

## **GLA Further Representations Deadline 4**

### **Appendix 2**

#### **Summary of National Energy / Climate Change Policy Evolution since 2008**

##### **Climate Change Act 2008**

The Climate Change Act 2008 established the first legally binding target on the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: to 80% below 1990 base levels by 2050, through a process of setting 5 year caps on greenhouse gas emissions termed 'Carbon Budgets'.

The Climate Change Act is underpinned by further legislation and policy measures. Many of these have been consolidated in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009), Carbon Plan (2011) and UK Clean Growth Strategy (2017).

##### **National Policy Statement for Energy 2011**

Published in June 2011, the Overarching NPS and other energy NPSs set out government policy for energy infrastructure that is considered to be nationally significant. The Energy NPS have a wider role within the planning system in England and Wales in that they also may form material considerations in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

##### **Carbon Plan: Delivering Our Low Carbon Future 2011**

The Carbon Plan, published in December 2011, is the UK's national strategy under the Climate Change Act for delivering emissions reductions through to the Fourth Carbon Budget period (2023-27) and preparing for further reductions to 2050.

##### **EU Emissions Trading Scheme 2012**

Greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation facilities and energy-intensive industrial/manufacturing facilities, including paper & pulp production, are regulated by the EU ETS established by Directive 2003/87/EC as amended by Directive 2009/29/EC and implemented in the UK by the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2012.

##### **Clean Growth Strategy 2017**

The 2017 Clean Growth Strategy for the UK includes a commitment to "*Work towards our ambition for zero avoidable waste by 2050, maximising the value we extract from our resources, and minimising the negative environmental and carbon impacts associated with their extraction, use and disposal*". This moves the target for carbon reductions forward from the Climate Change Act target of 80% by 2050, although it falls short of introducing a binding commitment to replace the Climate Change Act.

## **Congestion, Capacity, Carbon: Priorities for National Infrastructure, National Infrastructure Commission 2017**

The National Infrastructure Commission's October 2017 consultation report on national priorities for infrastructure in advance of the publication of its National Infrastructure Assessment, calls as a headline policy for "*eliminating carbon emissions from energy*" (chapter 4), although it speaks mainly about decarbonising heating and about nuclear power.

## **Implementing the End of Unabated Coal by 2025, January 2018**

In November 2015 the government announced its intention to consult on proposals to end unabated coal generation in Great Britain by 2025. The Prime Minister confirmed on 18 September 2017, following consultation, that the government will proceed with action to regulate the closure of unabated coal power generation units by 2025. This implementation paper set out how the government will put closure into effect.

## **Spring Statement March 2019**

The government announced a move away from gas and that that no new homes would be connected to the gas grid from 2025 as part of the Future Homes Standard. The new standard will build on the Prime Minister's Industrial Strategy Grand Challenge mission to at least halve the energy use of new buildings by 2030. In support of the Future Homes Standard the government is committed to accelerating the decarbonisation of gas supplies by increasing the proportion of green gas in the grid and reducing dependence on burning natural gas to heat homes. The government will consult on the appropriate mechanism to deliver this commitment later this year.

## **Advice of the Committee on Climate Change May 2019**

Although not itself setting government policy, the Committee on Climate Change's statutory role to advise government under the Climate Change Act 2008 means that its recommendations or identification of policy gaps are a key indicator of Government thinking and instrumental in driving policy.

Since 2011 the CCC has published a number of reports, but the May 2019 was a step change in that it recommends a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050. This recommendation is in response to the latest scientific evidence on climate change, including the 2018 IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

The Foreword to the Report explains:

*"We conclude that net-zero is necessary, feasible and cost-effective. Necessary – to respond to the overwhelming evidence of the role of greenhouse gases in driving global climate change, and to meet the UK's commitments as a signatory of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Feasible – because the technologies and approaches that will deliver net-zero are now understood and can be implemented with strong leadership from government. Cost effective – because falls in the cost of key technologies permit net-zero within the very same costs that were accepted as the likely costs by Parliament in 2008 when it legislated the present 2050 target".*

The respective governments of the UK are urged to legislate for the new targets as swiftly as possible.

The report states (page 11) *“Delivery must progress with far greater urgency. Many current plans are insufficiently ambitious; others are proceeding too slowly, even for the current 80% target”*.

In summary, the 2019 Report concludes that existing plans to reduce carbon emissions are too slow, and that since 2008 there have been significant economic changes in the cost of renewable energy and other issues that mean enhanced targets are now deliverable.

### **Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019**

In response to the May 2019 CCC report, the government responded quickly to enact the CCC recommendation and introduce a target of net zero carbon by 2050. The Climate Change Act has been amended to refer to a 100% reduction by 2050; this came into force on 26 June 2019.

In drafting the 2050 Target Amendment Order the government stated: *“the Secretary of State considers that since the Act was passed, there have been significant developments in scientific knowledge about climate change”*.