

## Minutes of CCC meeting, 12/04/19

Present were John Deben, Julia Brown, Nick Chater, Piers Forster, Rebecca Heaton, Corinne Le Quéré, Chris Stark.

### Conflicts of interest

Committee members were reminded of the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

### 1. Net Zero report

The secretariat led a discussion of the comments received on the report drafts that had been circulated and proposed how these would be addressed.

The Committee wanted the reports to reflect the level of uncertainty in a range of areas, including relating to future methodologies to estimates UK greenhouse gas emissions but also more broadly. It was recognised that some of this uncertainty relates to future choices that must be made, primarily by the Government.

The Committee had detailed discussion of the presentation of the findings on co-benefits, resource costs and required investment and suggested some ways to make this presentation clearer. They emphasised the need to state that the latest assessment of the costs of reaching net-zero emissions are the same level as the estimate in 2008 of reaching the 80% target – a cost Parliament has already accepted.

The Committee were keen to highlight the differences between the Committee's proposed net-zero target and others that have been set internationally, relating to whether the target is for CO<sub>2</sub> only or all greenhouse gases, the inclusion of international aviation and shipping emissions, and allowance of offsets to contribute to meeting the target. It was proposed that a table presenting these differences should be included in the Executive Summary.

Having agreed the Net Zero target in principle for the UK as a whole at the preceding meeting, discussion turned to the implications of the UK target for the levels of reduction and the statutory targets for Scotland and Wales. The secretariat presented analysis showing that net-zero emissions in the UK by 2050 implied reductions of 110% in Scotland and 95% in Wales by the same date, as a function of the different opportunities for reducing emissions and deploying greenhouse gas removal options across different parts of the UK.

For Scotland, the Committee agreed that, given that a straight line to a 110% reduction in emissions by 2050 passes through net-zero emissions in 2045, this would be a reasonable basis for the Scottish target.

For Wales, consideration was given to whether and how a net-zero target could be set. The Committee considered that having only one 'Speculative' way of bridging the gap from the main 'Further Ambition' scenario to net-zero emissions provided insufficient confidence that net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases was feasible by 2050, especially as this way implied a much smaller agriculture sector in Wales.

It was agreed that it was important to present the Wales target for a 95% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as being as ambitious as the UK-wide and Scottish net-zero targets given the more challenging context for Wales to reach net-zero emissions. As the Wales analysis had emissions of long-lived greenhouse gases going negative by 2050, this target implies the ending of Wales's contribution to rising global temperatures. The Committee were keen to revisit the Wales analysis in future, to see whether and how Wales could achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

## **2. Forward look**

The chief executive led a discussion over the Committee's future work, covering future interaction with the Government (e.g. on the review by HM Treasury that the Committee is recommending on how to pay for Net Zero), the Environment Bill, timing around possible legislation of the proposed Net Zero target and how the CCC can contribute to COP26 and how the sixth carbon budget advice can play into that.