

2050 Decarbonisation Roadmap

The UK has a legally binding target that, by 2050, national emissions of gases linked to climate change must be Net Zero – meaning that any remaining domestic emissions must be offset by domestic carbon capture programmes. The Committee on Climate Change monitors and advises on national policies and progress towards the target. Interim targets are set to track progress, with the 6th Carbon Budget covering the period 2033-37 to be published in December.

With such stretching national targets, emissions from industry will need to be substantially reduced from their current levels to close to zero. The challenge is to deliver these savings without damaging industry and increasing energy costs to levels where the UK is not internationally competitive as a location for manufacturing.

Reducing emissions

Energy intensive installations are already facing increased energy costs driven by policies intended to decarbonise the UK economy, and this impact is only likely to become more serious over time. The Government has accepted that this is a real issue, especially as it seeks to re-balance the economy by increasing the country's manufacturing base. Accordingly, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has supported the development of Roadmaps to investigate the possibilities and opportunities for eight key energy intensive sectors to become more energy efficient and decarbonise their energy use while remaining internationally competitive.

The eight sector Roadmaps cover pulp & paper, cement, ceramics, chemicals, food & drink, glass, iron & steel, and oil refining.

The 2050 Project

This 2050 Roadmap process is a partnership between trade associations representing these eight sectors and government; the paper sector team is jointly led by CPI and the Paper Industry Technical Association (PITA).

Discussions involving company representatives, industry suppliers, academics, and experts on particular topics were designed to identify opportunities to decarbonise and make production more energy efficient, whilst also addressing the barriers preventing these opportunities being delivered.

As well as protecting the future of existing installations, the initiative also identifies policies to ensure the UK benefits from new investments as the bio-based economy comes increasingly into reality.

The first set of sector reports and action plans were published and can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-decarbonisation-and-energy-efficiency-roadmaps-to-2050

As well as sector-specific issues, a series of topics common to more than one sector identified, including skills and training, access to finance, industrial heat recovery, biomass resources, industrial clustering, and carbon storage and utilisation.

These generic topics are being addressed by cross-sector groups, with findings being fed back to support the delivery of the Roadmaps and the development of the overall UK Industrial Strategy.

CPI Position

CPI welcomes the initiative and the governmental focus on supporting industry to decarbonise and become more energy efficient. CPI also welcomes the development of a new Industrial Strategy to underpin industry as the UK leaves the EU.

Importantly, the 2050 project provides a bridge between industry and government to develop a policy framework within which industry can be competitive whilst also helping deliver the national energy targets.

CPI also notes that the 2050 programme was developed when the national target was to decarbonise the economy by 80% and the conceptual thinking had this ambition as background. With a revised and tightened net zero target, plus further development in technology, the action plan needs to be revised once the long-term implications of the new UK/EU trade situation becomes clear.

Further Information

Further information is available from Steve Freeman, CPI Director of Environmental and Energy Affairs, on 01793 889625 or email sfreeman@paper.org.uk.

Confederation of Paper Industries

- The Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) is the leading trade association representing the UK's Paper-based Industries, comprising paper and board manufacturers and converters, corrugated packaging producers, makers of soft tissue papers, and collectors of paper for recycling.
- CPI represents an industry with an aggregate annual turnover of £12 billion, 62,000 employees, which supports a further 100,000 jobs in the wider economy.
- For facts on the UK's Paper-based Industries please visit: www.paper.org.uk.

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