Our priorities for Parliament 2015–20

First Report of Session 2015–16

Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed
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The Energy and Climate Change Committee

The Energy and Climate Change Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department of Energy and Climate Change and associated public bodies.

Current membership

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP (Scottish National Party, Na h-Eileanan an Iar) (Chair)
Rushanara Ali MP (Labour, Bethnal Green and Bow)
Tom Blenkinsop MP (Labour, Middlesborough South and East Cleveland)
Mr Alistair Carmichael MP (Liberal Democrat, Orkney and Shetland)
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James Heappey MP (Conservative, Wells)
Matthew Pennycook MP (Labour, Greenwich and Woolwich)
Dr Poulter MP (Conservative, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich)
Mr Jamie Reed MP (Labour, Copeland)
Antoinette Sandbach MP (Conservative, Eddisbury)
Julian Sturdy MP (Conservative, York Outer)

The following Members were also members of the Committee during the inquiry.

Ian Lavery MP (Labour, Wansbeck), Melanie Onn MP (Labour, Great Grimsby), and Dr Alan Whitehead MP (Labour, Southampton Test)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publication

Committee reports are published on the Committee’s website at www.parliament.uk/ecc and by The Stationery Office by Order of the House.

Evidence relating to this report is published on the relevant inquiry page of the Committee’s website.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Dr Farrah Bhatti (Clerk), Gavin O’Leary (Second Clerk), Jenny Bird (Senior Committee Specialist), Dr Marion Ferrat (Committee Specialist), Stephen Habberley (Committee Specialist), Joshua Rhodes (Committee Specialist), Jamie Mordue (Senior Committee Assistant), Henry Ai Yi-Hyde (Committee Support Assistant), and Nick Davies (Media Officer).

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1 Introduction

Background

1. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in 2008 and shortly thereafter the Energy and Climate Change Committee was established to hold the department to account. As with all select committees, we are tasked by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the department and its associated public bodies. We do this by conducting regular inquiries, holding one-off sessions, collecting evidence, scrutinising major appointments and publicly questioning Ministers and Secretaries of State on the department’s expenditure and policy choices.

2. DECC’s original objectives in 2008 were to bring together “the Government’s work on three long-term challenges that face our country: ensuring that we have energy that is affordable, secure and sustainable; bringing about the transition to a low-carbon Britain; and achieving an international agreement on climate change at Copenhagen in December 2009”. Seven years later, the Department’s aim remains to “make sure the UK has secure, clean, affordable energy supplies and promote international action to mitigate climate change”. While departmental objectives have remained consistent, individual policy signals have developed and changed over time.

3. The 2010–15 Parliament was a defining period for energy and climate change policy. Mechanisms to reform the UK electricity market were put in place and debate on the cost and fairness of energy moved up the public and political agenda, with DECC estimating that between 2007 and 2013 average UK domestic prices of gas and electricity rose by 41% and 20% respectively. This led to concerns that competition in the market was not functioning, and in June 2014 Ofgem referred the energy market to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) for a full investigation. In parallel, following the failure of world governments to reach an agreement in Copenhagen, the wheels were set in motion to prepare for the 21st United Nations climate change conference (COP21) in Paris this year. Halfway through the first year of the 2015–20 Parliament, the key challenge for the department remains to address the balance of affordability, energy security, and sustainability. But it has a renewed and urgent impetus. Many of DECC’s existing emissions reduction policies are scheduled to come to an end between now and 2020, and early action in this Parliament is therefore needed to deliver affordable and secure energy and keep the UK’s emissions reduction on track.

4. As the Energy and Climate Change Committee, it is our responsibility to scrutinise the department’s decisions in this Parliament and hold Ministers to account on how new and existing policies are developed and delivered. Receiving evidence and hearing views from stakeholders is central to our scrutiny process and we strive both to bring the debate to the public and the public to the debate. At the start of this Parliament, we looked across the breadth of areas requiring scrutiny, and decided to take the time to consult

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1 Energy and Climate Change Committee, First Report of Session 2009-2010, Work of the Committee in Session 2008-09, HC 133, para 1
2 Department of Energy and Climate Change, Energy Markets Outlook Report (December 2008), p 2
3 Department of Energy and Climate Change, About us, accessed 3 December 2015
4 Department of Energy and Climate Change, Estimated impacts of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills (March 2013), p 8
5 Committee on Climate Change, 2015 Progress Report to Parliament (June 2015), p 2
our stakeholders on what areas they considered should be (a) urgent scrutiny priorities, and (b) long-term priorities for the Committee. This report provides an overview of the approach we took, the issues that were raised, and the outcomes of this process.

**Our approach to this inquiry**

5. On 16 July, we launched our inquiry *ECC Priorities for Holding Government to account,* to help inform our immediate programme of inquiries and our long-term strategy. In addition to seeking written submissions, we held a roundtable discussion with stakeholders to further discuss our priorities, and how they could most effectively be translated into specific committee work. We received an overwhelmingly positive response to this approach and are grateful to all of those who contributed to the consultation process. Chapter 2 of this report provides an overview of the issues raised and the immediate outcomes.

6. The consultation also helped us develop a long-term plan to guide our work as a committee throughout this Parliament. On 17 and 18 November, we held an away-day to decide on a strategic direction for our scrutiny work. We used this time to reflect on what we could do to be more effective, discuss our scrutiny priorities, and identify a strategic approach for the five years to come. We are grateful to Hannah White, Institute for Government, and Kate Faragher, Bespoke Skills, for helping to facilitate these discussions. We would also like to thank National Grid for providing us with the space to hold some of these discussions away from Westminster at their offices in Wokingham. Chapter 3 provides a summary of our away-day discussions as well as our main conclusions and actions.
2 Identifying our immediate priorities

Emerging themes: summer consultation

7. Our inquiry invited responses to the following questions:

- Which DECC policy areas do you think require particular scrutiny over the next five years?
- What should be the Committee’s scrutiny priorities over the next twelve months?

We received 239 pieces of written evidence, which can all be found on our website. We were pleased to collect such a wide range of opinions from small and large businesses, charities, local authorities, academics, consumer organisations and members of the public. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of the submissions received by stakeholder group.

Figure 1. Pieces of written evidence received by stakeholder group

A wide range of issues were raised in the submissions, each of which were potentially important areas for scrutiny. One of the challenges we faced was sorting through the wealth of information we received and drawing out key themes and urgent priorities. While we recognise that there are a number of ways in which these issues could have been assessed, we identified eight major themes during our analysis.

1. Government strategy and engagement

8. A total of 115 submissions raised the theme of Government strategy and engagement. Many of these submissions recommended that we scrutinise different aspects of DECC’s overall approach to policy, including in relation to the following issues:

- Cohesion and governance;
- Transparency issues, particularly in relation to subsidies and how they are defined;
- Community engagement, e.g. through promoting community projects and local ownership;
- International engagement; and
- Public engagement.

Within this broad theme, the specific issue of governance and the need to scrutinise whether Government has a coherent energy policy strategy was referred to more than any other issue. It was raised by all stakeholder groups and was presented both as a short-term and long-term priority for scrutiny. One of the most frequently cited short-term priorities within this theme related to transparency issues, particularly in relation to holding the Government to account on clarifying arrangements for the Levy Control Framework. This was raised mainly by industry and business and third sector organisations. A longer-term strategic priority was considered to be community engagement and in particular the need to ensure that Government promotes more community energy schemes.

2. Driving investment

9. We received 80 pieces of written evidence on the theme of investment, including:

- Investor confidence; and
- Incentivising investment in renewables.

These issues were prominent across submissions from the four main stakeholder groups: academics/research institutes, general public/consumer advocates, industry/business, and third sector organisations. Investment issues were presented as both a short-term priority (e.g. scrutinising recent policy changes having a retrospective effect and immediate concerns about investor confidence) and a longer-term priority for the Committee. Most of the submissions on this theme from the general public (individuals or community groups) focussed on the need to scrutinise whether there was sufficient investment in renewables, mainly in the long-term.

3. Energy efficiency and home heating

10. Nearly 100 pieces of written evidence considered that energy efficiency and home heating should be a priority area, including scrutiny of how the Government is dealing with:

- Energy efficiency policies;
• Tackling fuel poverty; and
• Low carbon heat.

This theme featured prominently across submissions from all stakeholder groups, but particularly in those from academics, business/industry and third sector organisations. It was also mentioned as a priority in most submissions from local authorities and by consumer organisations such as Citizens Advice, Which? and the Residential Landlords Association. Within this theme, the three main issues listed above were seen as both short-term priorities (e.g. ensuring the Government has learnt lessons from schemes such as the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation) and long-term priorities (e.g. creating a market for energy efficiency and a long-term strategy for eradicating fuel poverty).

4. Energy infrastructure

11. A total of 83 submissions raised issues related to the energy infrastructure. This theme can be divided into discussions around:

• Making sure energy infrastructure is fit-for-purpose;
• Addressing the needs of a decentralised energy system;
• Smart meter roll-out;
• Smart grids, demand-side response and storage; and
• Innovation, research and development.

This theme featured most prominently amongst evidence from academics and industry/business (approximately half of all submissions by this group), typically as a long-term issue for us to address. The issue of smart meters (notably the cost and feasibility of the roll-out) was raised principally by industry, as a pressing issue for us to examine over the next few years.

5. Decarbonisation and climate change

12. Decarbonisation and meeting the UK’s climate change targets was addressed in 93 submissions and featured across all stakeholder groups. The main scrutiny areas raised were:

• Decarbonising the economy;
• Addressing climate change and COP21;
• Stranded assets; and
• Decarbonising transport.

The Paris climate change conference and its outcomes featured as an immediate priority. Issues around how to decarbonise the economy and the transport sector and how to meet the UK’s long-term targets in a stable cost-effective way were largely raised as long-term priorities that we could scrutinise over the course of the Parliament.
6. The future of gas

13. Approximately 80 submissions raised issues related to the future of gas in the energy system, generally as a long-term scrutiny priority. This included questions around:

- The future role of gas in the UK energy system, including maximising domestic UK gas supplies;
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS); and
- Shale gas.

Submissions on this theme were predominantly from academics and members of the general public. While academic submissions focussed more on the future of gas in the energy mix and CCS, nearly all the evidence submitted by the general public outlined their opposition to the Government pursuing shale gas extraction in their local area. Public opposition to local shale gas projects made up over half of the total number of submissions within this broader theme.

7. Energy security

14. Issues related to energy security were raised in over 60 submissions, more than half of which were from industry and business stakeholders. This theme can be broken down into several topics:

- General concerns about security of energy supply and capacity margins;
- Electricity Market Reform;
- Interconnectors; and
- Nuclear industry (predominantly in relation to its role in providing secure baseload capacity, but also including some submissions voicing concerns about this industry).

Interconnection and security of supply were discussed principally by business stakeholders, the former mainly as a long-term issue and the latter as both a short- and long-term concern. Nuclear energy was discussed by academics, business and public submissions, as both a long-term scrutiny priority (e.g. the role of nuclear in the energy mix, decommissioning concerns) and a short-term priority (e.g. scrutiny of Hinkley Point C).

8. Energy markets

15. The final theme we identified related to the energy market. This was raised in 26 submissions. This theme encompassed two specific topics:

- The UK energy market and the ongoing inquiry by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA); and
- The role of Ofgem in regulating the market and the role of the System Operator.

Energy markets and the CMA were discussed predominantly in submissions from industry and business stakeholders. The evidence suggested the committee address these issues both in the short-term (continuous monitoring of Ofgem’s role in holding energy
companies to account, and through the immediate outcome of the CMA inquiry) and the long-term (ensuring that the remedies proposed by the CMA are evaluated on an ongoing basis). Three submissions also suggested that a long-term review of the objectives and roles of Ofgem could be beneficial.

16. The proportion of different stakeholder groups mentioning each of these eight themes is shown in Figure 2.

*Figure 2. The main themes raised in the ECC priorities written evidence, broken down by submissions from stakeholder groups.*

While these eight themes encompass most of the topics raised in the consultation responses, other important issues that came to light are summarised in Table 1.

*Table 1: Other topics raised throughout the ECC priorities consultation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On- and offshore wind</td>
<td>Building regulations</td>
<td>Cost and intermittency of renewables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass energy</td>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>Feed-in-Tariffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy from waste</td>
<td>Maximising economic recovery in the</td>
<td>Tidal energy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>domestic oil and gas sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydropower</td>
<td>Distributional impact of policies</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs and carbon pricing</td>
<td>Climate finance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
From themes to lines of scrutiny: stakeholder forum

17. In order to further flesh out the key issues for scrutiny within these eight major themes, we held a roundtable discussion with stakeholders to refine the themes into a series of immediate inquiries. The aim of this discussion was to help us prioritise the issues raised and decide how best to hold Government to account on the various issues identified (for example, through correspondence, one-off evidence sessions, or full-blown inquiries).

18. Our stakeholder forum took place in the House of Commons on 8 September. A total of 54 representatives from a variety of organisations - business and industry, academics, third sector organisations, consumer advocates - attended this event (see figure 3 for a breakdown of participants by stakeholder type). During the forum we split ourselves across five roundtables and participated in discussions with groups of stakeholders. Each table was assisted by two facilitators and we provided regular feedback to other groups in the room.

Figure 3: The stakeholder forum was attended by 54 participants from different stakeholder groups

19. Forum attendees were tasked with two exercises. First, they were asked to consider the eight broad themes that emerged from our analysis of the written evidence. We listened to their views on these themes and asked them to determine whether we had missed any major topics. We also asked them to identify up to three priority themes for potential inquiries. We collected these from across all of the roundtable discussions, and the priorities that our stakeholders confirmed were:

- Investor confidence;
- Government strategy and evidence-based policy processes;
- Energy efficiency and managing demand;
- Consumer issues and affordability;
• Building a robust and fit-for-purpose energy infrastructure;
• Decarbonising the economy and COP21; and
• The role of gas, particularly with respect to heat.

20. In a second exercise, we assigned a priority theme to each table and asked attendees to consider what shape an inquiry into this topic might take. The resulting discussions are summarised below.

1. Investor confidence and DECC’s policy-making process

21. It was clear that stakeholders wanted to see greater coherence, transparency, and consistency in DECC’s policies. They called for predictability and certainty from Government and a more strategic and evidence-based policy-making process. We asked two tables to consider these issues, one focussing on investor confidence, and another on how we might scrutinise DECC’s policy-making process and its evidence-base.

22. Stakeholders suggested that potential outcomes of an inquiry into investor confidence would include developing a better understanding of how DECC approached policy development, modelling and strategy. An inquiry in this area would also help to bring clarity to the assumptions that underpin policy decisions and therefore ensure greater confidence in DECC’s decision-making. It was also considered important to hold DECC to account on improving the way in which it included investor considerations in its policy-making process. The importance of engaging with the right people was mentioned, in particular beyond traditional energy investors and hearing from potential new investors who might not currently be engaged in the energy sector.

23. On the policy-making process itself, stakeholders stressed the importance of asking whether DECC’s policy process considered the energy system as a whole, encompassing the full range of both the supply- and demand-sides. Stakeholders questioned whether DECC had sufficient oversight and control of its remit and urged us to look across departmental boundaries.

2. Energy efficiency and demand reduction

24. Stakeholders considered that energy efficiency was not well represented in DECC’s thinking. They saw it as a timely matter for scrutiny given the long timescales needed to implement measures, the recent closing of the Green Deal, and upcoming end date for the Energy Company Obligation. Discussions centred around making demand-side reduction and energy efficiency more customer-focused, scrutinising fuel poverty policies, and ensuring transparency on bills.

25. We asked one table to discuss a potential inquiry into energy efficiency and demand reduction. Discussions revolved around achieving four outcomes: (1) Shifting the context of the debate towards networks, heat, and understanding all barriers to energy efficiency deployment; (2) Identifying lessons from past and present schemes; (3) Providing new analysis, particularly on consumer engagement; and (4) Accountability, in particular in meeting fuel poverty targets.
3. **Building a low carbon infrastructure**

26. Stakeholders discussed the extent to which most important energy policy considerations would be difficult to deliver without an effective energy infrastructure. They identified the need to build a different type of infrastructure addressing the challenges of how energy would work in the future. They thought a key question was “What is the government’s vision for the future of the grid and how will it measure success”? We asked one table to consider an inquiry into low carbon infrastructure. Stakeholders said that key considerations included how the grid can be designed to achieve decarbonisation, and what role storage, dynamic standby generation and demand-side response (DSR) technologies could play in responding to grid pressure.

4. **Putting consumers at the centre of an affordable energy policy**

27. Finally, many discussions throughout the forum revolved around affordability, value for money and consumer engagement. We asked one table to consider an inquiry focussed on how the consumer could put at the centre of policy-making. It was noted that affordability and consumer issues cut across many policy areas and should be a consideration across a range of committee inquiries. Stakeholders also noted that customers needed to understand costs across the sector, have more choice, and be aware of savings and benefits in the long-term. Smart meters were seen as important in achieving this but attendees warned that the roll-out should be carefully monitored.

28. Around the theme of energy costs, attendees also discussed issues of transparency, in particular relating to funds available under the Levy Control Framework. Issues were raised about the genuine cost of renewables given their intermittency, but also about the need to look at energy costs to consumers across the sector.

**Immediate actions: our autumn/winter programme**

29. As a result of these discussions, and to address some of the most pressing concerns raised during the consultation, we launched three inquiries on 16 and 17 September:

- Investor confidence in the UK energy sector;\(^8\)
- Home energy efficiency and demand reduction;\(^9\) and
- Low carbon network infrastructure.\(^10\)

30. Beyond the launch of these inquiries, we sought to address two additional priorities. To address the theme of decarbonisation and climate change action that was raised in numerous consultation responses (see Figure 2) as well as during the forum, we committed to calling the Secretary of State in immediately after the Paris COP21 climate change conference to hear about the outcome of the negotiations and clarify the Government’s next steps.

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\(^8\) Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Investor confidence in the UK energy sector inquiry,’ accessed 3 December 2015

\(^9\) Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Home energy efficiency and demand reduction inquiry,’ accessed 3 December 2015

\(^10\) Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Low carbon network infrastructure inquiry,’ accessed 3 December 2015
31. To address the issue of energy security that was raised strongly in the consultation responses (see Figure 2), we held a one-off session with National Grid on 24 November. This focussed on concerns about capacity margins for gas and electricity this winter. Following the session, we wrote to National Grid to ask for a detailed estimate of the costs of their balancing services, as used during a period of tight capacity on 4 November. We also wrote to Ofgem, asking it to examine potential market manipulation during that period. These and other actions addressing concerns raised during our consultation process are summarised in the Annex.
3 Developing a long-term plan

Developing a Committee strategy: our away day

32. At our first meeting on 15 July, we agreed on the importance of deciding on a strategic direction for our work over the course of the Parliament. We therefore used the away day on 17 and 18 November to reflect on what we could do to be more effective, discuss our scrutiny priorities, and identify a strategic approach for the five years to come. We hoped that this would give direction to our work, enable long-term planning, facilitate public accountability, and encourage feedback and evaluation.

33. Before deciding on a committee strategy, it was important to understand how and where committees have impact. Dr Hannah White, from the Institute for Government, discussed with us the different ways in which committees can have impact, and what shape this impact can take. She highlighted her analysis of the four things that committee inquiries seek to do: (1) hold to account, (2) set the agenda, (3) influence, and/or (4) engage with a particular group or groups of people. We agreed on the importance of considering these four aims when deciding on new inquiry topics and conducting evidence sessions.

34. We then discussed our scrutiny priorities, including our current work programme and ideas for future inquiries. In doing so we reflected on the many issues that had been raised with us through our summer consultation and stakeholder forum (as summarised in chapter 2). Our aim was not to map out our work programme too far into the future, as we recognise the need for committees to respond to policy developments and urgent events as priorities emerge and change over the course of the Parliament. However, the discussion about our priorities enabled us to identify and agree on three overarching thematic goals for our work over the next five years.

Goal 1: Holding the Government to account on achieving a balanced energy policy

35. Successive Secretaries of State have identified three challenges for energy policy: ensuring energy security, affordability for consumers, and meeting our long-term decarbonisation goals. This is the so-called trilemma. Our first goal will be to ensure that our scrutiny work on DECC’s policies (individually or collectively) seeks to identify whether all three aspects of the trilemma are being addressed by the Government in a balanced way.

Goal 2: Setting the agenda on an innovative future energy system

36. The energy system is changing: old technologies like unabated coal are being phased out while new opportunities, including digital technologies, demand-management and energy storage, have yet to be fully utilised. These have the potential to fundamentally reshape the way we use energy. Our second goal over the course of the Parliament will be to investigate the potential impact of new and potentially disruptive technologies. We will investigate whether the UK is adequately prepared to deal with the changes that are already happening and will continue to happen, and capitalise on the opportunities that these new technologies will bring. We would welcome views from stakeholders on emerging disruptive technologies that warrant investigation.
Goal 3: Influencing the long-term approach to climate targets

37. The Climate Change Act commits the UK to reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. The Committee on Climate Change has suggested that the cost-effective path to meeting this long-term target will require significant behavioural adjustments and changes to our current energy system.\textsuperscript{11} We recognise the importance of scrutinising longer-term issues and are committed to helping DECC’s thinking on how to meet this target. Our third goal will be to use our work programme to influence the Government’s long-term approach to meeting climate targets, including by focussing on international action (e.g. the outcome of COP21) and delivering a robust fifth carbon budget and the associated carbon plan. We will make this a priority area of work in 2016, starting with our recently launched inquiry on ‘setting the fifth carbon budget’.\textsuperscript{12} We are also considering how we can best scrutinise the Government’s approach to decarbonising heat and transport.

Engaging with our stakeholders and seeking feedback

38. The three goals outlined above will help us to prioritise the work we undertake over the coming years as we scrutinise and influence energy and climate change policy. Equally important, and cutting across all other goals, is the need to engage with and build a lasting and two-way relationship with a wide range of stakeholders, including individual consumers that are ultimately affected by policy decisions.

39. In its 2012 report on 
Select Committee effectiveness, resources and powers,
the Liaison Committee emphasised the important role of committees in better engaging with the public.\textsuperscript{13} In its recent report on 
Building public engagement,
the committee concluded that “there has been a significant shift within the select committee system to taking public engagement seriously,” but that “a more vibrant and systematic approach to public engagement [was] urgently needed”.\textsuperscript{14} One of the most valuable aspects of select committee work is its evidence-base, and our ability to collect formal evidence and information directly from those most affected by any Government policy decision. To be as effective as possible, we believe that we need to build on this formal engagement and extend it further to include more informal discussions with a broader range of people and organisations.

40. Our first step towards this was the consultation on our priorities early on in the Parliament, which we hope was a valuable opportunity for different groups to engage with the development of our work programme. We sought attendees’ feedback after our stakeholder forum and were delighted to hear that stakeholders “were pleased to see the [committee] and its members being so proactive”, that the “really effective” event had been “a fantastic opportunity to feel involved in shaping the areas of work for the committee” and “a sensible way to proceed”. Over half of the respondents to our feedback survey called for further such events in the future. We are therefore committed to holding another stakeholder forum halfway through this Parliament. We will use this as an opportunity

\textsuperscript{11} Committee on Climate Change, \textit{The Fifth Carbon Budget} (November 2015), p 11
\textsuperscript{12} Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Setting the fifth carbon budget inquiry,’ accessed 3 December 2015
\textsuperscript{13} Liaison Committee, Second Report of Session 2012-13, \textit{Select Committee effectiveness, resources and powers}, HC 697, para 20
\textsuperscript{14} Liaison Committee, First Report of Session 2015-16, \textit{Building public engagement: Options for developing select committee outreach}, HC 470, para 3
to take stock of how we are progressing against our goals, to revisit the major themes discussed, and to identify new areas for scrutiny as policies and priorities evolve.

41. But our engagement must not stop here. We will continue to identify more regular opportunities to expand our reach, in particular where our work programme relates to consumer issues. We will do this by, for example, working with the Parliamentary Outreach team on engaging with a wider and more diverse range of people, beyond our usual stakeholders.

42. As a new Committee, we have also tried to engage with our key stakeholders and with the public on social media, in particular through our Twitter account, @CommonsECC. We intend to carry out a survey to identify how our stakeholders engage with us on social media and identify new opportunities to increase our impact.
## Table 2: Committee actions across the main scrutiny areas raised by stakeholders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue raised</th>
<th>Committee action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomass</td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building regulations/ zero carbon homes</td>
<td>We are looking at the implication of the Government’s decision to remove the zero carbon homes through our energy efficiency inquiry.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We questioned the Secretary of State on this issue during our session on DECC priorities on 21 July.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbon capture and storage</td>
<td>Asked the Secretary of State for updates on CCS at the one-off session on DECC priorities on 21 July 2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We hope to schedule a one-off session on CCS in light of the recent announcement to cancel the funding set aside for CCS competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate finance</td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMA investigation</td>
<td>Questioned Ofgem during the Annual Reports and Accounts session on 27 October, and DECC during the Annual Reports and Accounts session on 10 November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-ownership</td>
<td>Discussed community energy groups at the one-off session with Ofgem on their Annual Reports and Accounts on 27 October.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We are exploring changes to ownership structure of the network infrastructure in our low carbon networks inquiry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP21</td>
<td>One-off session with the Secretary of State on 16 December.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decarbonising the economy</td>
<td>Questioned the Secretary of State on the UK’s 2020 decarbonisation targets during the Annual Reports and Accounts session with DECC on 10 November.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inquiry on Setting the 5th Carbon Budget launched on 2 December.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy costs and carbon pricing</td>
<td>Discussed carbon pricing at the one-off session with the Committee on Climate Change on 15 September.</td>
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<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
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<td>Discussed balancing costs and energy costs to manufacturers and industrial users at the one-off session with National Grid on 24 November.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy efficiency, fuel poverty</td>
<td>Inquiry on home energy efficiency launched on 16 September. Four evidence sessions held so far.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue raised</td>
<td>Committee action</td>
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<td>Energy from Waste</td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed-in-Tariffs</td>
<td>We are investigating changes to the Feed-in-Tariffs as part of our investor confidence inquiry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas in the UK system</td>
<td>Questioned the Minister of State for Energy on gas investment on 20 October. Questioned National Grid on the Capacity Market and on security of supply in the gas market on 24 November. Also considered as part of the one-off session with the Committee on Climate Change on 15 September. We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>We are looking at some aspects of the health benefits of energy efficiency improvements as part of our home energy efficiency inquiry. We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat</td>
<td>Questioned the Committee on Climate Change on 15 September 2015. Questioned the Secretary of State on the UK’s renewable heat policies during the DECC Annual Reports and Accounts session on 10 November. We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydropower</td>
<td>We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incentivising renewables</td>
<td>Discussed support for low-carbon generation at the one-off session with the Committee on Climate Change on 15 September. Before reconsidering this topic we will look at the extent to which this issue is covered through our current inquiries, in particular investor confidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interconnectors</td>
<td>The role of interconnectors for UK security of supply was discussed at the one-off session with National Grid on 24 November. Sought written evidence on the impact of interconnection on the UK network as part of the low carbon network inquiry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Looking at international climate policy through our one-off session with the Secretary of State on COP21 on 16 December. Appointment of two EU Reporters and upcoming visit to the European institutions in Brussels. We are keeping a watching brief on international issues, including potential implications of UK renegotiation and referendum on membership of the EU. We hope to look at international best practice through the course of our ongoing inquiries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue raised</td>
<td>Committee action</td>
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</table>
| Investor confidence                                                       | Inquiry on investor confidence in the UK energy sector launched on 16 September. Three evidence sessions held so far, including a session with the Minister of State for Energy on 20 October.  
Also discussed investor confidence as part of our Home Energy Efficiency inquiry at our evidence session on 17 November. |
| Low carbon subsidies                                                      | Questioned the Energy Minister and Secretary of State on 20 October\(^{20}\) and 10 November,\(^{21}\) respectively.  
We are looking at the impact of recent changes to low carbon subsidies on investor confidence in our current inquiry on the subject. |
| Maximising economic recovery in the domestic oil and gas sector           | One-off session with the Oil and Gas Authority on 3 November.\(^{22}\)  
*We will reconsider further work on this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.* |
| Networks, smart grids, storage, decentralised system                      | Inquiry on low carbon network infrastructure launched on 17 September.\(^{23}\) One evidence session held so far.                                                                                                    |
| Nuclear                                                                   | Questioned National Grid on infrastructure surrounding Hinkley Point C on 24 November.\(^{24}\) Questioned DECC on the Hinkley Point C nuclear investment and the expected contribution of nuclear to the UK energy mix at the Annual Reports and Accounts session on 10 November.\(^{25}\) Questioned EDF Energy about investment in Hinkley Point C on 1 December as part of our investor confidence inquiry.\(^{26}\)  
*We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.* |
| Research and Development and innovation                                   | Discussed the drivers of innovation with the Committee on Climate Change at a one-off session on 15 September.\(^{27}\)  
*One of our goals is to investigate the impact of new technologies on the future UK energy system throughout the Parliament.*                                                                 |
| Role of Ofgem                                                             | The relationship between Ofgem and National Grid was discussed at the one-off session on Security of Supply on 24 November.\(^{28}\)  
*We will continue to scrutinise Ofgem regularly in one-off sessions and through the course of our inquiries, including low carbon networks.*                                                                 |
| Security of Supply                                                        | Following the recent Notification of Insufficient System Margin issued by National Grid, we held a one-off session on security of supply and this winter’s capacity margins on 24 November.\(^{29}\)  
We subsequently wrote a letter to National Grid asking them to clarify costs incurred during this period, and letter to Ofgem seeking assurance that the market was not being manipulated.  
*We will keep a watching brief on this issue.* |
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<tr>
<th>Issue raised</th>
<th>Committee action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shale gas</td>
<td>Discussed briefly at the one-off session with the Committee on Climate Change on 15 September. We are keeping a watching brief on this issue and will build on the work of the previous committee. We will reconsider this topic, including cross-departmental issues such as intervention in local planning permissions for shale gas extraction sites, when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart-meter rollout</td>
<td>Questioned the CEO of Ofgem on the smart-meter rollout during the Annual Reports and Accounts session with Ofgem on 27 October. Questioned the Secretary of State on DECC’s commitment to smart-meter rollout during the Annual Reports and Accounts session with DECC on 10 November. We are keeping a watching brief on this issue. We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidal energy</td>
<td>Questioned the Committee on Climate Change on the tidal lagoon in Swansea during the one-off session on 15 September 2015. We will reconsider this topic when looking at our next round of inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Questioned the Secretary of State on targets for decarbonising transport at the DECC Annual Reports and Accounts session on 10 November. Subsequently wrote a letter to the Transport Secretary seeking further information on decarbonisation of transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind energy</td>
<td>Questioned the Committee on Climate Change on 15 September 2015 on summer announcements on subsidies for onshore wind. We are looking at the impact of recent policy decisions on the onshore wind industry as part of our investor confidence inquiry. Questioned the Secretary of State on recent subsidy cuts and their impact at one-off sessions with DECC on 21 July and 10 November.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table references

1 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 21 July 2015, HC287
2 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 21 July 2015, HC287
3 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 27 October 2015, HC543
4 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544
5 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 27 October 2015, HC543
7 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544
Our priorities for Parliament 2015–20

8 Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Committee launches inquiry on setting the fifth carbon budget,’ accessed 15 December 2015

9 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

10 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 24 November 2015, HC 509


12 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 20 October 2015, HC 542

13 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 24 November 2015, HC 509

14 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

15 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

16 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544

17 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

18 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 24 November 2015, HC 509

19 Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Minister questioned on outcomes of climate change talks,’ accessed 15 December 2015

20 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 20 October 2015, HC 542

21 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544

22 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 3 November 2015, HC 508


24 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 24 November 2015, HC 509

25 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544

26 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 1 December 2015, HC 542

27 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

28 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 24 November 2015, HC 509

29 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 24 November 2015, HC 509

30 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

31 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 27 October 2015, HCS43

32 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544

33 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

34 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544

35 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 15 September 2015, HC 462

36 Energy and Climate Change Committee, ‘Investor confidence in the UK energy sector inquiry,’ accessed 3 December 2015

37 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 21 July 2015, HC287

38 Oral evidence taken before the Energy and Climate change Committee on 10 November 2015, HC 544
Draft Report (Our priorities for Parliament 2015–20), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 42 read and agreed to.

Annex agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 December at 9.50am]
Published written evidence

The following written evidence was received and can be viewed on the Committee’s inquiry web page at www.parliament.uk/ecc. ECP numbers are generated by the evidence processing system and so may not be complete.

1. ABB (ECP0247)
2. Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce (ECP0102)
3. AECB (ECP0148)
4. Alderney Renewable Energy (ECP0106)
5. Aldersgate Group (ECP0117)
6. Alice Kavounas (ECP0120)
7. Anaerobic Digestion & Bioresources Association (ADBA) (ECP0086)
8. Association for the Conservation of Energy (ECP0066)
9. Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) (ECP0072)
10. Barn Energy Limited (ECP0043)
11. Barn Energy, Yorkshire Hydropower, Northern Hydropower (ECP0116)
12. Baxi (ECP0023)
13. Beama Ltd (ECP0008)
14. Bellenden, on Behalf of IREGG (ECP0190)
15. BGL Group (ECP0230)
16. Biofuelwatch (ECP0147)
17. Brian Catt (ECP0185)
18. British Ceramic Confederation (ECP0146)
19. British Gas (ECP0096)
20. British Glass (ECP0144)
21. Building Energy Consultancy (ECP0079)
22. BuroHappold Engineering (ECP0207)
23. Calor Gas (ECP0054)
24. Camborne Capital Energy Storage (ECP0189)
25. Canterbury Club (ECP0084)
26. Carbon Action Network (ECP0160)
27. Carbon Capture and Storage Association (ECP0149)
28. Carbon Tracker Initiative (ECP0217)
29. CBI (ECP0219)
30. Centre For Sustainable Energy (ECP0016)
31. Centrica plc (ECP0114)
32. Ceres Power (ECP0180)
33. Chartered Institution Of Building Services Engineers (ECP0111)
34 Chemical Industries Association (ECP0169)
35 Christian Aid (ECP0035)
36 Citizens Advice (ECP0089)
37 Citizens Advice (ECP0201)
38 Civil Engineering Contractors Association (ECP0034)
39 CIWEM (ECP0031)
40 Clean Air In London (ECP0127)
41 Clientearth (ECP0134)
42 Confederation Of UK Coal Producers (CoalPro) (ECP0261)
43 Core Cities Low Carbon Portfolio Group (ECP0266)
44 Cornwall Energy (ECP0249)
45 Dearman (ECP0200)
46 Dilys Cluer (ECP0236)
47 Dong Energy UK (ECP0191)
48 Dr Christian Unger (ECP0203)
49 Dr David Lowry (ECP0159)
50 Dr John Broderick (ECP0153)
51 Dr Olaf Schroth (ECP0206)
52 Dr Rebecca Martin (ECP0073)
53 Dr Tim Thornton (ECP0077)
54 Dr Adrian Friday (ECP0237)
55 Drax Group plc (ECP0194)
56 E.ON (ECP0193)
57 E3G (ECP0220)
58 East Kent Against Fracking (EKAF) (ECP0186)
59 Eddie Thornton (ECP0055)
60 EDF Energy (ECP0184)
61 Edward Wakefield (ECP0090)
62 EEF, The Manufacturers’ Organisation (ECP0051)
63 Electricity Storage Network (ECP0175)
64 Elmhurst Energy Systems Ltd (ECP0107)
65 End Fuel Poverty Coalition (ECP0210)
66 Endurance Wind Power (ECP0221)
67 Energy Intensive Users Group (ECP0082)
68 Energy Networks Association (ECP0253)
69 Energy Saving Trust (ECP0238)
70 Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) (ECP0032)
71 Energy UK (ECP0161)
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<td>Friends Of The Earth (ECP0020)</td>
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<td>Gregory Hewitt (ECP0232)</td>
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<td>Helen Cuppleditch (ECP0097)</td>
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<td>Keep East Lancashire Frack Free. (ECP0214)</td>
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<td>Keep Kirdford And Wisborough Green (Kkwg) (ECP0235)</td>
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109 London Borough of Islington (ECP0052)
110 London Councils (ECP0080)
111 Love Ryedale (ECP0244)
112 Low Carbon (ECP0254)
113 Low Carbon Gas Ltd (ECP0004)
114 Mark Group (ECP0018)
115 Mineral Products Association (ECP0150)
116 Miss Sandy Rutherford (ECP0167)
117 Miss Suzanne Green (ECP0151)
118 Mitsubishi Electric UK (ECP0069)
119 Moshe Kinn (ECP0005)
120 Mr & Mrs Robert and Rosalind Field (ECP0123)
121 Mr Brian Appleby (ECP0241)
122 Mr Charles Metcalfe (ECP0130)
123 Mr Charles Montlake (ECP0132)
124 Mr Christopher Broome (ECP0168)
125 Mr David Waller (ECP0058)
126 Mr Giles Gooding (ECP0112)
127 Mr Jeremy Scarr (ECP0076)
128 Mr John D Anderson (ECP0044)
129 Mr John Freake (ECP0012)
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131 Mr Keith Dennison (ECP0224)
132 Mr Neil Bye (ECP0083)
133 Mr Patrick Boyle (ECP0022)
134 Mr Riccardo Shirres (ECP0137)
135 Mr Richard Phillips (ECP0093)
136 Mr Simon Wilkinson (ECP0094)
137 Mr Steve White (ECP0216)
138 Mr Tim Hanford (ECP0164)
139 Mr David Bowen (ECP0011)
140 Mr David Cragg-James (ECP0074)
141 Mrs Alison Shutt (ECP0121)
142 Mrs Annette Hudspeth (ECP0088)
143 Mrs Clare Degenhardt (ECP0154)
144 Mrs Helen Hart (ECP0122)
145 Mrs Joanne Bartlett (ECP0234)
146 Mrs Rosemary Chubb (ECP0124)
Ms Gabrielle Naptali (ECP0239)
Ms Gabrielle Naptali (ECP0240)
Ms Monica Gripaios (ECP0213)
Ms Pat Beaton BA (ECP0092)
Ms Susan Hedley (ECP0119)
National Energy Action (ECP0263)
National Grid (ECP0187)
National Housing Federation (ECP0211)
National Nuclear Laboratory (ECP0165)
National Physical Laboratory Centre For Carbon Measurement (ECP0195)
New Nuclear Watch Europe (ECP0039)
NFU Scotland (ECP0157)
NGO Nuclear Forum (ECP0262)
NIBE Energy Systems Ltd (ECP0024)
No Fibs (ECP0078)
Nuclear Industry Association (ECP0142)
Nur Energie (ECP0245)
Octopus Investments (ECP0199)
Oikos (ECP0246)
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Oil Firing Technical Association (ECP0108)
Ombudsman Services (ECP0037)
OVO Energy (ECP0198)
Oxfam (ECP0181)
Policy Exchange (ECP0139)
Policy Studies Institute (ECP0231)
Professor Ian Miles (ECP0233)
Professor Jon Gibbins (ECP0136)
Professor Mary Foster (ECP0060)
Professor Michael Kelly (ECP0015)
Professor Roger Kemp (ECP0033)
Professor Susan Bright (ECP0105)
Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (ECP0155)
RenewableUK (ECP0143)
Residential Landlords Association Ltd (ECP0095)
ResPublica (ECP0223)
Royal Geographical Society (With Ibg) (ECP0255)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (ECP0158)
185 Ruby Paul (ECP0192)
186 RWE (ECP0087)
187 Schneider Electric UK Ltd (ECP0063)
188 ScottishPower (ECP0264)
189 Seajacks UK Ltd (ECP0081)
190 Sgn (ECP0251)
191 ShareAction (ECP0099)
192 Sharron Harris (ECP0125)
193 Shell International Ltd (ECP0178)
194 Smart Energy GB (ECP0064)
195 SmartestEnergy Limited (ECP0019)
196 SSE (ECP0162)
197 Stag Energy Development Co. Ltd (ECP0006)
198 Stop Hinkley (ECP0177)
199 Susan Gough (ECP0208)
200 Sustainability First (ECP0176)
201 Sustainable Energy Association (ECP0028)
202 Swanbarton Limited (ECP0204)
203 Tata Steel UK (ECP0173)
204 Tees Valley Unlimited (ECP0250)
205 Tempus Energy Supply (ECP0182)
206 The Association for Decentralised Energy (ECP0188)
207 The Bristol Port Company (ECP0109)
208 The Centre on Innovation and Energy Demand (ECP0027)
209 The Environmental Industries Commission (ECP0265)
210 The Geological Society (ECP0170)
211 The IChemE Energy Centre (ECP0163)
212 The Institution Of Technology And Engineering (ECP0091)
213 The Private Housing Officers’ Group (ECP0042)
214 The Royal Academy Of Engineering (ECP0256)
215 The Royal Institute for International Affairs, Chatham House (ECP0110)
216 Timmins CCS Ltd (ECP0010)
217 Transition Town Brixton (ECP0215)
218 UK Energy Research Centre (ECP0100)
219 UK Green Building Council (ECP0205)
220 UK Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association (ECP0218)
221 UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (ECP0045)
222 UK Petroleum Industry Association (ECP0013)
223 UK Power Reserve Limited (ECP0104)
224 UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (ECP0002)
225 Unicef UK (ECP0118)
226 UNISON (ECP0036)
227 United Kingdom Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) (ECP0067)
228 University of Birmingham (ECP0041)
229 University of Exeter Energy Policy Group (ECP0196)
230 University of Sheffield (ECP0156)
231 Usable Buildings Trust (ECP0209)
232 Vattenfall (ECP0257)
233 Viessmann Ltd (ECP0212)
234 VPI Immingham (ECP0017)
235 Westmill Solar Co-Operative Ltd (ECP0258)
236 Which? (ECP0145)
237 Woodland Trust (ECP0065)
238 WWF-UK (ECP0183)
239 Yorkshire Hydropower Limited (ECP0025)
List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the Committee’s website at www.parliament.uk/ecc.

Session 2015–16

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<th>First Special Report</th>
<th>Linking emissions trading systems: Government response to the Committee’s Fifth Report of Session 2014–15</th>
<th>HC 376</th>
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