



Dear Angela,

As the festive season draws near, we're excited to share the winter edition of our newsletter. This quarter has been shaped by the momentum surrounding the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29), a pivotal moment for advancing climate-related research and action across policy, law and governance. In this edition, we reflect on the Centre for Climate Engagement's key milestones and initiatives that are fostering climate resilience and accelerating progress toward net zero.



### Highlights:

- **COP29 Insights:** A recap of our participation in key events, including our support of the Climate Champions' campaign to climate-proof SMEs, reflections from Associate Professor Dr Markus Gehring on climate law and governance, and a briefing on how decisions made at COP29 might affect our local policy work.
- **Expert Perspectives:** A blog by Professors Harro van Asselt and Annalisa Savaresi, exploring Shell's ongoing legal battle and its implications for climate accountability.
- **Spotlight Interview:** Dr Jellie Molino, Post-Doctoral Research Associate at Hughes Hall, shares her research and expertise in private law, procurement and climate change.
- **Event Summaries:** Key takeaways from our event at the University of Cambridge Alumni Festival with writer and green-business guru, John Elkington, and a summary of the first four events in the Cambridge Law and Climate Seminar Series.

We are thrilled to welcome our inaugural Advisory Group, announced last month. This team of ten academic and professional experts, all Hughes Hall Fellows, will provide strategic guidance to shape the CCE's future programmes and projects. Their insights will amplify our impact and align with the ambitious vision of Hughes Hall to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future. Read more [here](#).

This is also a personal moment of transition as I share my final message as Director of the CCE. In January, I'll be stepping into a new role but will remain a Governing Body Fellow at Hughes Hall and a steadfast advocate for the CCE. Over the past four years, we've embarked on an incredible journey, building an amazing team, and I'm deeply grateful for your support along the way.

The Centre is seeking a new Director to lead its next phase of development, aligned with the Hughes Hall mission and vision for 2030. Please [share this exciting opportunity](#) with your networks. I look forward to working with the incoming Director and the Advisory Group on the transition process. It will be exciting to see where CCE goes next!

Wishing you a joyful, peaceful and sustainable festive season. Together, we can continue building a better future.

Warm wishes,  
Emily Farnworth  
Director of the Centre for Climate Engagement

## CCE at COP29

Ahead of the landmark COP29 in November 2024, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, the global climate agenda stood at a critical crossroads. With the 2030 deadline to cut carbon emissions by 43% looming, the need for decisive, forward-thinking leadership was urgent. Nearly 200 nations gathered to advance progress and strategies for a just, sustainable transition.

### Policy briefings: Before and after COP29

As a knowledge partner of the Climate Governance Initiative, the CCE policy team wrote a briefing for board directors called *What to expect at COP29*.



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Emily Farnworth contributed to the conversation by taking part in the Climate Governance Initiative's webinar, *COP29 Debrief: What's Next for Businesses?* on 5 December. Additionally, we published a post-COP Policy Briefing tailored for board directors called *COP29 Outcomes: Implications for board directors*. Read a summary of the key messages.

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The CCE supported the COP29 High-Level Climate Champions' campaign to climate-proof SMEs. Head of Academic Engagement, Dr Eldrid Herrington, spoke at an event on 16 November in Baku to present a report and to call on academics for collaboration and evidence.



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Also taking part at the conference was Associate Professor Dr Markus Gehring, who serves on our new CCE Advisory Group and is a Fellow and Director of Studies in Law at Hughes Hall. He wrote for the CCE about his reflections from COP29 on climate law and governance.

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## Policy for Climate Action

Our engagement with independent directors, business leaders and local governments repeatedly highlights the importance of clear, consistent and stable policy frameworks to support and accelerate climate action. We collaborate across the University of Cambridge and with external experts to inform policymakers at all levels.

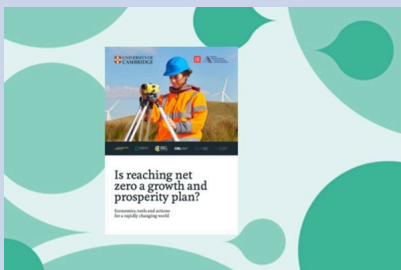
### Policy briefings



The CCE policy team reflected on the ways that decisions made at COP29 could affect our local project creating a framework to measure locally determined contributions (LDCs). Senior Researcher, Dr Karen Barrass, wrote a post-COP briefing on local policy implications.

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## Is reaching net zero a growth and prosperity plan? Economics, tools and actions for a rapidly changing world.



As a partner of the Cambridge Zero Policy Forum, the Centre for Climate Engagement was pleased to support the launch of a new report: *Is reaching net zero a growth and prosperity plan? Economics, tools and actions for a rapidly changing world*. With a focus on the fundamental importance of policy in activating the green transition, the report explores how the UK's current models for economic growth and development can, and must, be transformed to ensure the delivery of a competitive and coordinated green investment strategy.

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## Policy briefing for board directors: post-Budget update



As a knowledge partner of Chapter Zero, the Centre for Climate Engagement wrote a briefing for board directors highlighting key climate policy updates from October and November 2024, including the UK International Investment Summit, Autumn Budget, COP29, and the Chancellor's Mansion House speech. This was published by Chapter Zero, a network for non-executive directors and chairs in the UK who are integrating climate action into business strategy.

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## Law for Climate Action

Our law programme empowers lawyers, academics, and students with a deeper understanding of the climate risks and opportunities tied to current regulations. By collaborating with leading UK law firms and international organisations, we're helping people to exchange knowledge on the critical legal frameworks shaping the net zero transition.

### Blog: Corporate climate (un)accountability? Landmark Shell ruling overturned on appeal



Shell's ongoing legal battle over climate accountability reached a pivotal moment on 12 November 2024, as the Hague Court of Appeal delivered its verdict on the company's appeal. This case has drawn global attention since the initial 2021 ruling, which ordered Shell to cut its emissions drastically by 2030. Read a blog by Professor Harro van Asselt and Professor Annalisa Savaresi on how this affects the ongoing debate over corporate responsibility in addressing the climate crisis.

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### Spotlight Interview with Dr Jellie Molino



As part of our spotlight interview series, we asked Dr Jellie Molino to share her research and experience as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the Centre for Climate Engagement (CCE) at Hughes Hall. Her research focuses on private law, procurement, and climate change, and she teaches at the Faculty of Law.

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## Event summary: Cambridge Law and Climate Seminar Series



The Cambridge Seminar Series on Law and the Climate Crisis was launched in October 2024, offering unique insights into the role of law and legal systems in response to the urgent issue of climate change. It is co-hosted by the CCE, Cambridge Zero, the Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG) at the Department of Land Economy, the Cambridge Climate Society, the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, and the Cambridge University Law Society. The series will continue in Lent Term, and all are welcome to attend ([details and free registration here](#)). Read a summary by Sofie Surraco and Nick Scott of the four events this term.

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## Event Summary: What is the future for Climate Action? Alumni Festival event with John Elkington



### The Cambridge Alumni Festival

On 27 September, the Centre for Climate Engagement (CCE) at Hughes Hall hosted an event focused on the growing awareness of climate change and the responses from societies, governments, and businesses. Part of the University of Cambridge Alumni Festival, this session was led by Emily Farnworth, Director of the CCE, in discussion with John Elkington, a best-selling author and renowned "green business guru."

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## CCE seeks Interim Director

We are hiring  
**Interim Director**

Join our team!  
Apply by  
3 Jan 2025

We are seeking to recruit an Interim Director to lead us in our next phase of development. Reporting to College Council and benefitting from the expert guidance of a recently appointed Advisory Group, the Interim Director will provide leadership, strategic direction and operational oversight to the team, working closely with international stakeholders, and continue to strengthen our role within the wider University of Cambridge climate ecosystem.

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## Get Involved!

Excited to be a part of our mission? Come to an [event](#) or follow us on [Linked In](#) or [X](#) to find out how you can contribute to our initiatives.

### [Centre for Climate Engagement](#)

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