

UK market based instruments for tackling energy and CO₂ – lessons learned

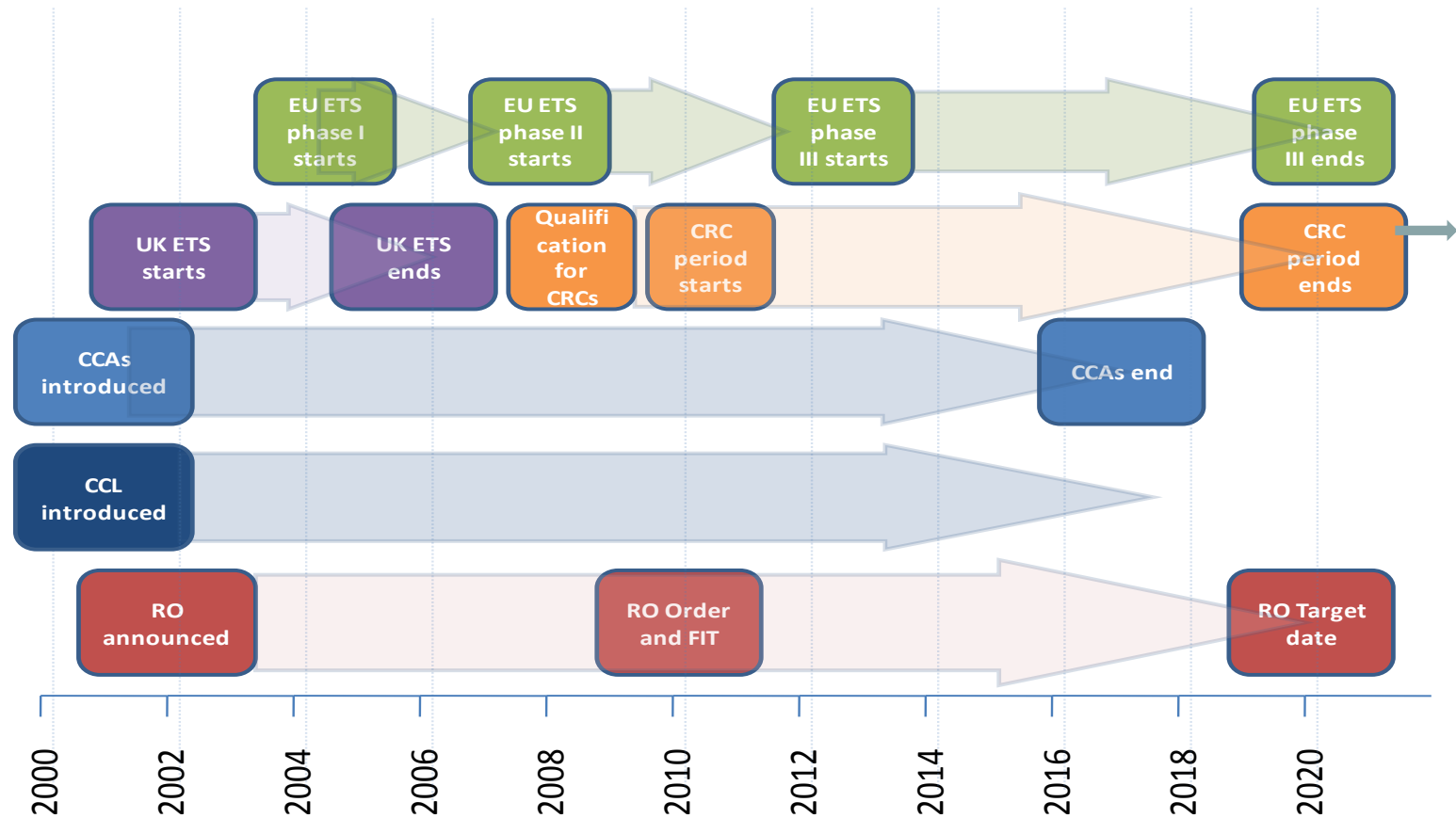


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Evolution of UK policy over time



2001: testing the market ...

Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements

Rationale

Address competitiveness concerns regarding CCL
Incentivise energy efficiency by providing direct incentive for industry

Design

Negotiated energy efficiency targets with CCL discount
54 sectors, 8750 facilities (56% industrial energy)
Ex-post “baseline and credit” trading
Self-regulation with sample audits

Performance

Energy cost savings over £1.7bn a year (plus savings on CCL of £250m)
Targets had to be reviewed and tightened twice during 10 years

Lessons Learned

Importance of energy efficiency raised to board level
Risk of losing tax reduction powerful stick
Role of sector associations in setting targets and overseeing compliance

2002: first “cap and trade” system ... UK Emissions Trading scheme

Rationale

Cost effective emissions reductions
Early experience of cap & trade
Establish City of London centre for trading

Design

First economy wide trading scheme 2002 to 2006
33 voluntary participants bidding for £198m incentive
fund to take on binding targets

Performance

First 5 years: 16.1Mt CO₂e reductions
Links to CCAs trading
Over-supply renegotiation of targets in 2004

Lessons Learned

Infrastructure for trading developed
Capacity building :trading community established
But, only a pilot, EU ETS provided a greater
opportunity

2010: filling the gaps

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Rationale

Address information failures in firms and lack of incentives to become more energy efficient;
Complement the carbon price

Design

Mandatory cap and trade in large commercial and public organisations
League tables as reputational driver
Full auctioning with revenues to reward performance

Performance

Aims to save at least 4MtCO₂ a year and
£1bn in energy savings by 2020

Lessons Learned

Still potential to use innovative approaches
Wait and see ...

Lesson 1: ambitious, fair and transparent targets are vital but difficult to get right ...

UK experience

All schemes featured by lack of data hence **over allocation at the beginning** – e.g. EU ETS – targets at BAU – price collapse. Good data on costs and BAU aids negotiations over time

Experience in CCAs of difficulties of **baseline setting** – theoretical **knowledge imbalance** between industry and government – in reality industry not always aware of potential.

Lesson 2: strong incentives necessary for compliance and accurate reporting – but think about reducing burdens on industry

UK experience

EU ETS: strong penalties set centrally; enforcement delegated to agency with facilitative but rigorous compliance policies

CCA: Good MRV track record. Sample audits; trade associations collecting information. Very low error rate. In built compliance incentives (tax rebates)

CRC: has good elements of MRV learned from other schemes; minimum inclusion threshold, self certification . League table provides name and shame driver

Lesson 3: possible to combine wide and deep coverage across schemes to maximise performance...

UK experience

EU ETS: upstream from large energy sources; absolute targets guarantee carbon reductions

CRC: downstream; behavioural barriers; energy efficiency; absolute targets – in other sectors not covered by EU ETS

Lesson 4: government and industry need to consider capacity needs at all levels

UK experience

CCAs: technical assistance provided by external consultants throughout history of scheme. Trade associations primary go between on target setting and management of scheme.

UK ETS/CCAs and EU ETS. Stakeholders played vital role in scheme design and implementation. Largely through Emissions Trading Group who played active role on all schemes mentioned.

Lesson 5: Industry needs policy certainty, but government needs to “learn by doing”

UK experience

The **EU ETS** has good review points for significant changes – introduction of banking and borrowing, transition from grandfathering to benchmarking; auctioning; new sectors.

The **UK ETS** and **CCAs** could have benefited from in built review points. All schemes benefit from ex post evaluation