

Climate Change Committee Meeting

Present: Lord Deben (Chair), Keith Bell, Michael Davies, Piers Forster, Paul Johnson, Corinne Le Quéré.

Member interests: www.theccc.org.uk/about/transparency

Date: 9th September 2022, 09:30-15:00

Held: Hybrid - 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET and online

Climate Change Committee

1 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London,
SW1H 0ET

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1. Conflicts of interest and minutes of the previous meetings

The meeting began with a minute's silence to mark the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Committee agreed to send a letter of condolence to the Royal Family.

No new conflicts of interest were raised. Professor Keith Bell highlighted that he had been asked to participate in the advisory group to the Energy Networks' Commissioner. Committee members were reminded of the need to declare any conflicts of interest.

No comments were received on the draft minutes for the meeting on 22nd July circulated for approval.

2. Summer policy update and energy costs

a. Summer policy updates

The secretariat presented updates to Government policy over the summer, covering the Jet Zero Strategy and other relevant policy updates including on peat, carbon capture & storage, domestic shipping, electricity market reform, and greenhouse gas removals.

The Committee welcomed the increased transparency from the Department for Transport through including the lifecycle emissions from sustainable aviation fuels in its Jet Zero Strategy charts, rather than the assumed 100% emissions savings previously presented.

b. Energy bills and residential decarbonisation

The secretariat presented analysis looking at decarbonisation of residential buildings in the context of current energy costs. The Committee agreed with the aims of the analysis and approved the draft findings.

The Committee asked for further clarification around the arguments relating to economy-wide costs and benefits of energy efficiency. They also emphasized the importance of considering the benefits to adaptation, health and comfort within the scope of the report. The secretariat will incorporate this feedback and deliver an updated version of the report in line with the Committee's suggestions.

3. Distributional impacts of Net Zero report

The secretariat presented an update on a model looking at the distributional impacts of Net Zero and a possible accompanying report. The Committee favoured signing-off work plans once Government plans to address the energy crisis this winter have become clearer. In the meantime, the secretariat will develop analysis and share our distributional impacts model with trusted stakeholders to test its use and results.

4. Voluntary Carbon Offsets

The secretariat presented an update on a report looking at voluntary carbon offsets. The Committee agreed on its position on defining 'net zero' claims and the role of Corresponding Adjustments.

5. Letter on the UK ETS

The secretariat presented on a request for advice from the UK Government on the UK ETS. The Committee discussed whether to go further than the advice provided in the June progress report, and agreed to include principles for expanding the scope of the ETS in future.

6. Scottish targets and Welsh First Carbon Budget surplus

The secretariat presented proposed advice to the Scottish Government on long-term targets. The Committee agreed that, although the 2030 target will be extremely difficult to meet, it would prefer not to advise that the target be weakened but rather that all efforts be made to get as close as possible to meeting it.

The secretariat raised the request from the Welsh Government on whether to carry forward the outperformance of the first Welsh Carbon Budget (2016-20) to help meet the Second Carbon Budget (2021-25). The Committee discussed the relevant issues and agreed that there is no case for Wales to carry forward this surplus. A letter will be sent to the Welsh Government later in September.

7. External speaker: Inflation Reduction Act

External Speaker, Assistant Professor Jesse Jenkins of Princeton University presented an overview of the recently legislated US Inflation Reduction Act, detailing its projected impact on future US emissions and the scaling of low carbon industries. The Committee asked follow-up questions and expressed their thanks to Professor Jenkins for his presentation.

8. AOB

The Committee expressed their thanks to outgoing secretariat members, Jo Barrett and Jenny Hill, for their contribution over a number of years to the work of the Committee.