

SCOTTISH WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION JOINS NEW ZERO EMISSION TRUCK TASKFORCE

Scottish Wholesale Association (SWA) has been invited to join Scotland's new Zero Emission Truck Taskforce in recognition of its ongoing work with members as part of its 'Decarbonisation of the Wholesale Industry' project.

The Taskforce comprises industry leaders from the road haulage, logistics, manufacturing, energy and finance sectors who will work in partnership to identify and co-design creative and practical solutions to maximising opportunities. It will also tackle any hurdles in relation to technology, charging infrastructure, costs, finance, and operator engagement in the transition to zero-emission trucks.



Chief Executive, Colin Smith welcomes speakers Transport Scotland, Volvo, Scottish Power and SWARCO to the SWA EV Event

“There’s a lot to take on board as we grapple with how best to achieve zero-emission trucks and it’s our job to help members cut through the myriad of information available guide them on the right path to decarbonise their businesses.”

Colin Smith, SWA chief executive

The new collaboration will set out the steps required to enable a swift and just transition to new technologies, identifying where further development is required and exploring new business models.

Consultants Mott MacDonald and KPMG are working with Transport Scotland to support the Zero Emission Truck Taskforce which will run until March 2023. All papers and minutes will be available via Zero Emission Truck Taskforce/Transport Scotland.

SWA chief executive Colin Smith, who is representing the wholesale industry on the Taskforce, commented: “We’re working at pace to explore opportunities and find solutions as we start planning the transition to zero-emission trucks so we’re honoured to be invited by the Scottish Government to sit on the Zero Emission Truck Taskforce.

“The SWA recently partnered with Volvo Trucks to offer our members more detailed insight into the electric vehicle and infrastructure market as part of our ‘Decarbonisation of the Wholesale Sector’ project and this was hugely successful, with 19 wholesalers and some of our supplier members participating.

“Members also had the opportunity to road test the UK’s first commercially available fully electric Volvo FL 16t HGV which was brought to the event, at the Donald Malcolm Heritage Centre in Linwood, especially for the SWA.



David and Evan Sutherland (Sutherland Brothers) with Jason Butler (United Wholesale Scotland)

“This project is one of the most detailed undertaken by any sector and is based on real data and evidence, compiled direct from our wholesale members. This is an extremely exciting and important time for the SWA and our members as we help shape the future sustainability of our sector and Scotland’s food and drink supply chain.”

Colin Smith, SWA chief executive



Willie O’Neill and Nathan Rowan (Dunn’s Food & Drinks)



Karen Geekie, Transport Scotland, presents Scottish Government’s vision on the transition to Net Zero



Keith Geddes (JW Filshill) and Andrew Malcolm (Malcolm Group)

“The feedback we’ve had since the event has been extremely encouraging and Neil Park, the managing director for Volvo Truck & Bus Centre, North & Scotland, said that his business had taken ‘massive learnings’ from the event which is something he would like to see happen again. He was also impressed with our sector’s proactive approach.

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Meanwhile, the SWA is inviting members to get involved in the sub-working groups that are being formed within the Taskforce and where the SWA will be active members of each. These range from trials and data to finance and infrastructure, with members having a real opportunity for sharing in, and shaping, Scotland’s investment in zero-emissions trucks.

The SWA has already shared the findings of the first phase of its ‘[Decarbonisation of the Wholesale Sector](#)’ project which focused on our vehicles and fleets, calculating and reporting on the sector’s fleet emissions baseline and producing a fleet emissions roadmap to net zero.

Smith added: “This project is one of the most detailed undertaken by any sector and is based on real data and evidence, compiled direct from our wholesale members. This is an extremely exciting and important time for the SWA and our members as we help shape the future sustainability of our sector and Scotland’s food and drink supply chain.”



Organised in partnership with Volvo Trucks, the SWA’s Electric Vehicle Experience Event provided a unique opportunity for members to not only drive one of the UK’s first all-electric HGVs but hear from, and ask questions of, leaders from within the electric vehicle and infrastructure marketplace.



David Sutherland (Sutherland Brothers), David Marshall and Lindsay McMaster (Brakes Food Service) asking questions of the panel



Neil Park (Volvo) and Colin Smith (SWA)



Andrew Malcolm (Malcolm Group), Keith Geddes (JW Filshill) and Neil Park (Volvo)



Sam Henderson (Lomond Wholesale) and Gary Williamson (Williamson Foodservice) with some of the Volvo team