



The UK's independent adviser on
tackling climate change

Climate Change Committee Corporate and Business Plan 2020 - 2023

Section One: Introduction

The Climate Change Committee is an independent, statutory non-departmental public body established under the UK Climate Change Act 2008 (the Climate Change Act). Our purpose is to advise the UK Government, Parliament and the devolved administrations on cutting emissions and preparing for climate change.

This Corporate and Business Plan sets out our key achievements in 2019-20, our business plan for 2020-21, and our corporate objectives with a high level delivery plan up to 2022-23.

Statutory remit and structure of the Committee

The Mitigation Committee comprises a Chairman and a maximum of eight independent members. The main Committee is sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

The Adaptation Committee, also established under the Climate Change Act, advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on their assessment of the risks and opportunities from climate change. It also reports to the UK Parliament on progress in adaptation through assessing the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme and to the Scottish Parliament on progress in implementing the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

The Adaptation Committee comprises a Chair, who also sits on the Mitigation Committee, and a minimum of five independent members. The Adaptation Committee is jointly sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

Section 2: Strategic Objectives and Resourcing

Strategic Objectives

The CCC's overarching strategic objective is to provide independent, evidence-based advice to the UK Government, Parliament and the devolved administrations in the area of climate change. Our independence is central to the effective delivery of our responsibilities.

In particular, the Committees advise on the UK's transition to Net Zero emissions and preparing for increased climate risk.

The Committees achieve this objective by fulfilling specific duties under UK and devolved legislation.* These duties include:

- Advising on the appropriate level of the UK's carbon budgets and steps required to meet them. The budgets define the maximum level of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases which the UK can emit in each five-year year budget period, beginning with 2008-12.
- Advising on the appropriate level of statutory targets in Scotland (including annual targets) and Wales (including carbon budgets) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Monitoring progress towards meeting UK carbon budgets and recommending actions to keep budgets on track.
- Monitoring and reporting on progress to Scotland's and Wales's emissions reduction targets and recommending actions to keep on track.
- Advising on the impact of the exploitation of onshore petroleum on UK carbon budgets and the 2050 target.
- Advising the UK government on the preparation of UK Climate Change Risk Assessments.
- Evaluating progress towards implementation of the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme, and reporting to Parliament.
- Preparing independent assessments of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Adaptation Programme and the Welsh Government's Adaptation Plan, as required.
- Responding to requests for advice from the UK Government and the devolved administrations.
- Conducting independent analysis into climate change science, economics and policy; and
- Engaging with a wide range of organisations and individuals to promote understanding, and inform evidence-based debate on climate change and its impacts, in order to support robust decision-making.

* The Climate Change Act 2008, the Infrastructure Act 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Resourcing

The CCC is funded through grant-in-aid payments from BEIS, Defra and the devolved administrations. The provisional 2020-21 budget allocation is shown in the table below:

	Mitigation £	Adaptation £
Core funding		
BEIS	2,637,019	-
Defra	-	800,000
Scottish Government	264,331	36,561
Welsh Government	154,193	21,328
Northern Irish Government	91,257	12,622
Total	3,146,800	870,511
Funding for specific projects		
BEIS - International Outreach Work	100,000	-
Defra - CCRA 3 funding	-	430,000
Scottish Government – Annual Progress Report on mitigation	15,500	-
Welsh Government – Progress Report on mitigation	15,094	-
Welsh Government – Advice on emissions reduction pathway	14,108	
Total	3,291,502	1,300,511
Depreciation	193,000	-
Total funding	3,484,502	1,300,511

Our expenditure, staff costs and other financial information are published each year in the Annual Report & Accounts, which is published on the CCC website.

Section Three: Achievements in 2019 – 2020

The key achievements in 2019-20 included:

Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming. In May 2019 our response to a request from the Governments of the UK, Wales and Scotland, to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets was published. Our report, drew on the outputs of ten new research projects, three expert advisory groups and review of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ('IPCC') and others.

The CCC recommended that a new emissions target should be set for the UK of Net Zero greenhouse gases by 2050. In Scotland, we recommended a Net Zero date of 2045, reflecting Scotland's greater relative capacity to remove emissions than the UK as a whole. We also recommended interim Scottish target levels of 56% reduction in 2020, 70% reduction in 2030 and 90% reduction in 2040. In Wales, we recommended a 95% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050.

The recommended targets are assessed as achievable with known technologies, alongside improvements in people's lives, and within the expected economic cost when the previous 2050 targets for the UK and Scotland of an 80% reduction from 1990 were legislated. The updated targets were legislated by the UK Government and the Scottish Government.

Our statutory annual UK Progress Report, Reducing UK emissions, was published in July 2019. The report recommended that:

- Net Zero policy is embedded across all levels and departments of UK Government
- Government policies to reduce UK emissions to Net Zero are business-friendly
- The public are fully engaged in the UK's Net Zero transition
- The UK strongly leads international action to tackle climate change

In January 2020 a report Land Use: policies for a Net Zero UK was published. This was the CCC's first ever in-depth advice on UK agricultural and land use policies the way we use our land today. The report provided a detailed range of options to drive emissions reductions in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which include:

- Increasing tree planting
- Encouraging low-carbon farming practices
- Restoring peatlands
- Encouraging bioenergy crops
- Reducing food waste and consumption of the most carbon-intensive foods

The Committee published the annual progress report on reducing emissions in Scotland in December 2019. The report notes that, overall, greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 3% in 2017, compared to a 10% fall in 2016. The reduction was again led by the power sector, due in large part to Scotland's first full year of coal-free electricity generation. Recent performance in other sectors shows only incremental improvement at best and, unless emissions reductions are delivered economy-wide, Scotland is at risk of missing its new interim target of a 56% reduction in emissions by 2020.

In July 2019 the Adaptation Committee presented their assessment of progress in preparing for climate change in England. Additionally, the report provided a first evaluation of the UK Government's second National Adaptation Programme. The report identified that the priority given to adaptation by the UK Government has eroded over the past ten years. England is not prepared for even a 2°C rise in global temperature, let alone higher levels of warming that remain likely under current commitments to reduce emissions globally. The report called for the UK Government to raise the profile, and strengthen the governance, of preparations for the impacts of climate change.

Alongside the progress report, the Committee published three new pieces of independent supporting research on achieving government outcomes in the face of climate change; updated indicators of climate change vulnerability, exposure and action; and economic analysis of tightening standards for resilience in new homes. The Met Office also produced a briefing note for the CCC to accompany the progress report on how much climate change the UK is committed to in the short-term.

Section Four: Business Plan 2020 – 2021 to 2022 – 2023

Business objectives

Two key business objectives guide the work of the Committee:

Business Objective 1: Fulfilling our statutory duties as set out under UK and devolved legislation, including reporting on progress made in meeting UK carbon budgets, advising on future UK carbon budgets and reporting on progress in adapting to climate change

We will achieve this by:

- Publishing statutory reports/advice;
- Continuing work on the next UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report, due in 2021.
- Responding to ad hoc requests for advice from the UK Government and devolved administrations, including requests to give advice on aspects of the adaptation programmes of the DAs, and plans for the setting up of the UK Office for Environmental Protection;
- Raising awareness of our advice with government and a wider audience, with a view to informing the public debate and a national conversation; and
- Reaffirming the science and countering misinformation about climate change action and policy rapidly and accurately.

Business Objective 2: Ensuring the Committee's governance arrangements are fit for purpose, meeting statutory and other requirements, and that it continues to operate as a responsible and effective NDPB

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring adequate financial reporting and accounting arrangements are in place;
- Maintaining an appropriate internal control and governance framework;
- Implementing corporate and human resources policies which facilitate the hiring, retention and development of a skilled and motivated workforce;
- Operating sustainable and effective environmental policies;
- Maintaining a security policy, business continuity plan and risk management plan;
- Being transparent about the way we work and how we spend public funds by publishing a transparent Annual Report and Accounts.

The key milestones for the Committee during 2020-21 are shown below.

2020-21 Work Programme				
Advice	Timing	Category	Description	Scope
Resilient Recovery Advice	May 2020	Mitigation/Adaptation	Green stimulus, policies to meet statutory targets in the 2020s	UK, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
UK Progress Report	June 2020	Mitigation	Statutory requirement. UK emissions reductions in CB4&5 periods. While a mitigation report, this version included recommendations and a section on adaptation	UK
Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) research reports	May 2020	Adaptation	The seven research reports will feed into UK CCRA3 which is to be published in Summer 2021	UK
Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Climate Risk Website launch	July 2020	Adaptation	The CCC has created a new UK climate risk website to house the various outputs from the CCRA Evidence Report work programme, starting with the research reports	UK
Scottish Annual Progress Report on reducing emissions	October 2020	Mitigation	Statutory requirement. Will include advice on policy priorities for the forthcoming Scottish Climate Change Plan update	Scotland
UK adaptation conference	October 2020	Adaptation	A conference being jointly hosted with the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and University of Leeds on UK adaptation progress	UK
Advice on Sixth UK Carbon Budget	December 2020	Mitigation	Statutory requirement	UK
Further advice on 2030 target for Scotland	December 2020	Mitigation	Requested by Scottish Ministers following the conclusion of the 2019 Bill process	Scotland

Advice to the Welsh Government on revising the 2050 target and interim targets for 2030 and 2040, 3rd Carbon Budget (2026-2030) and CB2 offset limit	December 2020	Mitigation	Statutory requirement	Wales
Welsh Progress Report on reducing emissions	December 2020	Mitigation	Statutory requirement. Covering 1st Carbon Budget Period 2016-2020	Wales
Onshore Petroleum Report	March 2021	Mitigation	Statutory requirement (Infrastructure Act); advice on implications of exploiting onshore petroleum for meeting UK carbon budgets	UK
Completion of Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) technical chapters	March 2021	Adaptation	Seven technical chapters underpinning the Adaptation Committee's CCRA Synthesis Report will be completed (likely to be published alongside the Synthesis Report in 2021)	UK
COP26 support (not for publication)	Ongoing until COP (2021)	Mitigation/ Adaptation	Support for UK international climate objectives & engagement (e.g. providing expertise to priority countries developing climate strategies, exporting UK domestic climate framework)	UK

Corporate Plan: 2021-22 through to 2022-23

The Committee expects to agree additional key deliverables during 2021-22 and 2022-2023 as discussions with our stakeholders' progress. This proposed work programme is dependent on budget allocations for 2021-22 and 2022-23 being agreed and finalised with our Sponsor organisations. Reports will be prepared on a UK basis unless otherwise specified.

Table 2: 2021-22 through to 2022-23 work programme					
2021 – 22 Work Programme			2022 – 2023 Work Programme		
Month	Category	Description	Month	Category	Description
June 2021	Mitigation & Adaptation	Combined UK Progress Report	June 2022	Mitigation	UK Progress Report
July 2021	Adaptation	Publication of the Evidence Report to Inform the UK 3 rd Climate Change Risk Assessment, including the Committee's advice to Government	Autumn 2022	Mitigation	Scottish Annual Progress Report on reducing emissions
Autumn 2021	Mitigation	Scottish Annual Progress Report on reducing emissions	January – March 2023 (timing to be confirmed)	Mitigation	Report on 1 st Welsh Carbon Budget under s. 45(2) of the Environment (Wales) Act
2022 (timing to be confirmed)	Adaptation	Independent Assessment of Scottish Adaptation Programme			

Key Letters, Advisory and Technical Notes Issued by the CCC and the Adaptation Committee.

Table 3: Key Letters, Advisory and Technical Notes Issued by the CCC and the Adaptation Committee	
Date	Subject
20 May 2019	A letter from the Chief Executive, Chris Stark, to the Convener of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee (ECCLR), Gillian Martin MSP, about the CCC's recent advice on long-term climate change targets for the UK and for Scotland.
07 June 2019	A letter from CCC Chairman, Lord Deben, to Chris Skidmore MP, Interim Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, about the carry-forward of surplus emissions from the second carbon budget (2013-2017).
08 August 2019	A letter from CCC Chairman, Lord Deben, to Rt Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Lesley Griffiths AM and Dr. Denis McMahan about the future of carbon pricing.
24 September 2019	A letter from CCC Chairman, Lord Deben to Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP about net-zero and the approach to international aviation and shipping (IAS) emissions.
17 October 2019	A letter from CCC Chairman, Lord Deben to Simon Clarke MP about the Treasury decarbonisation funding review.
18 December 2019	A letter from Lord Deben, Chairman of the Climate Change Committee, and Baroness Brown, Chair of the CCC's Adaptation Committee, to new Prime Minister, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP.
18 February 2020	A letter from Lord Deben, Chairman of the Climate Change Committee, and Baroness Brown, Chair of the CCC's Adaptation Committee, to the Secretary of State Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP.
20 February 2020	A joint letter from Baroness Brown, the Chair of the Adaptation Committee, the National Infrastructure Commission and Flood Re on Flood and Coastal Resilience Standards. The letter highlights the need to make a clear statement of ambition to ensure the nation's resilience to flooding and climate change that goes further.
06 May 2020	A series of letters from Lord Deben, Chairman of the Climate Change Committee, and Baroness Brown, Chair of the CCC's Adaptation Committee, to Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP Prime Minister of the UK and lead Ministers in the Devolved Administrations. As the Government considers its approach to rebuilding after the COVID-19 crisis we are writing to advise on how climate policy can play a core part.



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