

Minutes of CCC Meeting, 21/02/2020

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

Conflicts of interest

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

Prof. Le Quéré provided a brief overview of the Global Carbon Projects emissions estimate for 2019.

1. Sixth carbon budget – Update on the Call for Evidence

The secretariat presented an overview of the number of Call for Evidence responses received from which types of respondent, and what proportion of respondents had answered each question. The Committee were pleased that so many responses had been received, and in particular that so many responses had come from the business sector, a big increase on the equivalent number for the fifth carbon budget call for evidence.

The Committee discussed the balance of which questions had received the most answered, and whether this related to the subject area or how technical the questions were. The Committee that relatively few responses had been received on the buildings sector, and asked the secretariat to engage to fill that gap in stakeholder views.

The Committee agreed that a relatively short summary of the responses to the Call for Evidence should be circulated to the Committee and ultimately published alongside the advice on the sixth carbon budget, together with all of the individual responses, with key points highlighted in the main advice report.

2. Stakeholder panels

The Committee heard from two panels of stakeholders:

- The first panel was comprised of representatives from Ovo Energy, Mitsubishi Electric and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), and focused primarily on the transition to low-carbon technologies, especially for heating.
- The second panel was comprised of representatives from Tesco, BT and the Aldersgate Group, and focused on the challenges and opportunities facing business in the transition.

Stakeholders emphasised the need for the policy framework to drive changes rather than leave it up to the initiative of individual companies, as where there are additional costs of reducing emissions there is a potential competitiveness impact of going further

voluntarily. Pricing signals are also important in driving the business decisions that will lead to lower emissions.

Many companies have adopted net-zero targets, and many already had targets for sourcing 100% of their electricity from low-carbon sources. However, some companies need guidance on what actions the net-zero targets will entail in practice – the Committee were encouraged to be clear about pathways to net-zero emissions and granular in its identification of gaps in the policy framework.

3. Strategic session on buildings heat decarbonisation

The Committee had a strategic session on how best to try to ensure that the Government strategy for buildings decarbonisation, expected in late summer, achieves what is necessary to get on track for Net Zero.

The discussion covered why previous policy approaches have not succeeded, the particular challenges of buildings decarbonisation, potential policy levers and trigger points, and what an overall policy package could look like.

The Committee agreed to publish a stand-alone piece by the early summer on buildings decarbonisation policy to feed into the Government strategy.