

Meeting minutes • 11 March 2025

The Climate Change Committee's recommendations on the UK's Seventh Carbon Budget, with Emma Pinchbeck (CEO)

Date: Tuesday 11 March 2025

Time: 11:10-11:55am

Location: Room T, Portcullis House, Westminster

Attendees:

- APPG Secretariat: Alice Watson, Estelle Limon, Zoe Avison
- Parliamentarians: Pippa Heylings MP (Chair), Ruth Cadbury MP, Wera Hobhouse MP, Edward Morello MP, George Pickthorn (Perran Moon MP staff)
- Speakers from the Climate Change Committee (CCC): Emma Pinchbeck, Dr Sandra Bogelein and Dr Emily Nurse

Opening remarks:

- Pippa Heylings MP welcomed the speakers and thanked the team at the CCC who worked on the Seventh Carbon Budget, which recommends a carbon cap for the years 2038-2042.

Emma Pinchbeck provided opening remarks:

- The government must legislate its target for the Seventh Carbon Budget by June 2026. Whilst there is nothing in statute that requires the government to publish a delivery plan alongside the carbon budget, the government has indicated it intends to do this.
- The politics surrounding net zero might present more of a challenge for this carbon budget than in previous years. However, this carbon budget is an easier sell because of developments in low carbon technologies, and because there is clarity on co-benefits, such as savings coming through the economy as a result of switching away from fossil fuels.
- Behaviour change in terms of eating less meat and flying less is a necessary part of the Seventh Carbon Budget, but the bigger contribution comes from encouraging the uptake of modern, more efficient technologies, powered by electricity instead of fossil fuels.

Dr Emily Nurse presented an overview of the Seventh Carbon Budget:

- The recommended target for the Seventh Carbon Budget is 535 MtCO₂e. The CCC's balanced pathway meets all existing carbon budgets, the UK's Nationally Determined Contributions and net zero.
- Carbon Budgets 1-3 have been achieved. The emissions reductions to achieve previous carbon budgets have come mostly from electricity supply.
- In the Seventh Carbon Budget, other sectors, such as surface transport and land use, are more important and require more significant contributions, with some sectors reducing faster than others. Emission reductions in agriculture and aviation dominate over the Seventh Carbon Budget.
- 60% of emissions reductions will come from electrifying key technologies and decarbonising and expanding electricity supply.
- In the Balanced Pathway, by 2040 three quarters of cars will be electric and half of homes will have a heat pump.
- Aviation needs to reach net zero emissions by paying to abate residual emissions

Dr Sandra Bogelein highlighted household impacts:

- Households contribute to around a third of emissions reductions in 2040.
- The majority of households' contributions to emissions reduction in the Seventh Carbon Budget comes from switching to electric vehicles and heat pumps.
- The CCC conducted a citizens panel on what is needed to make household low carbon choices more affordable and accessible.
- The panel was demographically representative and spent some time learning about climate change, net zero and possible pathways to achieving it.
- The panel highlighted that upfront costs are particularly important to decision making, even if longer term savings can be achieved by switching to low carbon technologies.
- They were keen to receive proactive information about decarbonisation options and approved of phase out dates for, e.g. gas boilers and petrol and diesel vehicles.

Q&A:

- Edward Morello MP asked whether removal technologies should count as emissions reduction.
 - The CCC commented that removals are a form of abatement and are a necessary part of modelling for the balanced pathway where there is no alternative technology option for industry.
- Ruth Cadbury MP invited the CCC to sit before the Transport Committee at a future date.
 - The CCC commented that reporting to parliament is a key part of their mandate and the CCC welcomes opportunities to provide evidence to Select Committees when it is timely to do so.