

# Designing for Decision Makers in Net Zero Futures

## — Workshop Organisation —

### 1 Submission Process

We ask participants to submit a 2-4 page extended abstract stating past, ongoing, or expected future research related to the workshop’s theme, sent to the main organiser’s email address, linked from the workshop website, by May 4.

All accepted participants will be asked to share a short summary of their position paper that will be disseminated to other participants via the website (<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/netzerofutures>). These short summaries focus on the participants’ previous experience with stakeholder engagement and their stakeholders’ stance towards Net Zero, or sustainability more broadly. They will also be asked to answer a question inviting them to speculate about a possible future based on their expertise.

We will ask workshop attendees to skim those short stories prior to the workshop and facilitate engagement, by creating a Miro board with predefined questions, or assigning participants into groups of similar themes, depending on number of submissions and spread as well as similarity of topics. This is to ensure at least a minimum level of interaction between attendees before the workshop, cutting down on the “getting to know” phase in the morning session of the workshop itself, and gaining more time to focus on the futures-thinking aspects of the workshop.

### 2 Organisation

The workshop’s duration is planned to take a full day. We envision the preliminary schedule of the workshop as outlined in Table 1. Times can be adjusted based on the conference’s organisational schedule, e.g., for venue opening times, catering, and coffee/lunch opportunities. If desired, workshop participants are welcome to join for an informal post-workshop dinner.

The morning session will focus on hearing thought-provoking insights from outside academia, followed by a brief round table of all attendees. Due to the pre-workshop knowledge exchange we aim to keep this short and devote more time for the following brainstorming activities, which will start after coffee with a Miro board session in which we will draw connections between workshops’ attendees previous and ongoing research to get everyone involved. The main activities before and after lunch will be focusing on co-designing solutions towards Net Zero futures, led by workshop co-organiser Naomi Jacobs whose research in designing future speculations will provide invaluable guidance. These activities aim to take participants’ existing work settings, project them into a Net Zero future, and brainstorm how to design towards those futures. A round table discussion session will wrap up the workshop in the late afternoon session.

Table 1: Workshop schedule

Time	Activity
8:30	Pre-workshop setup, meet and greet
9:00	Intro and welcome
9:15	Provocation: Net Zero in the consulting world (Carla Gröschel)
9:30	Provocation: Net Zero future examples
9:45	Round table & collaborative board
10:30	Coffee
11:00	Breakout groups (1)
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Sharing design speculations
14:30	Coffee
15:00	Breakout groups (2)
16:00	Show and tell, discuss
16:45	Wrap up