



Committee on Climate Change Corporate Plan 2011-14

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1. Introduction

This is the third Corporate Plan produced by the Committee on Climate Change (the Committee) covering the period 2011-14. It sets out our key objectives, our business plan for 2011-12 and a high level delivery plan for the three years to 2014.

The **Committee on Climate Change** is a non-departmental public body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 to provide independent advice to the UK Government and devolved administrations and report to Parliament on setting carbon budgets and progress made in meeting them to deliver climate change objectives.

The Committee comprises seven members: a Chair and six independent members. The Committee employs a Chief Executive and a Secretariat of around 34 staff to provide analytical and corporate support.

The Committee is jointly-sponsored by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

The **Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC)** of the Committee, also established under the Climate Change Act, advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on the risks and opportunities from climate change, and reports to the UK Parliament on preparedness for climate change, particularly in relation to the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme.¹

The ASC comprises a Chair, who also sits on the main Committee, and seven independent members. The Sub-Committee utilises seven of the Committee's secretariat staff.

The ASC is jointly-sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

¹ This covers UK-wide issues for reserved matters and England-only issues for those matters that are devolved. The devolved administrations are able to make specific requests to the Committee for advice on their national adaptation programmes under the proviso of the Climate Change Act.

2. Strategic Objectives

As required under the Climate Change Act, the objective of the Committee is to be an independent and authoritative body influencing UK Government and devolved administration strategy in the areas of carbon budgets and preparedness for climate change in the UK.

The Committee will achieve this objective by fulfilling specific duties under the Climate Change Act, including:

- 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 5 year budget period, beginning with 2008-12.
- Monitoring progress towards meeting carbon budgets and recommending actions to keep budgets on track.
- Advising, as requested on devolved administration carbon targets and strategies, and progress reducing emissions.
- Conducting independent analysis into climate change science, economics and policy and advising the Government as requested by the sponsors.
- Advising on the preparation of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and monitoring implementation of the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme.
- Engaging with a wide range of organisations and individuals to share evidence and analysis

The Committee will contribute to the structural reform priorities of DECC as set out in the DECC Business Plan for 2011-15.

The ASC will contribute to structural reform priorities of Defra as set out in the Defra Business Plan for 2011-15.

3. Achievements in 2010-11

The Committee's business objectives for 2010-11 were to:

- Fulfil duties under the Climate Change Act, including reporting on progress made in meeting carbon budgets and advising on the fourth carbon budget (2023-27) and
- Ensure that the Committee's governance arrangements are fit for purpose to operate as a responsible and effective NDPB, meeting statutory and other requirements.

Highlights of the Committee's achievements against the objectives are given below:

Carbon budgets

- In May and October 2010, Scottish secondary legislation was passed reflecting the Committee's advice on Scottish carbon targets. The Committee also provided further ad-hoc analysis in September 2010.
- In June 2010, the Committee recommended that the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration programme should include gas-fired generation. The Government subsequently accepted this advice.
- Also in June 2010, the Committee published the second annual progress report to Parliament, '*Meeting carbon budgets - ensuring a low-carbon recovery*'. The report concluded that despite a fall in greenhouse gas emissions during the recession, a step change in the pace of emission reductions was still required if the UK is to meet its legislated carbon budgets.
- In July 2010, the Committee published a review of low-carbon innovation, following a request from the Government's Chief Scientist. The review identified key technologies to be supported in order to develop options for meeting the 2050 target, including CCS and renewable forms of power generation, and electric vehicles. It recommended the need for increased funding of R&D as fiscal constraints are eased beyond the current spending review period.
- In September 2010, the Committee provided an initial response to the Government's request for advice on the level of the renewable energy ambition to 2020. This suggested that the focus should be on delivering the existing 2020 target rather than increasing the level of ambition.

Following a request from the DECC Secretary of State, the Committee also published its advice on the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC). This highlighted the scope for significant emissions reductions in the sectors covered by the CRC, but questioned whether the scheme design was overly complex and suggested scope for simplification.

- In October 2010, the Government formally responded to the Committee's second annual progress report to Parliament, accepting the recommendations and committing to delivering the required step change in emission reductions.
- In December 2010, the Committee published its advice on the level of the 4th carbon budget (2023-27), recommending a level of 1,950 MtCO₂e to be delivered through domestic action, consistent with a 60% cut in emissions by 2030 relative to 1990 levels. The Government accepted the budget advice in May 2011, which was subsequently legislated in June 2011.

- In February 2011, the Committee advised the Scottish Government on a cumulative emissions budget to 2050.
- In March 2011, the Committee advised the Government to aim to meet the second carbon budget (2013-2017) through domestic action alone and not through the use of offset credits.

Adaptation

This was the first full year of operation for the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC). In September 2010, the ASC published its first national assessment of the UK's preparedness for climate change. The Committee found that although some progress had been made by Government in raising awareness, little tangible action had taken place on the ground. The Committee therefore recommended that action was required in five priority areas - land use planning, infrastructure, buildings, natural resources and emergency planning.

The ASC has also advised on the preparation of the UK Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment, working closely with Defra and its consultants over the summer on the methodology for the technical risk assessment, and providing the Secretary of State, Caroline Spelman, with detailed advice on the method in the autumn.

Corporate

As the Committee moves from start-up to full-scale operation, the focus has been to establish cross-functional project-based working to make the organisation more flexible and responsive, embedding corporate governance processes across the organisation. The Committee has successfully engaged with a wide range of stakeholders across the field of climate change using a wide range of channels including web and social media.

4. Business Objectives

Two business objectives guide the work of the Committee in 2011-12 (i.e. the year from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012):

Business Objective 1: Fulfilling our statutory duties as set out under the Climate Change Act 2008, including reporting on progress made in meeting carbon budgets, whether and how aviation and shipping should be included in carbon budgets, and preparedness to adapt to climate change.

We will achieve this by:

- Assessing progress against indicators and milestones for meeting carbon budgets,
- Assess implications of including aviation and shipping in carbon budgets and targets, both for these and other sectors,
- Responding to ad hoc requests for advice from the UK government and devolved administrations, and
- Advising on the preparation of the first UK Climate Change Risk Assessment and developing an indicator framework to help assess the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme.

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

We will achieve this by:

- Undertaking appropriate risk management, internal controls, and corporate governance to ensure resources are managed efficiently and effectively,
- Ensuring independent financial reporting and accounting arrangements are in place,
- Undertaking corporate and human resources processes that will facilitate the hiring, retention and development of a skilled and professional workforce,
- Operating sustainable and effective environmental policies, and
- Implementing an effective communications strategy for internal and external stakeholders.

5. Key Deliverables

The Committee deliverables for the year 2011-12 are outlined below. Annex A provides details of the work programme underpinning the deliverables.

Carbon budgets

- Renewable energy review, May 2011
- Third progress report to Parliament, June 2011
- Review of international shipping emissions, November 2011
- Bioenergy review, December 2011
- Advice on inclusion of international aviation and shipping in carbon budgets, March 2012

Devolved Administrations

- Advice to the Scottish Government on the second batch of Scottish targets (2023-27) and on limits to carbon unit use (2013-2017), July 2011
- Advice to the Welsh Government on progress in reducing emissions and preparing for climate change, by October 2011
- Advice to Northern Ireland's Environment Minister on the appropriateness of a NI Climate Change Act or other legislation to provide for legally binding GHG emission targets, by October 2011
- Advice to the Scottish Government on progress in reducing emissions in line with legislated targets, by January 2012

Adaptation

- Second assessment of UK's preparedness, July 2011
- Final advice on the preparation of the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment, July and September 2011
- First assessment of Scotland's preparedness, November 2011

Corporate

- **Annual report and accounts:** This report summarised key achievements against objectives and the audited accounts for 2010-11 and was laid in Parliament on 13 July 2011.
- **Office relocation:** The Committee has been asked to relocate offices to Holbein Place. The move will deliver cost savings to the Committee as well as contribute to the wider Government estate rationalisation programme and save public money. Work is underway to ensure the move is undertaken in June 2011 with minimum business disruption.

Key deliverables for the planning period, both by the Committee and by the UK Government in response to the Committee are:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
By 30 Jun	<p>Committee published renewable energy review</p> <p>Committee published third annual progress report</p>	<p>Committee to provide advice on local authority role in reducing emissions</p> <p>Committee to publish fourth annual progress report</p>	<p>Committee to publish fifth annual progress report</p>
	<p>Government published White Paper on electricity market reform. (May 2011)</p> <p>Government sets fourth budget 2023-27 in law.</p>		
By 31 July	<p>ASC published final advice on CCRA</p> <p>ASC published second assessment of UK's preparedness</p> <p>Committee published 3rd annual report and audited accounts</p> <p>Committee provided advice on the second batch of Scottish targets (2023-27) and on limits to carbon unit use (2013-2017)</p>	<p>Committee to publish 4th annual report and audited accounts</p> <p>ASC to publish third assessment of UK's preparedness</p>	<p>Committee to publish 5th annual report and audited accounts</p> <p>ASC to publish fourth assessment of UK's preparedness</p>
15 Oct	<p>Government to respond to Committee's third progress report and recommendations on renewable review</p>	<p>Government response to Committee's fourth progress report</p>	<p>Government response to Committee's fifth progress report</p>
By 30 Dec	<p>Committee advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government on progress reducing emissions and preparing for climate change (Oct 2011) - Northern Ireland Executive on appropriateness of a NI Climate Change Act or other legislation to provide for legally binding GHG emission targets (Oct 2011) - Review of international shipping emissions. (Nov 2011) - Review of sustainable bioenergy (Dec 2011) <p>ASC advice to Scottish Government on first assessment of Scotland's preparedness (Nov 2011)</p>	<p>Committee advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government on progress reducing emissions and preparing for climate change <p>ASC to publish lessons learned from UK's first Climate Change Risk Assessment and advice to support the economics of climate resilience (tbc)</p>	<p>Committee advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government on progress reducing emissions and preparing for climate change
By 31 March	<p>Committee advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scottish Government on progress reducing emissions in line with legislated targets (Jan 2012) - Inclusion of international aviation & shipping in carbon budgets (Mar 2012) 	<p>Committee advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scottish Government on progress reducing emissions in line with legislated targets and preparing for climate change - Carbon leakage and competitiveness to feed into 4th carbon budget review (early 2013) 	<p>Committee advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scottish Government on progress reducing emissions in line with legislated targets and preparing for climate change - 4th carbon budget review (early 2014)

7. Communication

During the year we continued to build the profile of the Committee's work and engaged with a large network of stakeholders in the climate change mitigation and adaptation field. Highlights included:

- National newspaper coverage about the Committee reached around 10 million readers each month, and our website received 100,000 visitors over the year, an improvement of 8% on the previous year's traffic.
- Our digital presence was improved through the redesign of our website and launch of social media.
- The Committee was shortlisted as a finalist in the Climate Week Awards in recognition of the innovative analysis which informed the 4th carbon budget report.
- We introduced a more efficient process for producing our reports from templates, in order both to reduce our carbon footprint and to reduce costs.

Over the next year we will continue to publicise our work across our network, ensuring our recommendations are understood and have impact.

We will focus in particular on expanding our audience by improving the way that we interact with diverse stakeholders. We will achieve this by introducing innovations to the way that we communicate; through our website, publications and social media.

In doing so, we will work transparently and efficiently, in order to provide information in a way that is engaging, carbon-friendly and cost-effective.

8. Resource Management

8.1 Finances

The Committee will contribute to the overall savings that all public bodies are making over the spending review period to reduce the public deficit. Our settlement for 2011-12 and the indicative settlement for later years reflects a significant reduction in our allocation and will require a continued focus on costs and efficiency in all areas of the business.

We face significant challenges, in common with all areas of public spending, to continue high quality delivery with reducing resources. We are closely examining all areas of expenditure to drive out waste and create best value to deliver our work programme. Due to funding constraints requests for discretionary advice may need additional funding.

	£000				
	2010-11	2011-12 ¹	2012-13	2013-14 ²	2014-15
	Final	Final	Indicative		
Allocation					
Committee on Climate Change	3,414	3,164	2,560	2,729	2,729
Adaptation Sub-Committee	827	827	797	767	737
Total Allocation	4,241	3,991	3,357	3,496	3,466

1. For 2011-12, in addition to the allocation noted above DECC is to provide £50,000 as depreciation cover.
2. DECC has agreed to review and finalise the 2013-14 allocation by autumn 2012.

Income and expenditure for the **Committee and ASC** for the year 2011-12 is summarised below:

	£000		
	Committee ¹	ASC ^{2,3}	Total
Income			
Grant in Aid			
- DECC	2,651	-	2,651
- Defra	-	760	760
- Scotland	266	35	301
- Wales	155	20	175
- Northern Ireland	92	12	104
Total Income	3,164	827	3,991
Expenditure			
▪ Pay (Committee & Secretariat)	1,782	510	2,292
▪ Research	646	119	765
▪ Operating costs	736	198	934
Total Expenditure	3,164	827	3,991

3. The Committee is funded by DECC and the Devolved Administrations in the form of Grant-In-Aid, on an agreed population model (DECC 84%, Scotland 8%, Wales 5% and Northern Ireland 3%).
4. The ASC is funded by Defra and the Devolved Administrations in the form of Grant-In-Aid. The four administrations jointly fund the ASC's advice on the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (and related economic appraisal) comprising 50% of annual ASC cost based on an agreed population model (Defra 84%, Scotland 8%, Wales 5% and Northern Ireland 3%). The balance 50% of annual ASC costs will be paid by the UK Government for the ASC's work on the UK Government's National Adaptation Programme.
5. In addition to the allocation noted above, the ASC will also receive contributions from the Scottish Government (£32,000), Welsh Government (£8,000) and Environment Agency (£5,000) for providing additional requests for advice.

8.2 Personnel

The Committee employs a Chief Executive and a Secretariat of around 34 full time equivalent staff made up of around 27 analytical staff (of which six are working to support the ASC), one secondee post funded by the devolved administrations specialising in regional analysis and around five staff providing corporate support including specialists in communications and finance.

We continue to develop our approaches to effective delivery by using staff more flexibly across work streams, and encouraging improved collaborative working. We will be integrating all elements of our learning and development into a single training strategy and aligning it to our performance management framework to improve the capability of staff and the organisation.

The Committee is strongly committed to managing the social and environmental impacts of its activities and encourages its staff to volunteer in the community and share their skills and also actively seeks opportunities to reduce its impact on the environment.

Annex A Work Programme

The **Committee's** analytical work programme for **2011-12** comprises:

Carbon budgets

- **Renewable energy review** : This was commissioned by the Coalition Government in May 2010 and published in May 2011. It covers renewable energy ambition to 2030, including implications for ambition in 2020 and any policy innovation required to drive investment over the next decade.
- **Third progress report to Parliament**: The Committee's third annual progress report to Parliament was published on 30 June 2011. The report reviewed latest emissions data, together with evidence on underlying emissions drivers including weather, economic activity and implementation of abatement measures.
- **Review of international shipping emissions**: The Committee has already provided a high-level assessment of international shipping emissions in its advice on the 2050 target. Further, more detailed work required to underpin the advice on the inclusion of shipping and aviation in carbon budgets will be published in November 2011.
- **Bioenergy review**: The review will aim to provide an in-depth assessment of the availability of sustainable bioenergy and where this might best be used. It will feed into the advice on the inclusion of shipping and aviation in carbon budgets and will be published in December 2011.
- **Advice on inclusion of international aviation and shipping (IA&S) in carbon budgets**: This is required under the Climate Change Act to enable Government to make a formal decision on whether the net carbon account should be defined to include international aviation and shipping. In addition to aviation and shipping, this advice will set out the implications of such inclusion for other sectors of the economy. This report will be published in March 2012.
- **Advice to the devolved administrations**
We will deliver the following pieces of advice to the devolved administrations:
 - Advice to the Scottish Government on the second batch of Scottish targets (2023-27) and on limits to carbon unit use (2013-2017), was delivered in July 2011.
 - Advice to the Welsh Government on progress in reducing emissions and preparing for climate change, by October 2011.
 - Advice to Northern Ireland's Environment Minister on the appropriateness of a NI Climate Change Act or other legislation to provide for legally binding GHG emission targets, by October 2011.
 - Advice to the Scottish Government on progress in reducing emissions in line with legislated targets, by January 2012.

Adaptation

The **ASC's** analytical work programme in 2011-12 will focus on:

Second assessment of UK preparedness: This report published in July 2011 builds on the ASC's first assessment by providing more quantitative information on the opportunities for the UK to adapt to current and future climate risks.

Advice on the preparation of the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment : The ASC is required under the Climate Change Act to advise on the CCRA. The ASC will advise on how the technical risk assessment should be taken forward by the Government to form the final CCRA due in January 2012. This advice was published as part of its second assessment of

preparedness. The ASC will continue to provide advice on this and the Government's economic appraisal of adaptation options until July 2012.

First assessment of Scotland's preparedness (November 2011): This will build on the first and second UK reports putting a particular focus on the situation and progress achieved in Scotland, based on an assessment of recently published sector adaptation plans.

The **Committee's** analytical work programme for **2012-13** and beyond will include:

Carbon budgets

- **4th and 5th progress reports to Parliament** to be published in June 2012 and 2013 respectively.
- **Review of the 4th Carbon Budget** to be published in 2013-14, and to include assessment of progress on EU budgets and pathways, and consideration of issues raised by government departments in discussions around original budget advice (e.g. competitiveness impacts for energy intensive industry, implications of possible low gas prices for power sector decarbonisation, technology cost estimates).
- **Advice on the role of local authorities in reducing emissions:** In September 2011 during the Energy Bill debate, the Government announced that the Committee's advice would be sought on this issue. It is expected to be provided in April 2012 and will feed into guidance for local authorities being prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Details of coverage and format of the advice is currently being scoped.
- **Advice to the devolved administrations**
We will provide the following advice to the devolved administrations:
 - Annual reports to the Scottish Government on progress in reducing emissions in line with legislated targets and preparing for climate change, in early 2012 and 2013.
 - Annual report to the Welsh Government on progress in reducing emissions and preparing for climate change, in autumn 2012 and 2013.

Adaptation

The **ASC's** analytical work programme for **2012-13** and beyond will include:

Annual assessments of UK's preparedness: The ASC will use annual assessments to build up a picture of UK preparedness in order to deliver its statutory report to Parliament on implementation of the National Adaptation Programme in 2015. These assessments will:

- Help the ASC evaluate progress in adaptation by building up a comprehensive set of vulnerability and action indicators;
- Develop the economic case for low-regret and more complex adaptation options to understand what level and type of adaptation action is proportionate; and
- Further assess progress on decision-making and capacity in the ASC's priority areas.

In addition, the third assessment (July 2012) will include the ASC's advice to the Government on their strategy for second round of Adaptation Reporting Power.

Lessons learned from the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and additional economic advice (mid to end 2012): The ASC is discussing with Defra and the devolved administrations its role in undertaking a lessons learned exercise following the publication of the UK's first CCRA. The focus of this analysis will be to identify how the approach taken to the risk assessment can be improved upon in successive rounds, drawing on the most recent developments in methods and approaches for climate change impact, adaptation and vulnerability assessments from around the world. The ASC will also provide some additional advice to support the Government's economic appraisal of adaptation options.