

Business quotes on the BGA's letter to the chancellor

Rachel Elwell, Chief Executive, Border to Coast, said:

"The journey to Net Zero will require new business models, new companies and new infrastructure. Government has a clear role in developing a clear and consistent policy framework for companies and investors to deliver the investment required."

Anthony Levy, Chairman, Circularity First, said:

"On the world stage – other countries are investing for the long term and winning in areas of green energy, AI, and quantum. We still have an opportunity to lead in sustainability in terms of both our ambition and the services and knowledge industry in this space. This is both ethically and financially critical to ensure the United Kingdom remains relevant and prosperous for future generations."

Avent Bezuidenhoudt, CEO, Earth Capital, said:

"The UK needs a clear signal from the Government that it is serious about the global race to net zero. The Autumn Statement is an opportune moment to set out how it will intervene in a meaningful and coherent way to provide stimulus for the UK industry-wide transition needed to keep the UK a leader in real economy climate action globally. Earth Capital stands with others across the business and finance sector in showing our support for this."

Stuart Lemmon, Managing Director, EcoAct Northern Europe, said:

"While the business community is demonstrating a strong commitment to investing in the net-zero transition, the absence of steadfast, long-term policies and incentives to reach net-zero undermines the climate ambition businesses are eager to embrace. Delaying any action or weakening net-zero policies doesn't just hamper our nation's progress in advancing climate action; it also puts our companies at a distinct disadvantage in the worldwide race for a net-zero economy. To keep investments flowing and investor confidence high, we need consistent policies. Recent changes have only added to the uncertainty. The government must provide the necessary policy understanding and a robust roadmap of action, leadership, and ambition to ensure the UK remains an appealing destination for forward-thinking and responsible businesses. With the USA and EU in the lead, the UK must stay competitive in the global transition to net-zero. Our future depends on it."

James Brueton, CEO, EnviroBuild, said:

"Given the recent government approach to net zero we hold little hope of the current government taking the issue of global warming as seriously as they should."

Jacob Hayler, Executive Director, Environmental Services Association, said:

"The recycling and waste treatment industry is willing to invest £10 billion in new recycling infrastructure around the country creating over 40,000 jobs. This will only happen if we have a clear and stable policy framework which rewards decarbonisation and nature protection."

Basil Demeroutis, Managing Partner, FORE Partnership, said:

"The UK has the potential to be a global leader in what many see as the greatest investment opportunity in history: the green economy. In our sector -- property -- estimates are that up to 230,000 new jobs could be created by 2030 from the net zero transition, a huge economic and social dividend. But this is a double edged sword, because we must have these skilled workers, otherwise growth will not materialise and we will lose the battle against the climate crisis. Government must move quickly to support the green transition with unambiguous, well-funded policies."

Jon Lovell, Managing Director, Hillbreak, said:

“The race to zero is on but already the UK is losing ground. For a nation that prides itself so deeply on its role in ushering in the Industrial Revolution, the irony couldn't be greater! So come on, Chancellor, pick up the pace and make the UK the global frontrunner in combatting the existential climate crisis.”

Simon Storer, CEO, Insulation Manufacturers Association, said:

“The UK's 2050 Net Zero Carbon target was a world leading commitment to address the enormity of the challenges facing our planet. To dilute this target would cause enormous damage to the UK's reputation and standing and undermine much of the progress that has been achieved. The government should listen to business and ensure these targets are retained for the good of the UK.”

Jojo Linds de Noronha, Northern Europe President, Kraft Heinz, said:

“As a company we are firmly committed to the transformation needed to meet our Net Zero goals, we need the UK to provide consistent, long term, supportive policies to businesses during this transition, that match the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.”

Roy Bedlow, CEO, Low Carbon, said:

“Low Carbon is pleased to stand with other UK businesses in supporting and furthering efforts towards a net zero economy. The next decade is crucial to slowing the pace of climate change, and it is imperative that we have a supportive policy framework in place that will allow us to rapidly deploy renewable energy at scale.”

Jack Broadley, Director, Pelorus Consulting, said:

“Recent climate and environmental disasters show an urgent need for global leadership. The UK Chancellor has an opportunity to do the right thing and fully support and expedite our race to Net Zero.”

Barry Jessup, Managing Director, Socius Development Limited, said:

“Socius is an impactful developer, delivering sustainable places for people to live, work and socialise. For us, net zero represents a huge opportunity, not just for the environment but for the economy and society as a whole. However, for businesses to take full advantage, the government needs to provide a clearer and more coherent long-term strategy. We strongly urge the Chancellor to prioritise this and not renege on this commitment.”

Kevin, O'Donovan, UK Managing Director, Statkraft UK, said:

“The Chancellor should use this Autumn Statement to send a strong positive signal that the UK remains the place to invest in green infrastructure. With projects in development and construction across the UK, including wind, solar, and grid stability, Statkraft is already playing an important part in the renewable transition. The move to clean electricity is a huge opportunity to achieve both energy security, and cheaper bills for consumers. While the Prime Minister's recent announcement on reforming grid connectivity in the UK was a very welcome step in the right direction, we must see the planning system properly resourced to make it a success, and taxation must not put renewables at a disadvantage to oil and gas.”

Jade Lewis, Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Association, said:

“Only with a long-term, joined-up and clear policy landscape across energy efficiency, low-carbon heat and building decarbonisation, will we level-up the UK, deliver a prosperous Net Zero and improve lives.”

Tom, Druitt, CEO, The Big Lemon CIC, said:

“Strong leadership is needed now more than ever. The upcoming Autumn Statement is a golden opportunity for the Chancellor to set a decisive course in the global race to net zero. Let's invest in sustainable solutions that benefit us all.”

Beverley, Cornaby, Director, UK Corporate Leaders Group, said:

“We are in a global race to net zero; not just a race to avoid the worst impacts of climate change but also a race to take advantage of the economic opportunities offered by the transition to a low carbon economy. Businesses have consistently shown their support for net zero ambition and action. We are today calling on the Chancellor to help unlock the economic benefits for businesses in the UK and ensure the UK retains its position as a global leader on climate change.”

Steve, Kenzie, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network UK, said:

“Private sector climate action and leadership are critical to achieving net zero, and businesses are ready to play their part. With an industrial plan that provides business with the right clarity, certainty, and confidence to invest, the UK has a unique opportunity to unlock green growth, build resilience, re-establish strong climate leadership and create a fairer society for the benefit of all.”

Dave, Worthington, Managing Director, Verco, said:

“We have been working on climate change mitigation for over 30 years and have never seen a greater opportunity or need for the UK to take a leadership position to allow UK business to drive the transition to a net zero economy and help get global progress towards the Paris goals back on track.”

Simon, Griffin, Dealer Principal & Director, Watts Truck & Van Limited, said:

“As a DAF Trucks Dealer whose market-leading products are built in Britain, we urge the Chancellor to use the Autumn Statement to reinforce our country's leadership in the global race to net zero.”

Andrew, Dakers, CEO, West London Business, said:

“The UK is one of the global leaders in CleanTech, but this advantage is going to be fast lost if we do not have a robust response to the USA's Inflation Reduction Act. In West London we are home to White City Innovation District at the heart of which is Imperial College London. So in many places the innovation infrastructure is in place, but the government leadership and investment needs to flow.”