

Minutes of CCC Meeting, 21/06/2019

Present were John Deben, Julia Brown, Keith Bell, 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 announcement

The Committee discussed the Government announcement that the Net Zero target would be placed in legislation, via an amendment to the Climate Change Act. The Committee were delighted with the outcome, but were keen that the 'fine print' of the Committee's recommendations is adhered to on inclusion of aviation and shipping in the target and the potential use of international carbon credits.

The Committee would like future progress reports to be structured along departmental lines, to maximise the focus on ensuring that the necessary actions are taken.

2. Land Use and Agriculture policy report

The secretariat led a discussion on the scope of the land use and agriculture policy report, to be published in the winter.

It was agreed that the report should focus on the policies and measures needed to deliver the pathways for deep emissions reduction in agriculture and land use that the Committee has set out previously. The work will consider new and updated evidence on lifecycle emissions of different foods, productivity and yields, assessment of non-climate outcomes (e.g. on soil health, water quality).

3. Progress report – Committee comments and report sign-off

The secretariat led discussion of the progress report comments and how to incorporate these in the report. The Committee agreed that it is important to highlight the need for urgency and present the message that the Government now needs to show it is serious about meeting the Net Zero target, which means taking action and new policies.

4. Aviation and shipping letter

The Committee agreed that the forthcoming letter to the Government should cover shipping as well as aviation.

There was discussion over the need for additionality of greenhouse gas removals in order properly to offset emissions from aviation (and other sectors).

The Committee also emphasised the importance of distinguishing between shipping, where UK emissions could get close to zero by 2050 given known solutions (e.g. ammonia as a fuel), as against aviation for which the zero-emissions solutions are unavailable or prohibitively expensive.

5. UK emissions trading system

The secretariat presented on a range of aspects of the design and scope of an emissions trading system. The Committee highlighted the lack of any carbon price in many areas currently.

The Committee agreed to come back to the content of the letter to the Government in July.