

## Press Release

### Climate Change Action for Air Quality conference 2023

#### Central England Air Quality People's Chamber (CE-AQPC) - [www.cwairquality.com](http://www.cwairquality.com)

The emphasis of the conference this year is on the government and the local councils **Net Zero plans**. Almost all councils have now drafted their Net Zero Plan and this is the first time we have a Minister responsible for Net Zero.

The CE-AQPC ([www.cwairquality.com](http://www.cwairquality.com)) has been involved with interacting with the Government ministers, local MPs, many councillors, academics, engineering and medical profession to identify areas that the local communities and resident associations, businesses and individuals can engage in to ensure that the air quality improves and the global warming is no longer a threat to mankind. The activities involved a range of climate change initiatives including STEM and college university student projects and school competitions as well as lectures and workshops supported by engineering institutions. Some of the projects and papers produced were classified as outstanding by major national and international bodies such as the UN, EU and so forth. The winners of the national climate change school competition 2022 were two young ladies who were presented with a certificate and two cash prizes at the IMechE Dinner function organised to celebrate the Institution's 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Some of the activities can be viewed at the CE-AQPC website or for instance at <https://www.marifuture.org/Publications/News/October-November2022News.pdf>

With regard to the Government actions, the recent efforts primarily focused on the impact of global energy supply disruptions. Such disruptions have led to a surge in household bills and slowed economic growth across the globe. The Government has already announced a series of measures aimed at bolstering its efforts to boost the UK's energy supply, cut carbon and drive bills down. Among the key initiatives are a commitment to carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) and a £160 million fund to support port infrastructure projects to kickstart investment in the UK's emerging floating offshore wind industry, while the first tranche of green hydrogen production projects is set to receive backing under the £240 million Net Zero Hydrogen Fund. This together with the fifth round of the UK's Contracts for Difference scheme, aimed at incentivising investment in renewable electricity, will be backed by a budget of £205 million and the new competition to select the best small modular reactor technologies will, it is said, to help the UK towards the set Net Zero targets in 2030 and 2050. In parallel the government is speeding up the planning process to attract investment, reforming it to enable the building of more energy infrastructure, including solar power and offshore wind projects, more quickly. Other measures include more support for energy efficiency by reducing reliance on fossil fuels to heat buildings with a £30 million Heat Pump Investment Accelerator as well as boosting the UK's electric vehicle charging points and infrastructure with an investment of over £380 million and. The most potent tool is the UK Export Finance provided with an extra £10 billion capacity to boost exports, including from the UK's world-leading clean growth sectors. **The question is are all these efforts going to reduce carbon emissions by 68% from 1990 levels by the end of the decade as pledged in Paris Agreement?**

Climate Change and Air Quality affects us all, so if you have something to say or wish to hear the views of the Government, local politicians and specialists on recent actions regarding Net Zero and the reactions from the local communities and many organisations and individuals from a range of background please register for the conference by writing to Lena at [lena\\_kendall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lena_kendall@yahoo.co.uk). Attendance to the conference is free and refreshment and lunch is provided.

**Professor Reza Ziarati - Chair of CE-AQPC**