

UK Energy & Environment Policy Timeline

Key: Published Expected Expected (date less certain)



Note: Various sources used, hyperlinked on dates below.

Department	Q4 2020	Q1 '21	Q2 '21	Q3 '21	Q4 '21	2022
Whole Government / No. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister announced 10-point plan for "Green Industrial Revolution" (Nov-20) Gov. published updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2030 (Dec-20) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to publish a comprehensive 'Net Zero Strategy' in the run up to COP 26 (Oct-20, p.75) Government to set 6th Carbon Budget (Oct-20, p.63) Government to publish 'Greening Gov. Commitments' (Oct-20, p.54) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK to host COP 26 climate conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government to publish the 3rd Climate Change Risk Assessment (Oct-20, p.56)
Treasury (HMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMT published 'Net Zero Review', interim report (Dec-20) HMT published 2020 Spending Review (Nov-20) HMT published National Infrastructure Strategy (Nov-20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMT published the Dasgupta Review on the economics of biodiversity (Feb-21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMT to publish final 'Net Zero Review' (Oct-20, p.71) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HMT to undertake "expert review into application of discount rate for environmental impacts" in the Green Book (Nov-20, p.10) 	

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Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published Energy White Paper (Dec-20) Announced new UK ETS from Jan 2021 (Dec-20, p.129) EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed, including new provisions on electricity trading (Dec-20) Government announced ambition for 5GW of hydrogen production by 2030, including a Hydrogen Town. (Nov-20) Government announced extra £200m funding for CCS (total £1bn) for 4 CCS clusters by 2030 (up from 2) (Nov-20) Published update on CCUS business models (Dec-20) BEIS published response to CFD consultation for 2021 auction. (Nov-20) Launched consultation on CFD Supply Chain Plans + other changes. (Nov-20) Published Call for Evidence on the future of support for renewables (Dec-20) Responded to consultation on RAB model for new nuclear (Dec-20) Government announced £525m funding to develop large and small-scale nuclear. (Nov-20) Published consultation to introduce coal phase-out from 2024 (Dec-20) Publish Call for Evidence on "Biomass for net zero" (Dec-20, p.53) Introduce new strategy for the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) to replace 'MER UK' (Dec-20, p.140) Published response to consultation on code governance (Dec-20) Responded to consultation on strengthening UK O&G decommissioning industry (Dec-20) Responded to Call for Evidence on energy efficiency in the electricity system (Dec-20) BEIS launched competition for Direct Air Capture and other Greenhouse Gas Removals (Nov-20) BEIS launched Call for Evidence on Greenhouse Gas Removals (Dec-20) BEIS published consultation on home energy performance requirements for lenders. (Nov-20) BEIS consulted on improving energy efficiency of private rented homes to EPC Band C. (Sep to Dec-20) BEIS published Call for Evidence on license exemptions for small-scale electricity projects (Oct-20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult on aligning UK ETS with Net Zero (in due course) (Dec-20, p.129) Publish Heat and Buildings Strategy (Dec-20, p.101) Publish Call for Evidence on "Affordability and Fairness" (Dec-20, p.30) Consult on "Opt-in" and "Opt-out" switching (Dec-20, p.33/34) Consult on transparency measures for energy suppliers (Dec-20, p.34) Establish Ministerial Delivery Group for RES projects and infrastructure (Dec-20, p.47) Consult on replacement for 300 MW "CCS-ready" threshold (Dec-20, p.48) Consult on higher EE standards for non-residential buildings (Dec-20, p.103) Updated Fuel Poverty Strategy for England (Feb-21) Consult on regulations to phase-out fossil fuels in off-grid premises (Dec-20, p.110) Consult on policy approaches for heat pumps in on-gas-grid homes (Dec-20, p.111) Respond to consultation on Green Gas Levy (Dec-20, p.112) Outline technical proposals for UK-EU market coupling, by April (Dec-20, p.785) Publish UK Hydrogen Strategy (Dec-20, p.127) BEIS to run process for CCUS deployment, including further details on revenue mechanisms (Nov-20, p.27) Published consultation on CCS "cluster sequencing" (Feb-21) (Closes 10 March 2021) Consultation closes (18th Jan) CFE closes (8th March) Responded to consultation on RAB model for new nuclear (Dec-20) BEIS to launch Phase 2 of UK SMR design development (Nov-20, p.17) Consultation closes (26th Feb) Agree North Sea Transition Deal with industry during H1 2021 (Dec-20, p.143) Update National Planning Statement (NPS) by end-2021 (Dec-20, p.55) Responded to consultation on strengthening UK O&G decommissioning industry (Dec-20) Responded to Call for Evidence on energy efficiency in the electricity system (Dec-20) BEIS launched competition for Direct Air Capture and other Greenhouse Gas Removals (Nov-20) BEIS launched Call for Evidence on Greenhouse Gas Removals (Dec-20) BEIS published consultation on home energy performance requirements for lenders. 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(Sep to Dec-20) BEIS published Call for Evidence on license exemptions for small-scale electricity projects (Oct-20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult on regulation of energy brokers and price comparison sites (Dec-20, p.36) Ofgem to publish decision on Half-Hourly Settlement (Dec-20, p.32) Publish a new Smart Systems Plan with Ofgem (Dec-20, p.72) Launch competition for longer duration energy storage and flex challenges (Dec-20, p.73) Publish first Energy Data & Digitalisation Strategy (with Ofgem) (Dec-20, p.81/82) Launch energy-related products policy to improve Energy Efficiency (Dec-20, p.106) Consult on helping Local Authorities to develop 'Heat Network Zones' (Dec-20, p.115) Publish Action Plan for workers in high-carbon industries (Dec-20, p.116) Publish Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (Dec-20, p.123) BEIS to consult on hydrogen business model / commercial framework (Dec-20, p.78) Indicative timing for Phase 1: Provisional cluster sequencing (April-October 2021) (Feb-21, p.7) Indicative timing for Phase 2: Final Project Selection August-Nov 2021 (Feb-21, p.7) Update on business model for industrial CCS and Power CCS (Dec-20, p.78) Update on CCUS regulatory framework and T&S arrangements (Dec-20, p.78) BEIS to hold next Contracts for Difference (CFD) auction for renewables (Oct-20, p.82) BEIS to announce location of UK fusion power demonstrator. (Nov-20, p.32) Government to publish a Biomass Strategy (Dec-20, p.53) Update National Planning Statement (NPS) by end-2021 (Dec-20, p.55) Consult on extension and changes to ECO and WHD schemes (Dec-20, p.35) Engage with industry and consumer groups on future retail regulatory framework, with a consultation to follow (Dec-20, p.35) Legislate for powers to regulate smart appliances, including operability and security (Dec-20, p.36) Legislate for competition in onshore Transmission networks (and possibly distribution networks) (Dec-20, p.76) Conclude Offshore Transmission Network Review (Dec-20, p.80) Hold series of workshops and consultations on reforms to the Gas Act to aid decarbonisation (Dec-20, p.84) Consult on energy system governance, including code governance and the role of the ESO (Dec-20, p.85) Consult on 'Strategy and Policy Statement', which provides direction to Ofgem (Dec-20, p.86) Consult on measures to improve Energy Efficiency of owner-occupied homes (Dec-20, p.105) Legislate to improve Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) if Parliamentary time allows (Dec-20, p.105) Consult on auctions / regulation to improve business energy efficiency (Dec-20, p.106) Respond to consultation on Clean Heat Grant, which replaces the Renewable Heat Incentive (Dec-20, p.111) Consult on 'hydrogen-ready appliances' (Dec-20, p.113) Legislate for regulation of heat networks during this Parliament (Dec-20, p.114) Launch the National Skills Fund and 'Green Jobs Taskforce' (Dec-20, p.116) Undertake review of OPRED and the OGA, to ensure that their roles reflect Gov ambition for Net Zero. (Dec-20, p.140) Publish draft 'Downstream Oil Resilience' bill, to ensure secure supplies as fossil fuel use reduces (Dec-20, p.146) Responded to consultation on changes to ROC mutualisation (Feb-21) Introduce changes to ROC mutualisation by 31 March 2021 (Feb-21) Phase 1 of competition (Design Studies) (Apr to Dec-21) CFE closes (26th Feb) Consultation closes (12th Feb) Response expected (Spring 2021) Consultation closes (1st March) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Green Gas Support Scheme (GGSS) (Dec-20, p.112) Technical proposals for UK-EU market coupling, by November (Dec-20, p.785) Finalise business model / commercial framework for hydrogen (Dec-20, p.128) Final Investment Decisions on two 'Track 1' CCS clusters, from H1 2022. (Feb-21, p.9) Note: Track 1 clusters are expected to be deployed by the mid-2020s. BEIS to hold next Contracts for Difference (CFD) auction for renewables (Oct-20, p.82) BEIS to announce location of UK fusion power demonstrator. 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Department for Transport (DfT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government announced phase-out date for ICE (2030) and PHEV (2035) cars/vans (Nov-20) Government announced £20m competition for "clean maritime technology". (Nov-20) DfT to consult on including maritime in RTFO and UK carbon pricing (Oct-20, p.106) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfT to publish Delivery Plan setting out key milestones to deliver the petrol and diesel phase-out date (Nov-20, p.19) DfT to publish Green Paper on UK post-EU emissions regulations for cars and vans + consult on phase-out of new diesel HGVs (Nov-20, p.19) DfT to publish Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), National Bus Strategy and first electric bus town (Dec-20) Respond to consultation on EV chargepoints in homes / businesses (Dec-20, p.103) DfT to legislate for minimum device standards for smart EV chargers (Oct-20, p.103) DfT to consult on the Aviation Decarbonisation Strategy (Nov-20, p.23) DfT to run a £15m competition of Sustainable Aviation Fuel plants (Nov-20, p.23) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfT to implement various "Clean Maritime" trials, including hydrogen port in Tees Valley. (Nov-20, p.32)
Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA to consult on mandatory food waste reporting (Oct-20, p.94) DEFRA to publish Tree Strategy for England DEFRA to publish Peat Strategy for England 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA to pilot new Environmental Land Management system (ELM) (Oct-20, p.91) DEFRA to publish National Food Strategy (Pt.2) & White Paper 6 months later (Oct-20, p.82) DEFRA to start process for designating new National Parks and AONBs (Nov-20, p.29) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFRA to publish a Nature Strategy for England (Oct-20, p.97)
Other UK Government		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHCLG responded to consultation on the Future Homes Standard (Jan-21) MHCLG issued consultation on the Future Building Standard (Jan-21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation closes (13th April) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHSC to make a series of commitments towards delivering a 'Net Zero NHS' (Oct-20, p.120) DHSC to publish 'Net Zero Carbon Hospital Standard' (Oct-20, p.120) 	
Devolved Administrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government published updated Climate Change Plan (Dec-20) Scottish Government published draft climate change public engagement strategy (Dec-20) Scottish Government published updated Offshore Wind Policy Statement (Oct-20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government to publish 'Bioenergy Update' (Dec-20, p.11) Consultation closes (17th March) Scot. Gov. published draft "Heat in Buildings Strategy" (Feb-21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation closes (30th April) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government to publish 'Energy Strategy Update' in 2021 (Dec-20, p.10) Scottish Government to publish 'Hydrogen Action Plan' in 2021 (Dec-20, p.11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Government to publish updated Electricity Generation Policy (Dec-20, p.11)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government to publish 'All Wales Plan' for the 2nd Carbon Budget (Oct-20, p.50)