change while 16% said behaviour change has the greater potential)
- Nearly 70% of respondents think that they will be able to cut their household's carbon emissions from travel to zero (or near zero) by the Government's 2050 target date. However around 15% think it's unrealistic
- Over 66% of respondents think that there will be cost effective zero emission technologies available to allow the delivery of goods by 2040. However, a significant minority (30%) think it will be 2050 – or even later – before such technologies are available

The Zemo Conference survey is still [live here](#).

¹ Based on around 200 responses, carried out from July 6 to date.

Rachel Maclean MP's speech is [available here](#).

Zemo Partnership's 2021 Work Programme (Acceleration Plan) is [available here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Zemo Partnership (www.zemo.org.uk), formerly LowCVP, was established in 2003 as a public-private partnership working to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. Over 200 organisations are engaged from diverse backgrounds, including automotive and fuel supply chains, government, vehicle users, academics, environment groups and others. In February 2021 the organisation changed its name to reflect heightened ambition and the increased need for cross sector collaboration as the UK embarks on a trajectory to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Speakers at the Zemo Partnership Annual Conference include contributors from OZEV, DFT, Arrival, ITS – Leeds University, Ford, Enterprise, Zap-Map, Gridserve, Tesco, Mobilityways, Octopus Electric Vehicles, Coventry City Council, Greener Transport Solutions, EVA England, Green Biofuels, Via, Co-Charger and others. The event also included short video contributions from a wide range of stakeholders. More details about the event are [available here](#).

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