



EAST OF ENGLAND NET ZERO & CLIMATE RESILIENCE SUMMIT 18.07.2024

SUMMIT REPORT



Event Partners: East of England LGA (EELGA), England's Economic Heartland (EEH), The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and Transport East (TE)



East of England
Local Government Association



**The Chartered
Institute of Logistics
and Transport**



**ENGLAND'S
ECONOMIC
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Summary from the event partners

We're delighted to share this report, which captures the highlights and actionable insights from the July 2024 East of England Net Zero and Climate Resilience Summit, held at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU).

Building on the outcomes of our first conference held in 2023, this year's Summit was an important – and successful – milestone in our collective journey to Net Zero across the region. Notably this year, we changed the event description from a conference to a Summit, marking our desire to drive action as well as bringing people together.

For the first time, climate resilience was added to the title of the event and across the agenda, demonstrating the significance of adaptation to our work for the East of England region.

The event also marked the launch of the Opportunity East report which highlights the significant economic potential of our region and how this can be unlocked through greater support for the region's infrastructure. These themes were repeated across many of the talks and discussions held throughout the Summit, particularly those with a focus on climate change mitigation.

The East of England offers a host of opportunities in terms of its green economy, with strong capabilities across the region in clean energy such as offshore renewables, onshore wind, nuclear and hydrogen, among others. There is a growing expertise in agri-tech, complementing the region's significant agricultural assets and further cementing the region as the "bread basket" of Britain.

With the East of England facing significant climate change impacts from coastal erosion, drought and flooding, the region's support with mitigation and adaptation through its green economy will be key.

The Summit brought together more than 200 experts, practitioners and interested parties from a diverse range of sectors including central and local government, academia, agriculture, private sector and third sector industry partners. The themes of the Summit emphasised the importance of collaboration and innovation, as well as the need to close the gap between building understanding and driving the action needed for change in this area. Continuing to build 'one voice' for the East of England on these important topics is essential.

Key themes arising from across the Summit ranged from climate resilience and adaptation, the importance of collaboration, partnership (particularly between private and public sectors) and the need to aggregate projects, resources and capacity. Having the right skills available now and in the future was mentioned repeatedly, from supporting retrofits in heating systems and vehicle engines to rapidly transitioning to clean energy. It is important to recognise that shifting people's behaviour from understanding to action is key to driving change.

We look forward to continuing the conversations and actions sparked by this Summit, with the intention of reconvening in 2025. We're anticipating real progress in embedding the changes needed for a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous East of England.

Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss how you are taking action on any of these issues or have any questions.



Cllr Peter Schwier
Chair, Regional Climate Change Forum (EELGA)



Cllr Liz Leffman
Chair, England's Economic Heartland



Cllr Graham McAndrew
Chair of Eastern Region,
Chartered Institute of
Logistics & Transport (CILT)



Will Quince
Chair, Transport East

"Adapting to a changing climate is absolutely essential to address a wide range of risks and... is a pre-requisite to delivering the UK's path to Net Zero."

Daniel Zeichner, MP

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The Summit – a summary

The Summit was held through a partnership between EELGA, Transport East, England's Economic Heartland and the Chartered Institute for Logistics and Transport.

Hosted by ARU Cambridge and taking place over one day, the event was supported by almost 40 speakers, chairs and facilitators, covering a range of subjects. The Summit presentations, panel discussions and workshops delved into topics under five key themes:

- Decarbonising rural connectivity
- Green economy and skills
- Behaviour change
- Building climate resilience
- Finance and retrofit

From exploring the challenges of rural connectivity and infrastructure and closing the skills gap, to learning more about the great work being delivered by a range of different organisations that could potentially be replicated in other parts of our region, the Summit demonstrated that there is a wealth of knowledge and real ambition to deliver results.

Themes and topics from the day – summaries of presentations and panel discussions

Following a welcome from Cllr Peter Schwier, we were delighted to hear from Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge and the newly appointed Minister of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Signalling his continued interest and support for the work underway across the East of England, the Minister outlined the importance of climate adaptation, in terms of both addressing a wide range of risks and as a prerequisite to the delivery of the UK's path to Net Zero. He explained that Defra's work on Net Zero directly supports two of the new government's missions - the kickstart of economic growth and making Britain a clean energy superpower. Finally, he stressed the importance of our region in terms of agriculture and its contribution to



emissions as well as the impact of climate change on food security. Many of these issues were explored in greater depth across the Summit.

Professor Roderick Watkins, Vice Chancellor, ARU, delivered a welcome to participants. This was followed by an introduction to the role of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) in Net Zero from the CILT Chair, Vikram Singla. The CILT works with Government amplifying the messages and sharing impacts in an insightful way. The Institute has an Environment and Sustainability Forum that has actively worked with the Sub-national transport bodies (STBs) in the organisation of this event. The CILT has a new policy group which is a spin-off from the Forum and chaired by Dominic Scholfield who was a panellist at this Summit.



Chaired by Wipro VP & Global Head of Sustainability Susan Kenniston, the panel discussion on the topic of **Decarbonising Rural Connectivity**, included insights from Dr Scott Copsey, University of Hertfordshire, Piers Marlow, First East of England and Ensignbus, Jessica Ellery from supply chain solutions firm Wincanton, and Dominic Scholfield from low emission vehicle research and consultancy company Cenex. They highlighted ideas, expectations and priorities related to decarbonising rural connectivity. The topics covered similar themes raised in presentations and workshops across the Summit, including:

- Closing the skills gap, considering the multidisciplinary capacity and capability that will be needed. As well as considering investment in local colleges and apprenticeships, it can also include those who may be out of work (so not just early career recruits) and those who might face barriers getting into work.
- Improving the approach to multimodal journeys and thinking about how to localise services through 'hubs' and so cut down the need for transport.
- Remembering the strategic balance needed between decarbonising personal transport versus mass transport options.
- Considering the potential for more public-private partnerships and how we think about greater collaboration and breaking down silos.
- Energy sourcing and the related infrastructure challenges, such as the availability of power (currently an inhibitor) sparked discussion around how we continue to build out renewables and meet the challenge of moving power around the country to where the demand is (through 'micro grids'). Hydrogen was also discussed.
- Remembering that electric cars are not going to be the solution for everyone, in terms of affordability and access, is important. We need to think about different modes of transport at local levels. Working to have electric bus fleets, as in Cambridge and Norwich, is a positive move in decarbonising transport.
- The resources and potential exist to make this change, and we need to keep driving this forward so it can be realised.

The launch of the report, [Opportunity East: How the East of England will drive national productivity through innovation](#), presented by Cairistine Foster-Cannan, Chief Executive of East of England Local Government Association (EELGA), Kevin Fenning, Independent Economic Consultant and Nova Fairbank, Chief Executive, Norfolk Chambers of Commerce, gave a comprehensive background into the report approach, findings and next steps.

This report provides a blueprint to remove the barriers the region faces and seize the available opportunities. The challenges for the region that are holding back business investment include: the vulnerability of the region to climate change impacts; congestion, public transport and digital infrastructure issues (quality, availability and reliability of internet connections) and scarce water supplies.



The report findings focus on two areas: the economic contribution of the East of England and the region's infrastructure challenges. It includes three 'nationally important assets' in the region:

- **Net Zero & Energy Security** – currently, energy produced in the East of England powers 32% of all UK homes equivalent and by 2035 could power 90% of homes equivalent.
- **Food security** – the region is home to a third of UK grade 1 agricultural land and includes a significant amount of food manufacturing and food innovation.
- **International trade** – we have two freeports and half of the UK's containerised goods move through our region.

In reviewing the links between the report and government policy, there are a series of 'asks' for the UK Government, covering areas such as:

- Supporting the industrial strategy and removing infrastructure barriers,
- Investing in infrastructure (including rail) to boost trade routes,
- Providing support for the East of England climate risk assessment and adaptation strategy,
- Investment in hydrogen network opportunities to maximise the potential for green hydrogen,
- Investing in strategic flood defences to protect communities, and
- Considering how communities can benefit from energy infrastructure investments. Power is coming through the region and we cannot capitalise on it.

Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council and Chair of England's Economic Heartland (EEH), and Will Quince, Chair of Transport East, began the **Net Zero transport for a growing East** session, by outlining the benefits of Net Zero in terms of creating better places for people to live, work and enjoy.

Moving freight from road to rail could reduce the number of lorries travelling through communities to support this. Transport is the largest carbon emitter in the East of England.

Work has progressed with government confirmation of funding to improve the Ely rail junction (potentially removing 100,000 HGVs from our roads annually and reducing carbon emissions by 1.7 million tonnes of CO² over 60 years) although the allocation of committed funds to Network Rail is still to be confirmed.

"While Net Zero is undoubtedly about reducing carbon, it's also about creating better places for everyone to live, work and enjoy."

Cllr Liz Leffman, Chair, England's Economic Heartland

EEH has developed a decarbonisation playbook, which is being rolled out to all Sub-national Transport Bodies (STBs). This is designed to enable local and combined authorities to understand the types of emissions in their area and the pathways to get to Net Zero. Transport East and EEH have also developed tools and analytics, including data and insight on EV infrastructure, to accelerate charger rollout, making it easier for local authorities to develop EV strategies and plans.

The STBs are already looking at improving and growing bus service usage and developing infrastructure across the country, including the East of England, promoting social mobility, tackling inequality and better integrating transport networks with greener transport. These actions reflect improvements the Government wants to see.

Jonathan Ward, Net Zero Innovation & Delivery Manager and Greg Pearson, Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Manager, both from the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) shared their **Best practice showcase on Norfolk Net Zero Communities**.



The Norfolk Net Zero Communities, an Innovate UK-funded project, explores what stops people at a local level from making more climate positive choices, focusing on non-technical barriers. For example, this might be what gets in the way of people taking more green transport or active travel options or engaging better with decarbonising their homes.

The team is working across seven districts and seven places within those districts representing Norfolk's diversity (and so enabling effective scale-up of projects across the country). The aim is to understand where friction arises and how to reduce the resulting barriers, to help people be both willing and able to make changes. This means exploring the information, advice and support from community levels to county and district and testing them. This will help develop recommendations and communication toolkits that support delivery focused on people and place.

*"Emissions do not respect local authority boundaries.
Collaboration is essential to meet our ambitions."
Will Quince, Chair of Transport East*

A series of 10 workshops were held during two sessions on the day. These smaller, expert sessions were dedicated to single, key topics, enabling Summit participants to explore them in more depth. Each one of these sessions prompted a range of ideas, actions and takeaways, with many echoing the themes raised across the entire Summit.

Green Skills: developing capacity and capability for the Net Zero transition

Martin Baxter, Deputy CEO, Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA)

Key points and actionable insights:

1. **Raise aspirations** – get climate change on the curriculum so young people are asking about green skills in the context of training and employment and find ways to encourage our older workforce to reskill.
2. **Review how existing funding is used and how courses are designed** – speed up training through bootcamps and make sure apprenticeship funds are used effectively. Focus teaching on specific skills and competencies – not just job roles – and look at nature-based solutions. Invest in local wildlife trust and similar organisations.
3. **Improve planning and forecasting skills** – address the problem of supply and demand by training people to build skills ahead of job availability and match the pipeline of new skills with the expected lifespans of existing assets such as gas boilers.
4. **Modernising teaching** – separate skills from job roles in the way we think about things and consider shorter training courses over more lengthy apprenticeships.
5. **Repeat good pilots** – how can local government, employers and academia come together to replicate good projects?

Practical Behaviour Change for Net Zero

Rob Moore, Co-founder and Operations Director, Behaviour Change

Key points and actionable insights:

Practical behaviour change relies on the relationship with the person whose behaviour we want to change. For local authorities in particular there are some areas where they can be more impactful such as changing heating habits (through incentives or the planning system), driving behaviours, through signage, and water use.

1. Can we counter some of the myths around insulation?
2. There is a need to make services and products like insulation and heat pump products look more desirable in advertising (in the same way as kitchens for example), but at the same time, regulate the industry so that people are not 'ripped off'.
3. Councils can work with preferred suppliers and develop a mark of trust to make it clear who can help.
4. Make information readily and quickly accessible for all.
5. To address behaviours around driving being the default mode of travel:
 - Increase education about public transport and the costs of it and promote buses through incentives.
 - Ensure we have a consumer-led focus on this – we need to make public transport useful and as easy as possible for people. Convenience is key.
6. Change the narrative to being seen on public transport rather than in your car and make it a less isolating experience.
7. Understand more about why people aren't using cars as well as why they are.

"Behaviour change is so important because it's very easy to talk but actually what we need to do is change our actions and deliver as well"

Cllr Peter Schwier, Chair of the East of England LGA Regional Climate Change Forum

Towards a consensus on climate adaptation in the East of England

Emily Bolton, Climate Crisis Strategy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council

20% of the East of England region is below sea-level, hence getting home insurance is an increasing problem. Concerns about insufficient fresh water mean the building of 10,000 new homes in the region is on hold.

Preparedness for climate change is a major issue. Typically, just relying on an emergency response is insufficient, hence the need for a strong vision for positive adaptation. Suggest following a programme with the 5 Cs: Cognisance, Communication, Coordination, Cooperation and Collaboration. Around 40 people worked in small groups and produced outputs on flip charts for reporting back in due course.

DEFRA is working on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for 2028.

Key points and actionable insight - through two key questions:

1. **Vision** - what does an adapted East of England look like?
 2. **Collaboration** - what do we need in place to overcome key barriers to collaboration, particularly given the diverse range of people/organisations that need to be involved?
- **A strong narrative** around nature and health, supporting both articulation of the vision for this subject and motivations for taking action.
 - **Water** is a key challenge and a highly sensitive one. Engagement with communities, to both shift perceptions and understanding of our relationship with water, is key. Many people don't consider where water comes from – they just turn on the tap.
 - A range of actions to support collaboration were identified, including:
 - **Establishing a climate resilience board** across the private and public sectors with defined roles and responsibilities to support ownership and drive action
 - **Establishing a shared data repository** to overcome data access issues (there is a lot of information available across a wide and complex range of organisations) and support the development of a cohesive, aligned evidence base from which all partners can draw their action.
 - **Support for, and promotion of, regional issues, challenges and action.** There was also an idea of 'pitching' the region as a national exemplar for adaptation and innovation. This would help to leverage finance for action from government.

Sustainable economic development and the Freeport East Green Freight Corridor

Steve Beel, Chief Executive and Simon Papworth, Head of Strategy, Freeport East

Key points and actionable insights (from three workshop questions):

- There is a huge amount of electricity generated by offshore wind that is going to waste as there is no space on the grid. We need to put this energy to use to drive the decarbonisation agenda.

The range of enablers and opportunities to deliver the objectives of the green freight corridor and maximise its benefits include:

- Ely Junction (rail) and A14 corridor,
- Providing certainty and confidence for investment,
- Creating a strong brand narrative with a strong communications approach,
- Presenting a clear lifecycle and benefits of the scheme,
- Integration and coordination needed to be aligned with a long-term plan,
- There is government funding but a question of how to leverage private funding,
- Innovation through procurement.

"The importance of skills and upskilling - it underpins everything."

Summit attendee

Who are the partners to drive success? What role can the public sector best play?

- There are lots of players. If you can get players to collaborate you can create more efficiencies.
- Bring partners together and realise benefits together over the project lifecycle.

What are the sources of funding and private sector investment that we could target? What are the commercial opportunities for businesses to engage with and how do we best communicate those?

- Subsidies to encourage change.
- There is such a large amount of energy being created, you should keep the electricity in the area and reap the rewards.

The challenges of decarbonising UK freight transport

Nick Graham, Head of External Networks, Stobart (part of the Culina Group) and facilitated by Michael Whittaker FCILT, National Chair of CILT Cymru.

This session allowed councillors and industry leaders to work together to discuss ideas on how to overcome decarbonisation challenges, showing an example of cooperation between local government and industry.

Nick Graham outlined the Culina business group which employs 29,000 people and owns Stobart. The use of diesel fuel represents 90% of carbon emissions produced by the company. They are trialling every alternative fuel and received some funding as part of the Government's £200million Zero Emission Road Freight (**ZERFT**) Demonstration. They receive real-time carbon results from each vehicle's onboard CANBUS system. They mentioned that 86% of their vehicle journeys are loaded which compares favourably to the industry norm of 70%. Modal switch to rail freight is positive and Stobart operate seven daily trains and they estimate this gives a 50% saving on carbon, even with diesel locomotives, as a train typically carries 30 lorry loads. They target starting two more rail services per year.

Key points and actionable insights (from three breakouts):

What can we all do to help?

- Reduce the amount of 'stuff' we buy.
- Fewer same/next day movements by waiting longer for goods to arrive— financial measures for 'slow delivery' (the 'last mile conundrum' – more consolidation?).
- Local neighbourhood organisation of deliveries / franchising local delivery – more facilities for price signalling for local delivery/collection/time slots and local collaboration of food ordering between providers.
- Improved procurement (decarbonised friendly supply chain).

What can operators do?

- Use water and rail freight more. There are many opportunities to expand the volume of freight on both of these modes helping to ease congestion on our road network.
- Get end users/manufacturers and logistics providers in the same room to work through the 'best' solution e.g. do all deliveries have to be at a certain time?
- Think about vehicle charging. Depots could perhaps be used as charging hubs with third-party use. Collaboration between Wincanton, XPO and Maritime around sustainability mentioned as key.
- Help logistic services buyers understand the impact of different modes and ordering speeds on the environment.

What more does the Government need to be persuaded to do, to help?

- Power / grid connection / hydrogen connection – improve confidence for investment by private sector,
- Carbon tax on roads to understand the true cost of carbon,
- Hubs – make a role for freight in the right place, with consolidation and charging (guidance would be helpful),
- Reduce speed on networks to improve capacity,
- Improve end-user/officer/elected member understanding of freight/logistics/supply chains especially in relation to environmental impacts,
- Incentives for electric road haulage could help,
- How to increase full loads – use of return load exchanges for road (e.g. Transport Exchange) and rail (e.g. Rail X),
- Optimise the opportunities for each mode to play to their respective strengths, particularly in respect to the interface between modes such as terminals and ports.

“Decarbonisation is the ultimate question and never has that been more current. Here today at the Summit we have been looking at those challenges across all modes of transport, it has been a real practical experience that many can take back and share with their organisations.”

Michael Whittaker CILT

How can finance accelerate home energy retrofit?

George Munson, Assistant Director, Local Authority Advisory and Lending, UK Infrastructure Bank

Key points and actionable insights:

- Authorities currently spend a lot of time developing retrofit projects in isolation, which is inefficient. Feeling that a more strategic approach, designed to aggregate projects with similar aims, would be beneficial.
- There’s currently not a lot of sharing, and authorities would benefit from sharing technical/historic data on their retrofit projects. This could also extend to understanding good practice/shared interest.
- Many authorities are very low on resources so sharing responsibilities and aggregating resources may help achieve more.
- There are lots of frustrations with the previous government’s approach to retrofit, with funds being very short term and many dramatic policy shifts. Individually authorities have a small voice, but working together could create a collective lobbying position with the new government.
- The Solar Together (collective buying scheme) has had some success, so could authorities work together to create a ‘Retrofit Together’ solution (based on Solar Together)?

“[We have an] opportunity to learn across the region – [it’s] broader than just our county.”

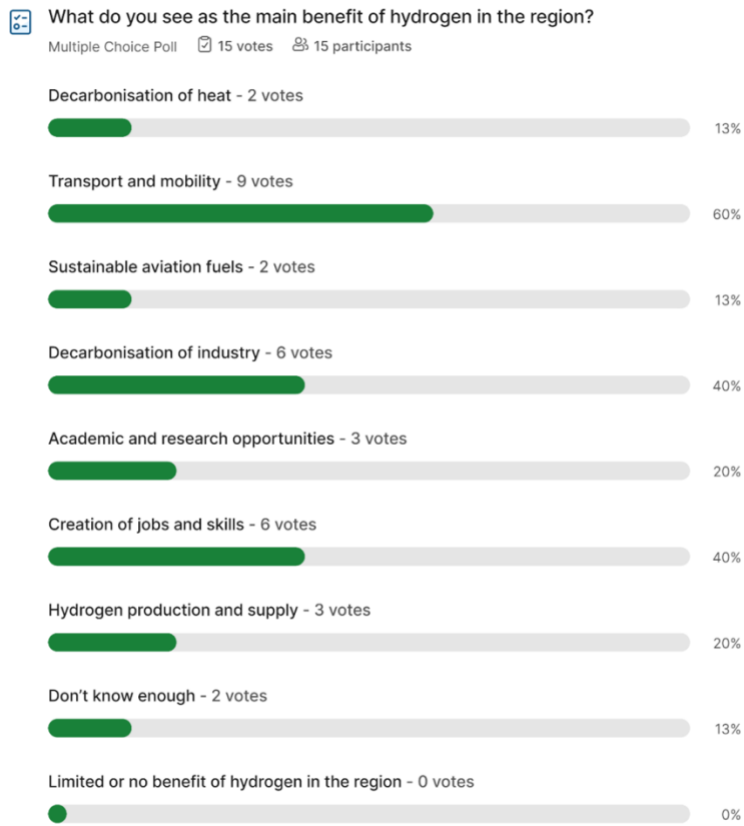
Summit attendee

The role of local authorities in developing a hydrogen economy

Rupert Lugg, Energy Partner, Bevan Britan LLP

Freddie Minter, Hydrogen Solutions Manager, Equans UK and Ireland

Key points and actionable insights, based on two workshop polls:



The biggest barriers?



“Local government and logistics and transport professionals need to work together. We can’t rely on public bodies for all the funding; commercial business will need to play their part.”
Summit attendee

Is a decarbonised agricultural sector possible by 2050?

Kelly Hewson-Fisher, Savills, Ed Barker, Agricultural Industries Confederation, Liz Bowles, Farm Carbon Toolkit, Professor Aled Jon, Global Sustainability Institute

Key points and actionable insights:

- How useful are supermarket projects around farming? Useful for building trust and awareness around the sector but this may put more pressure on farmers.
- How can local authorities help their tenant farmers to move towards Net Zero? In the absence of any government schemes to help farmers understand or reduce their emissions footprint, landlords could help by offering longer tenure in return for long-term changes to be made. And for tenants who are not investing in the land, encouraging the production of fresh produce could help.

“Food security is national security”
Daniel Zeichner, MP

Showcasing ARU’s Net Zero initiatives (two workshop sessions)

Professor Manoj Dora, Professor in Sustainable Production and Consumption, Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)

Repeated across two workshop sessions, the ARU team showcased 11 recently completed projects, providing an overview of the work achieved and, where relevant, details of how projects could be further developed or contribute to next stage research:

- Upskilling for Industry 5.0
- The Blueprint Project
- Insects as a source of alternative protein
- Net Zero carbon hospital standard
- Green skilling
- Sustainable drainage systems health monitoring
- Energy sector digitalisation
- SMEs to develop a sustainability roadmap
- Empowering tribal coffee growers
- Net Zero and measuring tourism sustainability
- Vertical farming systems

“This Summit has truly highlighted the strength of collaboration between our key regional partners, including both the public and private sectors, as well as academia
Cllr Graham McAndrew, Chair of CILT UK’s Eastern Region

“One of the key points [from the workshops] was about climate adaptation. The idea is to establish a regional climate resilience board across private and public sectors and so we all work together.”
Cllr Peter Schwier, Chair of the East of England LGA Regional Climate Change Forum

Overarching themes from the day

- Climate resilience and adaptation.
- Collaboration, partnership and reducing silos.
- Consolidation, aggregating projects, resources and capacity.
- Using technology effectively.
- Learn from what's working somewhere else – e.g. Hinckley Point C has its own doctor's surgery, so workers don't need to travel to stay healthy.
- Financing – funding and public/private partnerships.
- Short-term v long-term approaches and thinking.
- Skills development.
- Renewable energies – hydrogen is important. Think about how we make it easier for people to engage in active travel e.g. cycling, electric bikes etc.
- Behaviour change – how do we move the dial?
- Infrastructure changes are key e.g. moving freight to rail from roads.

Next steps

With the Summit firmly focused on achieving Net Zero and climate resilience the following actions, which were proposed during the workshops, will be key to progress:

- Establishing a climate resilience board across the private and public sectors with defined roles and responsibilities to support ownership and drive action.
- Establishing a shared data repository to overcome data access issues (there is a lot of information available across a wide and complex range of organisations) and support the development of a cohesive, aligned evidence base from which all partners can draw their action.
- Support for, and promotion of, regional issues, challenges and action. There was also the idea of 'pitching' the region as a national exemplar for adaptation and innovation. This would help to leverage finance for action from government.

The panel discussion and workshops raised a host of topics and ideas that could potentially be developed to create tangible actions.

We have a real opportunity to make a big difference for the East of England in reaching Net Zero and building the region's climate resilience. So, if you would like to be involved in either developing or helping progress actions from the Summit, please get in touch.

"I think in partnership and with goodwill, using the incredible knowledge and innovation that we have in institutions like this... I genuinely believe we can rise to the challenge."
Daniel Zeichner, MP

Thank you to everyone who joined us and to our speakers and facilitators who kindly gave up their time to be at the event