UK Energy & Environment Policy Timeline – 26th July 2021

Last updated: 23.07.2021.
Various sources used, hyperlinked on dates below.

Key: Published | Expected | Published (New) | Expected (date less certain)

Policy Exchange

Whole Government / No. 10

- Prime Minister announced 10-point plan for "Green Industrial Revolution" (Nov-20)
- Gov. published updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2030 (Dec-20)
- Set 6th Carbon Budget (-78% by 2035 vs. 1990) (Apr-21). Passed into law (Jun-21)
- Queen's Speech includes new Downstream Oil Resilience Bill (May-21)
- G7 agrees commitments on climate & biodiversity (May-21)
- Publish 'Net Zero Strategy' (Mar-21, p.105)
- UK to host COP 26 climate conference
- Government to publish the 3rd Climate Change Risk Assessment (Oct-20, p.56)

Treasury (HMT)

- HMT published 'Net Zero Review', interim report (Dec-20)
- HMT published 2020 Spending Review (Nov-20)
- HMT published National Infrastructure Strategy (Nov-20)
- HMT published the Dasgupta Review on the economics of biodiversity (Feb-21)
- Responded to consultation on 'Red Diesel' (Mar-21)
- Published details of UK Infrastructure Bank (Mar-21)
- HMT to publish final 'Net Zero Review' (Dec-20, p.5)
- "Expert review into application of discount rate for environmental impacts" in Green Book (Nov-20, p.10)
- Appointed expert group on 'Green Taxonomy' (Jun-21)
- G7 Finance Ministers agree climate risk disclosures (TCFD) and consider nature risk disclosures (TNFD) (Jun-21)
- HMT launched UK Infrastructure Bank (Jun-21)

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

- Published Energy White Paper (Dec-20)
- Announced new UK ETS from Jan 2021 (Dec-20, p.129)
- Updated Auction Reserve Price £22/t (Feb-21) & auction calendar (Feb-21)
- Published Call for Evidence on free allowances (Mar-21)
- Published details on supply of allowances in the UK ETS, and first auction held (May-21)
- Opened review of schemes to compensate Energy Intensive Industry (EII) for emission costs in electricity prices (Jun-21)
- Consult on aligning UK ETS with Net Zero ("later this year") (Feb-21)
- Consultation closes (9th August)
- Launched UK Centre for Greening Finance (Feb-21)
- Consulted on "further policy design proposals" for Clean Heat Grant (Feb-21)
- Consultation on closing domestic Renewable Heat Incentive from 2022 (Feb-21)
- Published Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (Mar-21)
- Established Ministerial Delivery Group for RES projects (Dec-20, p.47)
- Published updated Fuel Poverty Strategy for England (Feb-21)
- Publish Heat and Buildings Strategy (Mar-21, p.105)
- BEIS announced £166m of funding for various projects as part of the "10 Point Plan" (May-21)
- Publish Action Plan for workers in high-carbon industries (Dec-20, p.116)
- Published new Smart Systems and Flexibility Plan (with Ofgem) (Jul-21)
- Respond to 2019 CfE on EV data transmission (Jul-21, p.79)
- Publish CfE on Capacity Market and Net Zero (Jul-21, p.82)
- Published CfE on Vehicle-to-X technologies (Jul-21)
- CfE closes 12th October
- Published CfE on long-duration storage (Jul-21)
- CfE closes 28nd September
- Published Call for Evidence on amendments to "CCS-ready" requirements for new power stations (Jul-21)
- CfE closes 22nd September
- Published Energy Digitalisation Strategy (with Ofgem and Innovate UK) (Jul-21)
- BEIS/Ofgem/ESC launched Energy Digitalisation Taskforce (May-21).
- Energy Digitalisation Taskforce to publish final report in Winter 2021/22 (Jul-21, p.23).
- New Smart Meter targets for Suppliers take effect on 1 Jan (Jul-21, p.75)
- Consult in 2022 on regulatory approach for flexibility service providers and other organisations controlling load (Jul-21, p.76)
- Gov and Ofgem to publish policy statement on maximising contribution of EV flex to protecting the grid (Jul-21, p.79)
- Ofgem to review governance on the electricity "Distribution System Operator" role (Jul-21, p.86)
- Gov to review exemptions from UK ETS for <20 MW generators – changes implemented by 2026(!) (Jul-21, p.87)
- Recommendations by 2023
- Gov aims to respond
- Published response to consultation on code governance (Dec-20)
- Published consultation on reform of energy "code governance" (w/ Ofgem) (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes 28th September
- Changes to Code Governance enacted through Primary Legislation "when parliamentary time allows". (Jul-21, p.88)
- Consult on policy approaches for heat pumps in on-gas-grid homes (Dec-20, p.111)
- Published consultation on proposals for a Future System Operator (w/ Ofgem) (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes 28th September
- Consult on regulations to phase-out fossil fuels in off-grid premises (Dec-20, p.110)
- Consult on helping Local Authorities to develop 'Heat Network Zones' (Dec-20, p.115)
- Responded to independent review of electrical engineering standards (Jul-21)
- Responded to consultation on "Green Gas Levy (Mar-21)
- Launch Green Gas Support Scheme (GGSS) (Dec-20, p.112)
- Published consultation to introduce coal phase-out from 2024 (Dec-20)
- Responded to consultation on coal 2024 phase-out (June-21)
- Published consultation on design of ECO scheme for period 2022-26 (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes 31st August
- EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed w/ provisions on electricity trading (Dec-20)
- Published draft Statutory Instrument (Mar-21)
- Outline technical proposals for UK-EU market coupling, by April (Dec-20, p.785)
- Full technical proposals for UK-EU market coupling, by November (Dec-20, p.785)
- New UK-EU electricity market coupling implemented, by April 2022 (Dec-20, p.785)
- Government announced ambition for 5GW of hydrogen production by 2030, including a Hydrogen Town. (Nov-20)
- Publish UK Hydrogen Strategy (Mar-21, p.105)
- BEIS to consult on hydrogen business model / commercial framework (Dec-20, p.78)
- Finalise business model / commercial framework for hydrogen (Dec-20, p.128)
- Government announced extra £200m funding for CCS (total £1bn) for 4 CCS clusters by 2030 (up from 2) (Nov-20)
- Published consultation on CCS "cluster sequencing" (Feb-21) (Closes 10 March 2021)
- Published update on CCS infrastructure fund (May-21)
- 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)
- 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.
- Published update on CCUS business models (Dec-20)
- Updated business models for industrial CCS, power CCS, and transport & storage (May-21)
- Updates on CCUS regulatory framework and T&S arrangements (May-21, p.39) + Power CCS (May-21, p.21)
- Published consultation amendments to CfD regime for CCS (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes 8th September
- BEIS published response to CfD consultation for 2021 auction. (Nov-20)
- Launched consultation on CfD Supply Chain Plans + other changes. (Nov-20)
- Responded to consultation on supply chain plans – confirmed date for next auction (May-21)
- Run next CfD auction (AR4). Opens in Dec-21 (May-21)
- Published Energy Retail Market Strategy (Jul-21)
- Implement comparison tool for smart energy tariffs (Jul-21, p.6)
- Implement reforms to WHD and ECO supplier thresholds (2022-23) (Jul-21, p.6)
- Implement reforms to "Green Tariffs" (?) and regulation of Third-party intermediaries (?) (Jul-21, p.6)
- Published consultation on technical changes to the Capacity Market (CM) (Mar-21)
- Responded to consultation on CM + laid accompanying regulations (Jun-21)
- Responded to consultation on "flexible and responsive energy markets" (Jul-21)
- "Continue to assess rationale for wider retail reform" (Jul-21, p.17)
- Published consultation on opt-in/opt-out switching (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes 15th October
- Legislate for opt-out and opt-in switching (Jul-21, p.5)
- Start opt-in switching and testing opt-out switching (Jul-21, p.6)
- Launch CfE on "Carbon Content in Energy Products" (Jul-21, p.14)
- Launch CfE on regulating energy brokers and TPIs (Jul-21, p.15)
- Launch CfE on Affordability and Fairness(Jul-21, p.15)
- Published Call for Evidence on the future of support for renewables (closed 8th March) (Dec-20)
- Responded to consultation on RAB model for new nuclear (Dec-20)
- Responded to consultation on standards for energy-related products (Mar-21) and labelling (Mar-21)
- Launch "world-class policy framework" for energy-related products "later this year" (Mar-21, p.4)
- Laid regulations on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling (Jun-21)
- Regulations in force in GB (1st Sep)
- Government announced £525m funding to develop large and small-scale nuclear. (Nov-20)
- BEIS to launch Phase 2 of UK SMR design development (Nov-20, p.17)
- BEIS to announce location of UK fusion power demonstrator. (Nov-20, p.32)
- Introduced a new "Electricity System Restoration Standard" (BEIS: Apr-21. Ofgem: Apr-21)
- Launched Consultation on mandatory climate-related financial disclosures by larger companies (Mar-21)
- Regulations made/set by end-2021 (Mar-21, p.8)
- Regulations in force by April 2022 (Mar-21, p.8)
- Published Call for Evidence on "Biomass for net zero" (Apr-21)
- Publish preliminary Position Paper on biomass (Dec-20, p.78)
- Government to publish a Biomass Strategy (Dec-20, p.53)
- Update National Planning Statement (NPS) by end-2021 (Dec-20, p.55)
- Legislate for competition in onshore Transmission networks (and possibly distribution) (Dec-20, p.76)
- Introduced new strategy for the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) to replace 'MER UK' (Dec-20)
- Agreed North Sea Transition Deal with industry (Mar-21)
- Ofgem published OTNR consultation (mainly on Early Opportunities and Pathway to 2030) (Jul-21)
- BEIS to publish consultation on Enduring Regime & Multi-purpose interconnectors (Jul-21, p.12)
- Legislate to deliver any changes from the Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) (Jul-21, p.12)
- BEIS consulted on improving energy efficiency of private rented homes to EPC Band C. (Sep to Dec-20)
- Published Q1 update of Offshore Transmission Network Review (Mar-21)
- Conclude Offshore Transmission Network Review (Dec-20, p.80)
- BEIS published Call for Evidence on license exemptions for small-scale electricity projects (Oct 20)
- Published funding under Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Mar-21)
- Engage with industry + consumer groups on future retail regulatory framework, + consult (Dec-20, p.35)
- Legislate for powers to regulate smart appliances, including operability and security (Dec-20, p.36)
- 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)
- Consult on 'hydrogen-ready appliances' (Dec-20, p.113)
- BEIS published consultation on home energy performance requirements for lenders. (Nov-20)
- Responded to Call for Evidence on energy efficiency in the electricity system (Dec-20)
- Responded to consultation on strengthening UK O&G decommissioning industry (Dec-20)
- Undertake review of OPRED and the OGA, to ensure that their roles reflect Gov ambition for Net Zero. (Dec-20, p.140)
- Legislate for regulation of heat networks during this Parliament (Dec-20, p.114)
- Announced end of UK support for fossil fuel energy overseas from end-March 2021 (Mar-21)
- Launch the National Skills Fund and 'Green Jobs Taskforce' (Dec-20, p.116)
- Responded to consultation on changes to ROC mutualisation (Feb-21)
- Introduced changes to ROC mutualisation (in force 31 March 2021) (Mar-21)
- Updated agreement between BEIS and EDF Energy on nuclear decommissioning (Jun-21)
- Publish draft 'Downstream Oil Resilience' bill, to ensure secure supplies as fossil fuel use reduces (May-21, p.68)
- Hold series of workshops and consultations on reforms to the Gas Act to aid decarb (Dec-20, p.84)
- 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)
- Phase 1 of competition (Design Studies) (Apr to Dec-21) – projects in Phase 1 (May-21)
- Phase 2 (Pilot), contracts awarded By April 2022
- Published details of £1bn "Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (Mar-21)
- Launch various competitions for funding under the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (Mar-21)
- Published details on competitions for long-duration energy, floating offshore wind & biomass feedstock (Mar-21)
- Published proposal for Alternative Energy Markets (AEM) programme (Jun-21)
- Phase 1 (Discovery) (Nov-21 - Mar-22) (Jun-21)
- Phase 2 (Alpha) (Mar-22 – Jul-22) (Jun-21)
- Phase 3 (Trial) (Sep-22 – Feb-25) (Jun-21)
- Launched consultation on implementation of EPC B target in privately-rented non-domestic buildings by 2030 (Mar-21)
- Ofgem published decision on Half-Hourly Settlement for smaller customers (Apr-21).
- Published guidance on Green Heat Network Fund transition scheme (Jun-21)
- Applications open in Jul-21
- Scheme starts in Apr-22
- Announced closure of Green Homes Grant "Voucher Scheme" and expansion of "Local Authority Delivery Scheme" (Mar-21)
- Launched "Sustainable Warmth" competition for Local Authorities in England (Jun-21)

Department for Transport (DfT)`

- Government announced phase-out date for ICE (2030) and PHEV (2035) cars/vans (Nov-20)
- Responded to consultation on end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans (Mar-21)
- Published National Bus Strategy and consultation on ban on new diesel buses (Mar-21 & Mar-21)
- Published Transport Decarbonisation Plan (Jul-21)
- Published Green Paper on CO2 regulatory framework incl. proposed ZEV mandate (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes (22nd September)
- DfT to consult future regulations (starting in early-2022) (Jul-21, p.38)
- Published delivery plan for petrol/diesel phase-out (Jul-21)
- Publish EV charging Infra. Strategy (Jul-21, p.5)
- Responded to consultation on smart EV charging (Jul-21)
- DfT to legislate for minimum device standards for smart EV chargers (Phase 1) (Jul-21)
- DfT to consult on phase 2 proposals for smart EV charging. (Jul-21)
- Published consultation on end dates for new 'non-ZEV' HGVs (2035 and 2040) (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes (3rd September)
- Government announced £20m competition for "clean maritime technology". (Nov-20 and Mar-21)
- DfT to implement various "Clean Maritime" trials, including hydrogen port in Tees Valley. (Nov-20, p.32)
- Respond to consultation on EV chargepoints in homes / businesses (Dec-20, p.103)
- Published Jet Zero consultation (aviation) (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes (8th September)
- Published rail environment policy statement (Jul-21)
- Published shortlisted proposals for £15m competition for SAF production (Jul-21)
- Launched Consultation on changes to RTFO, incl. adding maritime fuel (Mar-21)
- Consultation closed (23rd April)
- Announced review of National Policy Statement (NPS) for networks (road & rail) in light of Net Zero (Jul-21)
- Complete review of NPS by Spring 2023
- CMA published report on public EV charging, (Jul-21)
- Published consultation on 'Sustainable Aviation Fuel mandate" (Jul-21)
- Consultation closes (19th September)
- Responded to consultation on E10 petrol (Feb-21)
- Published draft regulations on E10 (May-21)
- E10 petrol available by September (Feb-21)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)

- MHCLG: responded to consultation on the Future Homes Standard (Jan-21)
- MHCLG: consultation on Future Building Standard (Jan-21)
- Consultation closed (13th April)

Other

- UK Gov/MOD: published 'Integrated Review' incl. climate change and biodiversity loss (Mar-21)
- MOD: published 'Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Approach' (Mar-21)
- 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)
- Cabinet Office updated procurement policy to require Carbon Reduction Plans for major contracts (Jun-21)
- DIT: Board of Trade published report on 'Green Trade' (Jul-21)