

June 2025

Corporate Plan 2025 to 2028

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Climate Change Committee
June 2025

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Contents

The Committee	5
The Adaptation Committee	6
Committee remit and structure	8
Strategic priorities	9
Business plan	11
1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 activities	11
Planned activities April 2026 to March 2028	11
Corporate governance and resources	13

The Committee

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Our purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Members of the Committee include:



Professor Piers Forster, Interim Chair

Piers Forster is Director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures and Professor of Physical Climate Change at the University of Leeds. He has played a significant role authoring Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, and is a coordinating lead author role for the IPCC's sixth assessment report.



Professor Keith Bell

Keith Bell is a co-Director of the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC), a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He has been at the University of Strathclyde since 2005, was appointed to the Scottish Power Chair in Smart Grids in 2013 and has been involved in energy system research in collaboration with many academic and industrial partners.



Dr Steven Fries

Steven Fries is a Senior Associate Fellow at the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford, and Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Steven has previously held roles as group chief economist at Shell and chief economist at the Department of Energy and Climate Change.



Professor Corinne Le Quéré FRS

Corinne Le Quéré is a Royal Society Research Professor at the University of East Anglia (UEA), specialising in the interactions between climate change and the carbon cycle. She was lead author of several assessment reports for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and previously Chaired the French Haut Conseil pour le Climat.



Nigel Topping CMG

Nigel Topping was appointed by the UK Prime Minister as UN Climate Change High Level Champion for COP26. In this role Nigel mobilised global private sector and local government to take bold action on climate change, launching the Race To Zero and Race To Resilience campaigns and, with Mark Carney, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.



Professor Swenja Surminski

Swenja Surminski is Chair of the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, Managing Director Climate and Sustainability at Marsh McLennan and Professor in Practice at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics (LSE). Her work focuses on capacity building and knowledge transfer between science, policy and industry, building on her work in industry and as advisor to governments, private sector and civil society, including as Visiting Academic at the Bank of England.

The Adaptation Committee

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Our purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Members of the Adaptation Committee include:



Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Chair

Baroness Brown of Cambridge DBE FREng FRS (Julia King) is an engineer, with a career spanning senior engineering and leadership roles in industry and academia. She currently serves as Chair of the CCC's Adaptation Committee; non-executive director of Ceres Power, Ørsted and Frontier IP; Chair of the Carbon Trust; and Chair of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee.



Dr Ben Caldecott

Ben Caldecott is the founding Director of the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group and the inaugural Lombard Odier Associate Professor of Sustainable Finance at the University of Oxford. Ben is also the founding Director and Principal Investigator of the UK Centre for Greening Finance & Investment (CGFI), established by UK Research and Innovation in 2021 as the national centre to accelerate the adoption and use of climate and environmental data and analytics by financial institutions internationally.



Professor Chris Evans

Chris Evans is a biogeochemist studying the impacts of land-use and other environmental drivers on the terrestrial and aquatic carbon and nutrient cycles. He currently leads UKRI, Defra and DESNZ projects with a value exceeding £10m on mitigating GHG emissions from peatlands, and managing them for carbon capture and storage.



Dr Marina Romanello

Marina Romanello is the Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change, an independent and multi-disciplinary research collaboration of almost 300 researchers around the world, and headquartered at University College London's Institute for Global Health.



Professor Nathalie Seddon

Nathalie Seddon is Professor of Biodiversity and Founding Director of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative in the Department of Biology at the University of Oxford. Nathalie trained as an ecologist at Cambridge University and has over 25 years of research experience in a range of ecosystems across the globe. As a University Research Fellow of the Royal Society, she developed broad research interests in the origins and maintenance of biodiversity and its relationship with global change.



Professor Swenja Surminski

Swenja Surminski is Chair of the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, Managing Director Climate and Sustainability at Marsh McLennan and Professor in Practice at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics (LSE). Her work focuses on capacity building and knowledge transfer between science, policy and industry, building on her work in industry and as advisor to governments, private sector and civil society, including as Visiting Academic at the Bank of England.

Committee remit and structure

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory non-departmental public body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 (the Act). Our purpose is to advise the UK Government, Parliament, and the devolved administrations on cutting emissions and preparing for climate change. The CCC consists of two committees: a committee advising on reducing greenhouse gases in line with legislative requirements across the UK (the Committee) and an Adaptation Committee (AC) which advises on the risks from climate change and actions the UK and devolved nations should take to adapt.

The Act requires the Committee to have a Chair and not less than five and not more than eight other members. The Committee is sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, and the Welsh Government. The Chair and Committee Members are appointed by our sponsoring organisations.

The AC, also established under the Climate Change Act 2008, advises the UK Government and devolved governments on their assessment of the risks and opportunities from climate change. It also reports to the UK Parliament on progress in adaptation, particularly in relation to the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme (mainly covering England only) and the devolved governments on their respective adaptation plans.

The Act requires the Adaptation Committee to have a Chair and not less than five other Committee 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. Committee Members are appointed by our sponsoring organisations.

The Committees are supported by a Secretariat comprising public servants and expert secondees. The Secretariat is responsible for delivering a complex analytical work programme, stakeholder engagement, representing the Committee at public events, as well as developing and formulating recommendations to government.

Strategic priorities

Our strategic priorities are to:

- Provide impartial advice on emissions targets and preparing for climate change.
- Monitor progress in reducing emissions, achieving carbon budgets, and preparing for climate change.
- Conduct independent analysis into climate change science, economics, and policy.
- Engage with stakeholders to promote understanding and inform an evidence-based debate on climate change and its impacts, and measures to address it.

To deliver our strategic priorities we:

- Conduct independent analysis into climate change science, economics, and policy.
- Engage with a wide range of organisations and individuals to promote understanding and inform evidence-based debate on climate change and its impacts, to support robust decision-making.

The Committees are required to fulfil specific duties and statutory requirements under UK and devolved legislation, including:

Table 1 Statutory duties	
Legislation	Summary of statutory duties
Climate Change Act (2008)	• Advise 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 budget period. • Report to the UK Parliament and the devolved legislations annually on progress towards meeting UK carbon budgets and recommend actions to keep budgets on track. • Report to the UK Parliament biennially on the progress the government is making towards assessment of progress in preparing for climate change in England. • Evaluate progress towards implementation of the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme, and reporting to the UK Parliament. • Provide advice on the preparation of each assessment of the risks for the United Kingdom of the current and predicted impact of climate change. • Provide advice on emissions from international aviation and shipping. • Provide advice, analysis, information or other assistance to the UK Government or devolved governments as requested.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	• Advise on the appropriate level of carbon budgets in Scotland. • Monitor and report on progress to Scotland's emissions reduction targets and recommending actions to keep on track.

	• Prepare independent assessments of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Adaptation Programme. • Provide advice, analysis, information or other assistance to the Scottish Government as requested.
Infrastructure Act 2015	• Advise on the impact of the exploitation of onshore petroleum on UK carbon budgets and the 2050 target.
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	• Advise on the appropriate level of statutory targets and carbon budgets in Wales. • Advise on the progress made towards meeting carbon budgets and targets, whether those budgets and targets are likely to be met and any further measures that are needed. • Provide advice, analysis, information or other assistance to Welsh ministers as requested.
Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	• Requires Scottish ministers to consult the CCC on each new revised National Planning Framework.
Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022	• Provide advice on the level of carbon budgets and emissions targets for Northern Ireland and the development of the Climate Action Plan. • Provide advice on the development of proposals to make regulations arising from the Act. • Advise on the progress made towards meeting emissions targets and carbon budgets, whether those targets and budgets are likely to be met, and whether any further measures are needed to meet those targets and budgets. • Prepare independent assessments of the Northern Irish Administration's Adaptation Programme including an assessment of the progress made and recommendations for the next Adaptation Programme.

Planned activities

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 activities

The table below sets out the planned publication dates for key statutory reports. Forthcoming publications and expected publication dates are updated regularly on the CCC website.

Table 2 Key priorities: April 2025–March 2026	
Month	Publication
May 2025	English Progress in adapting to climate change – 2025 report to Parliament
May 2025	Scotland's Carbon Budgets - advice for the Scottish Government
May 2025	Wales' Fourth Carbon Budget – advice for the Welsh Government
June 2025	UK Progress in reducing emissions – 2025 report to Parliament
October 2025	Annual Report and Accounts
January 2026	Scottish progress report: includes 2024 and 2025 Scottish progress report and feedback on the draft Climate Change Plan.

Planned activities April 2026 to March 2028

The corporate plan is kept under review, updates on forthcoming publications and expected publication dates will be available on the CCC website.

Table 3 UK and England			
Report	Scope	Reporting cycle	Planned timing for publication
Advice to government ahead of the publication of the Fourth Climate Change Risk Assessment	UK	Five yearly	Quarter 2 2026-27
Fourth Climate Change Risk Assessment - technical report and well-adapted UK report	UK	Five yearly	Quarter 2 2026-27
Adaptation progress report	England	Biennial	March–June 2027
Annual Report and Accounts	UK	Annual	September 2026

			September 2027
Mitigation progress report	UK	Annual	June 2026 June 2027

Table 4 Northern Ireland		
Report	Reporting cycle	Planned timing for publication
Progress report during first budgetary period (2023–2027)	Five yearly.	By 31 December 2027.
Adaptation programme report	Five yearly to align to Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes (NICCAP) being laid in the Assembly.	Will align to laying of NICCAP3 in the Assembly which is expected to be by late 2025. In turn the CCC assessment is required within three years which would be 2028/29.

Table 5 Scotland		
Report	Reporting cycle	Planned timing for publication
Progress report on reducing emissions	Annual.	By December 2026 and December 2027.
Emissions targets advice	At least every five years.	In line with legislative requirements.
Independent Assessment of Scottish Adaptation Programme	Twice every five years.	2026/27.

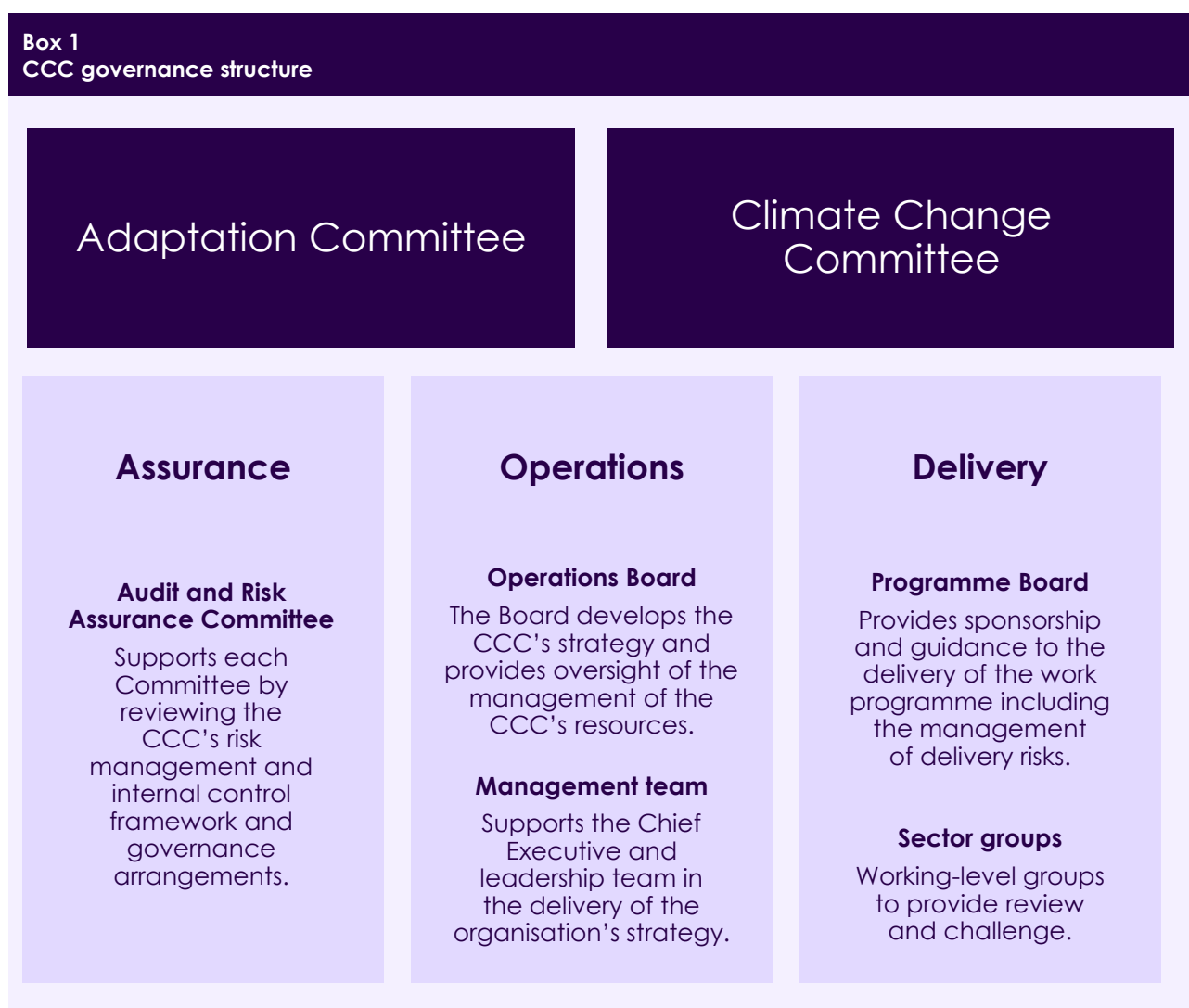
Table 6 Wales		
Report	Reporting cycle	Planned timing for publication
Adaptation progress report	Regularly, to inform the Adaptation Strategy.	Timing to be advised by Welsh Government.
Mitigation progress report	Every five years.	First half of 2028 The CCC is required to publish its report within six months of the publication of the final statement for Second Carbon Budget by the Welsh Government, which is due before the end of 2027.

Corporate governance and resources

Corporate governance

The CCC's governance structure is framed by the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008 which sets out both the legal duties of the CCC and the functions and broad governance structure of the organisation. The primary legislation is supported by the CCC's Framework Agreement which describes how the CCC is accountable to the UK and devolved governments, our governance arrangements, and our management and budgeting processes. The Framework Agreement is published on the CCC website: [CCC Framework Document - January 2024](#)

The CCC's governance structure has been designed, where relevant, to be consistent with the principles of the 'Corporate governance in central government departments: code of good practice', published by HM Treasury. As a small organisation the CCC is encouraged, as far as is possible, to adopt the practices set out in the Code or to explain non-compliance. No instances of non-compliance have been identified. The governance structure is set out in Box 1.



Resources

The Chief Executive is designated as Accounting Officer and is responsible for the management of the CCC's day-to-day operations, ensuring it is run on the basis of the standards set out in [Managing Public Money.pdf](#).

Finances

The indicative 2025/26 funding of £8m is subject to agreement from our sponsor organisations. The CCC has prepared a financial plan, as part of its financial management and governance activities, which is based on the indicative funding. Performance against this budget is kept under continuous review and is reported to the Operations Board. The Committee provides its sponsor organisations with regular financial information to satisfy reporting requirements.

In all its activities, the Committee operates in line with the principles set out in HM Treasury's Management Public Money and seeks to maintain value for money from its expenditure.

The remuneration of the Chairs and Committee Members is published in the Annual Report and Accounts on the CCC website. The Annual Report and Accounts details the CCC's financial position and performance, and its main activities. These include the audited accounts and financial statements for the stated period.

Staffing

The Committee employs a Chief Executive and a Secretariat of approximately 60 staff. This comprises approximately 50 analytical full time equivalent staff, working across mitigation and adaptation, as well as communications and corporate specialists.

The challenging nature of our work means we need to attract and retain people who are at the forefront of their field. We place high importance on supporting our people, including investing in development opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills.

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