Mobilising SMEs workstream — Perseus Steering Group

Steering Group — Ignition Phase

The 'ignition phase' (December 2022 to Q1 2023) is designed to gather experts that can represent banking, ledger, energy and SME communities. Its primary function is to help provide leadership and market signalling. Oversight of, and endorsement from, this group will enable the Bankers 4 Net Zero (B4NZ) operational team to develop a full programme of work, for sign off by the Steering Group, that will be taken forward in 2023 as described herein.

Purpose: To convene and represent actors from across the market that will pilot a UK-wide programme to support SMEs.

Outcome: Automate greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and improve access to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) data, and engage with SMEs to deliver Net Zero outcomes.

Authority: The Steering Group will define and authorise the creation of Advisory Groups (AGs) that help deliver the mission and its Goals. It will review the outputs from the AGs and sign-off on material direction and outputs. Goals of the Steering Group include the definition and approval of:

- Direction, scope, outcomes and key results
- Advisory Groups, their scope, outcomes and key results
- Advisory Group recommendations
- Outputs

Participant roles and time commitment

Steering Group members must assign relevant senior personnel (from either their institution, or a senior leader from a delegated organisation) to:

1. Attend meetings
2. Prepare for these meetings ahead of time
3. Help in the dissemination of the work to the relevant communities
4. Input into and sign-off documents

There will be one Steering Group meeting in January 2023 and one meeting in March 2023. The time commitment for the Steering Groups is up to one (1) day in aggregate (including preparation time). The time requirements for 2023 will be defined as part of the scoping process. This is not expected to exceed three (3) additional days over the year.

Roles and responsibilities

The Steering Group is chaired by Icebreaker One CEO, Gavin Starks
For future meetings Gavin will be joined as co-chair by a sector representative.

Steering Group members (or 'observers') will include representatives from government, regulators, professional bodies, consumer bodies, trade associations and, when formed, have representation from the co-chairs of the Advisory Groups. Advisory Groups are supported by a secretariat function coordinated by Icebreaker One.

Transparency

Outputs from the work will be, as deemed appropriate, transparent and open. This includes updates published on the websites and social media on a regular basis. These will be published under an open licence (CC-BY).

Steering and Advisory Group members consent to be listed as participants. Participants shall sign a formal Agreement to these Terms of Reference.

Advisory Groups

The purpose of the Advisory Groups are to provide expert input to the programme, to address commercial, non-commercial and public needs. Participants will include a wide range of subject matter experts to meet the diverse needs of the project, and to ensure it is representative of stakeholders.

Members of Advisory Groups will act as a representative of their industry and not of their individual company or body: expertise must be contributed as impartially as possible. Work and outputs shall align with existing work and best practices (e.g. Energy Data Task Force Data Best Practice Guidelines, Open Banking, Open Energy) with practical, demonstrable examples to address the mission, and to underpin the business case.

The ultimate objective is to arrive at a standardised approach that is fit for purpose for, and can be rapidly deployed across, the market. It will address social, economic, environmental, public and private sector needs. It will deliver cross-industry alignment on the approach, including clear use cases, a roadmap for work, definitions of risks, gaps and opportunities, and it will provide recommended approaches and resolutions.

Advisory Groups are currently in design and may include, for example:

1. **User Needs & Materiality** to explore, prioritise and work through use cases that should be supported by Perseus. This includes identifying defined users, their needs, mapping the data value chain and the broader ecosystem surrounding each use case. It will also agree the data and measurement requirements that represent the greatest potential for materiality, and that can be linked to incentives which can operate at market-wide scale. This will also identify the appropriate underlying framework and reporting standards (eg. with PCAF, CDP). Impact to develop the business, value and impact cases for the programme and its impact on the UK policy targets, banks, SMEs, and financial instruments. This will include the potential for policy and market-wide interventions.
2. **Data Publishing** to agree technical data and metadata standards for publishing data, including machine-readable standards and data access (e.g. APIs). Operational technical systems that enable data sharing (trust framework) and processing (e.g. calculation).

3. **Data Licensing** to develop standard legal data licences that allow Shared Data to flow securely across the market, with consent, in alignment with Data Sensitivity Classes. This will include key policies, such as conditions for participation, roles and responsibilities. The outputs of this group will address the necessary licences and requirements for a functioning access control.
4. **Engagement & Communications** to address the user experience, signposting and inspiring behavioural change; to create awareness, engagement and impact with stakeholders.
5. **Policy** to address potential policy interventions (including corporate policy such as potential in loan conditions, procurement and/or FCA/Ofgem intervention).

Note: Sub-groups may be formed to address specific topics and issues as they emerge.

Skills

Skills and expertise from contributors will include, for example:

- Sustainability and finance professionals who can quantify materiality
- Business analysts who can quantify impact
- Legal professionals, especially those with data and content licensing expertise
- Communications professionals
- Information security, with a focus on data sharing
- Data providers, consumers and managers
- Data governance and compliance
- Policy analysts with specific expertise in data, finance, energy and sustainability

To better understand:

- Policies: conditions for participation in Net Zero and ESG regulation, data ecosystem, roles, responsibilities, liabilities, opportunities and risks
- Technical outcomes: including but not limited to data licensing approaches, policy and definitions (for open data and shared data), data strategies, technology strategies
- Impact Funding models
- Understanding data production, flows and usage

Vision, Mission, Values

Vision

To unlock the potential to modernise ESG data access and interoperability in the UK that will be a catalyst for behaviour change. An ESG data ecosystem that created clarity and certainty in supply chain metrics and visibility that works for everyone, and accelerates our transition to Net Zero.

Mission

To deliver Codes of Practice that could lead to a potential B4NZ Standard comprising Search and Access control capabilities, supported by a sustainable business model:

1. Refine and iterate on a clear, trusted, impactful and detailed governance framework that enables government, businesses, consumers and 3rd party developers to understand the potential of open access to ESG data in the UK.
2. Based around refined and prioritised use cases, create detailed descriptions of the user needs, data value chain and application of the framework in practice.
3. Refine and onboard organisations to the ESG Search and Access Control as industry-facing operational services.

Values

Openness
We will:
1. share our views and plans, and share knowledge as widely as possible;
2. solicit and listen to views from end users and stakeholders;
3. make our outputs available under an open licence (e.g. CC-BY, OGL).

Expertise
We will:
1. bring our expertise to the discussion as individuals;
2. use our expertise to synthesise the views of others in constructive and forward-thinking proposals;
3. use good judgement to respect privacy and confidentiality.

Collaboration
We will:
1. support each other in discussion, in decisions, and in delivery;
2. constructively hold each other to account on our commitments;
3. ensure all voices are heard and considered carefully.