

Independent advice to government on building a low-carbon economy and preparing for climate change

25 October 2017

The UK's climate strategy

Long-term Low Carbon Vision Subcommittee, Global Environment
Committee of the Central Environment Council
(Ministry of Environment)

Baroness Brown of Cambridge



Driving change & the Climate Change Act



The Climate Change Act 2008

2 A pathway

Carbon Budgets

Requirement that Government brings forward policies

A monitoring framework

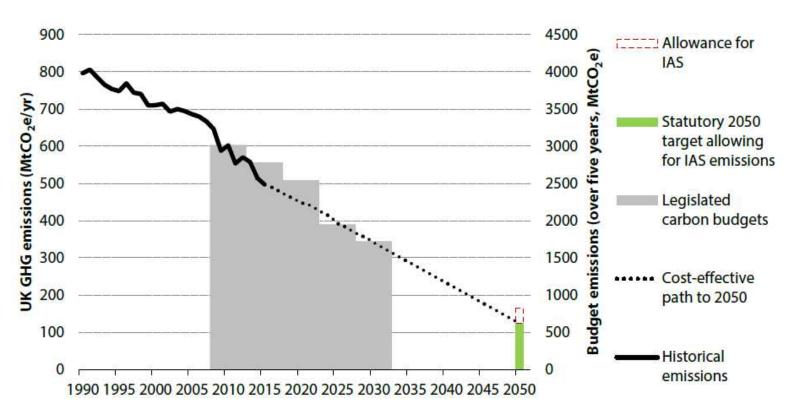
Carbon Budgets

Requirement that Government brings forward policies



UK has 5 legislated carbon budgets that are stepping stones to 2050 80% target

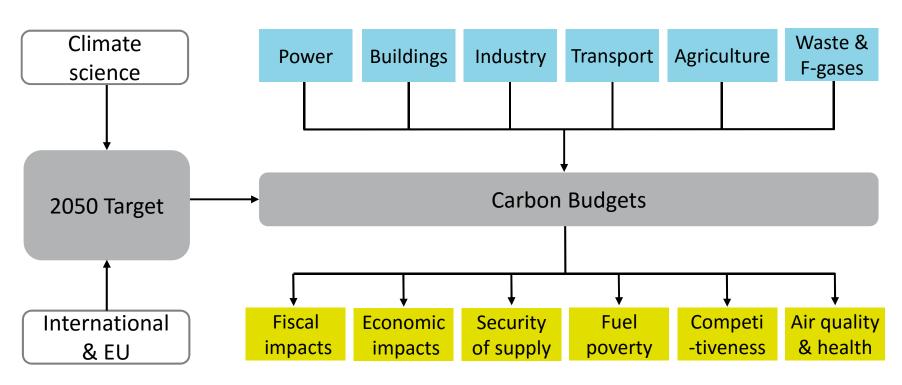
Carbon budgets and the cost-effective path to the 2050 target





Carbon budgets are evidence-based and take into account a range of factors across the economy

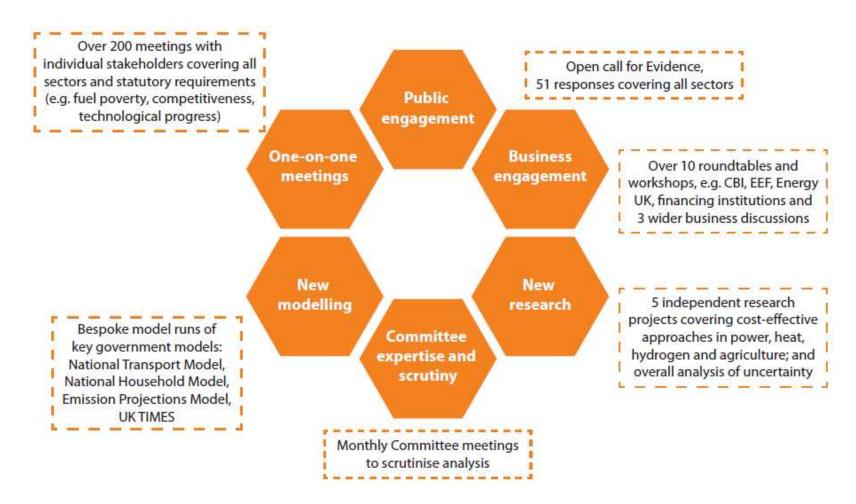
Sectors: scenarios, costs, required policy



Budget impacts



The Committee draws on a wide range of evidence in developing its advice



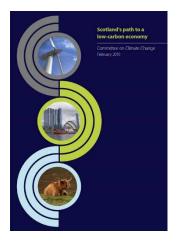


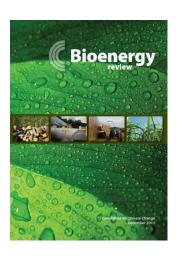
...that is transparent to all stakeholders...

Building a low-carbon economy – the UK's contribution to tackling climate change





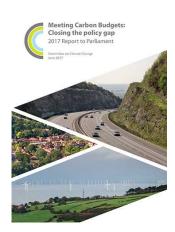














...and has led to widespread business support





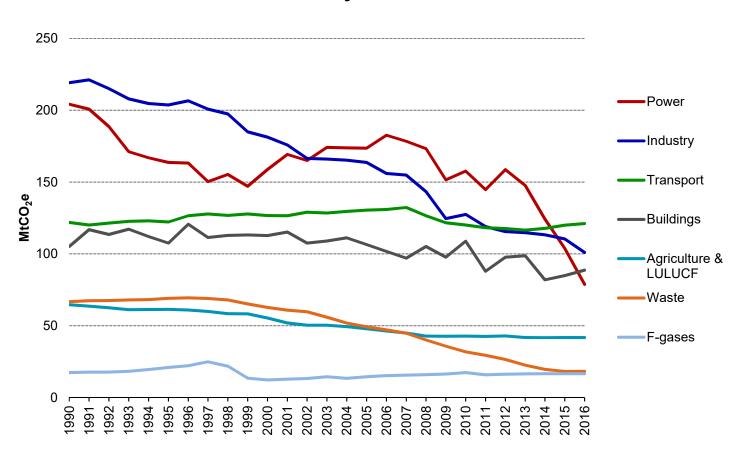
Industry is compensated for increased low-carbon costs

- Emission reductions for industry scenarios are evidence-based and identify cost-effective actions
- Energy efficiency improvements can be cost-saving
- The pathway for carbon budgets involves a gentler reduction for industry compared to other sectors (e.g. electricity)
- Compensation schemes exist for industries at risk of carbon leakage; our assessment is these are broadly at the correct level



Recent progress reducing emissions has mainly been in electricity generation

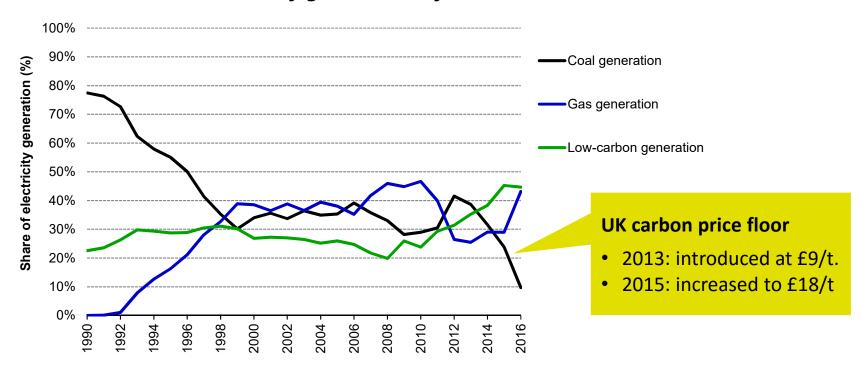
UK GHG emissions by sector (1990-2016)





UK carbon price floor has led to a large reduction in coal use

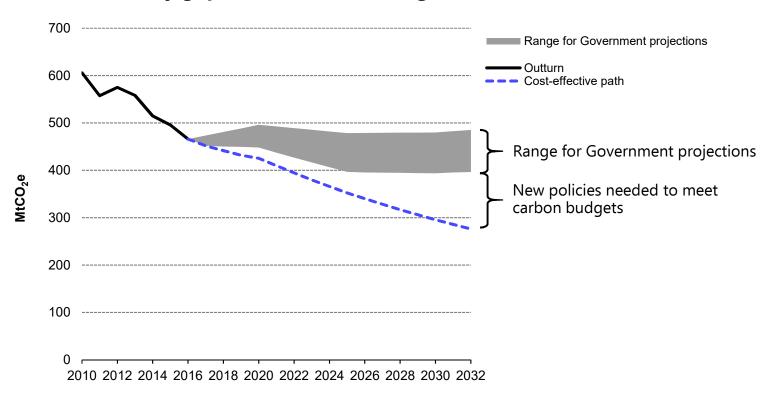
Share of UK electricity generation by source





Our assessment is that new policies are needed to meet carbon budgets

Policy gap to fifth carbon budget





Key areas where more progress is needed are electricity, transport and buildings

Electricity generation

- Further 100 TWh low-carbon generation by 2030
- Strategy for deploying carbon capture and storage

Transport

- Stretching gCO₂/km target for 2030
- 60% of new car sales to be electric vehicles.

Buildings

- Strategy for low-carbon heating in the 2020s
- Improve energy efficiency of new & existing homes



The UK Government has recently published its 'Clean Growth Strategy'





- This sets out the Government's plan for meeting the legislated carbon budgets
- "Clean growth is at the centre of our modern industrial strategy" – PM May
- It includes 50 key policies and proposals the Government intend to implement across the economy
- But more will be needed to close the policy gap to the fifth carbon budget



Move to a low-carbon economy presents opportunities for business

Low-carbon economy

- UK low-carbon economy is 2-3% of GDP, comparable to energy-intensive manufacturing.
- It has been growing faster than the rest of the economy.

Growing market

Following the Paris Agreement, global demand for low-carbon goods and services is set to expand

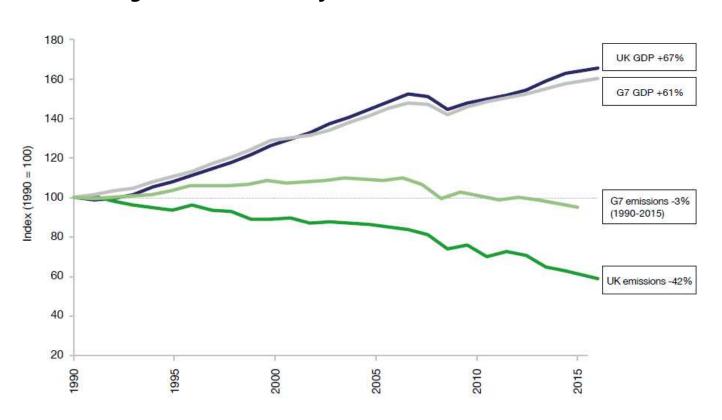
Opportunities

The UK well-placed to take advantage of growing global markets for low emission vehicles; low-carbon finance, insurance and consulting; low-carbon electricity; smart grids and energy efficient products.



The UK has succeeded in cutting emissions while growing the economy

UK has grown the economy and cut emissions faster than the G7





Thank you!