

Minutes of CCC Meeting, 15/11/2019

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

Rebecca Heaton excused herself from the meeting - to allow the Committee to discuss recommendations on bioenergy for the land use report.

Conflicts of interest

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

1. Agriculture and Land Use policy report

The Committee had an extensive discussion of issues relating to the narrative and recommendations of the Agriculture and Land Use policy report, to be published early in 2020.

The chair of the Expert Advisory Group, Prof. Allan Buckwell, presented to the Committee, providing a summary of the advice that the group is providing. This was followed by a more general policy discussion.

Issues discussed included how to raise tree-planting rates, especially on farms; the need for a coordinated approach to land use, including across the different parts of the UK; barriers around tenancy and taxation; consideration of co-benefits beyond carbon sequestration; and how to raise the productivity of lower-performing farms to approach those of higher-performing ones.

This was followed by a presentation from the secretariat on the available evidence on the lifecycle emissions of different foodstuffs globally and the uncertainties around these estimates.

2. Sixth carbon budget – industry sector

The secretariat presented on the latest policy developments in the industry sector, and proposed priorities for the work on the sixth carbon budget advice, to be published in September 2020.

The Committee agreed that the emphasis should be primarily on delivery of industrial decarbonisation, including broadening and improving our scenarios for decarbonisation and considering policy mechanisms that could create options and deliver the necessary changes.

The Committee also discussed matters including lifecycle emission emissions of products and how the resource efficiency measures included in the Net Zero scenario (e.g. making products that are repairable and last longer) could be incentivised via policy.

3. Sixth carbon budget – scenario approach and call for evidence

The secretariat presented a proposed approach to scenario development for the advice on the sixth carbon budget, building on the guidance provided by the Committee in earlier meetings.

The Committee agreed on an approach that seeks to broaden the range of scenarios for how Net Zero can be achieved, and to focus on policies over the next 10-15 years that can develop these options and make the necessary progress in reducing emissions.

The Committee also discussed the Call for Evidence for the sixth carbon budget advice, to be published before Christmas 2019. It was agreed that this should contain a mix of general questions and some more specific questions on areas of interest at a sectoral level.