

Environment APPG - guidelines on business membership and partnership



Working with businesses is vital to how the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Environment can have an impact. It can provide an important series of benefits to us and our work including strengthening understanding among parliamentarians of the particular pressures facing business in the net zero transition; helping us develop better policy through engagement with important private sector stakeholders; enhancing our network and giving greater weight to our messages; increasing the credibility of our ideas and recommendations; helping us understand market dynamics and how politics is affecting the business environment; and financially supporting the group through providing membership income.

On the latter point, not all business funding is appropriate. Deciding on whether to accept a membership application or wider piece of funding means considering a range of issues in context. These cannot simply be addressed by a checklist, but the process needs to have some guidelines to ensure that relevant issues are considered. The role of the officers is to consider the issues and decide on whether to accept funding.

As part of the process of coming to a decision, any officer of the group should be able to input. The following guidelines set out the issues and overarching framework to be considered when deciding on funding.

- **External impact.** This is the principal criterion for funding (i.e. will the partnership with a certain company and the funding it allows further our aim of strengthening ambitious cross-party leadership on the environment). We will always seek to partner with businesses who have a clear and credible commitment to tackling the nature and climate crises.
- **Reputational impact.** Our reputation enables us to be effective and sustainable in the long-term. Accepting funding from some organisations may affect our reputation either positively or negatively. Some partnerships will create positive reputational impact for one part of the Environment APPG's network and negative impact for others – we will need to balance these accordingly.
- **Transparency.** The Environment APPG will always be transparent about its funders (including by listing them in our annual reporting to parliament and on our website).
- **Independence.** The Environment APPG will always retain independence in its work, a fact we communicate in advance of starting partnerships with any organisation.

- **Cost effectiveness.** The need to fund the Environment APPG must be taken into account when considering whether to accept new members.
- **Leverage.** The Environment APPG will partner with companies where we think we can positively influence their work and vice-versa. For example, it may be appropriate to work with polluting companies on ways in which they can transition to a low/no pollution business model. But where a business has shown itself to be working against our objectives e.g. lobbying against climate science, we will not partner.

Any serious concerns regarding membership applications and funding should be discussed between the Chair and the officers, in consultation with the secretariat. The secretariat will use its discretion to flag to the Chair and officers any applications that pose concerns and provide regular updates to the Chair and officers of new members. Ultimately, the officers of the Environment APPG, led by the Chair, will make the final decision on membership and partnerships.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Sturme".

Date: **8/11/2023**