

Q&A ACHIEVING RAIL DECARBONISATION 2022

14 SEPTEMBER 2022

Ahead of Achieving Rail Decarbonisation event in 14 September 2022, **Julian Fletcher of Vivarail** shared his views on some of the barriers facing decarbonisation.



JULIAN FLETCHER

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WHAT ARE THE CURRENT BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO DELIVERING DECARBONISATION OF THE RAIL NETWORK?

The biggest challenges are government leadership, rail reform and the creation of positive businesses cases which highlight and quantify the benefits (environmental as well as financial).

Security and stability of energy supply is a big part of this, as we are seeing now globally.

Providing the platform for innovation and commitment to the UK supply chain in a way which keeps us at the forefront of technology development creates jobs, secures investment, avoids loss of expertise, and avoids a reliance on foreign imports whilst providing a positive impact on the economy.

HOW MIGHT PROPOSED RAIL REFORMS IMPACT THE DECARBONISATION AGENDA?

The challenge here is to make sure that the pledges which have been made to reduce carbon emissions are turned into real plans which encourage private investment and innovative ways of making it happen. The danger is rail reform is slow and risk averse to technological change. Time is running out for the planet.

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WHAT CAN THE RAIL SECTOR WORK IN COLLABORATION TO DELIVER DECARBONISATION?

In the broadest sense, it needs to be rolling stock + infrastructure offerings as a package:

Battery + Fast charge + EV charging and local grid balancing is a great example which Vivarail are leading the way with.

Given that carbon relates largely to energy consumption, that is the collaboration that would prove most effective in terms of climate change (for rail). Look at EV ownership: this is rapidly moving towards integration of cars, home charging, energy supplier, solar PV on homes.

Hear more from Julian Fletchers at the event where he'll expand on these ideas

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