

The UK's Sixth Carbon Budget – the pathway to Net Zero

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■ Abstract

The UK Climate Change Committee is the statutory body that advises and monitors the UK Government on emissions reductions and climate change risk adaptation. In 2019 on the Committee's advice the UK legislated a target for Net Zero emissions by 2050. In December 2020, the Committee published its advice on setting the Sixth Carbon Budget, the legally binding interim target for 2033-2037, recommending a 78% reduction in UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions relative to 1990. This presentation will introduce the Climate Change Committee and its role in the UK's climate governance framework, then detail the Sixth Carbon Budget advice showing how it was developed and the pathways and changes it recommends for UK sectors and citizens to transition to Net Zero emissions.

■ Biography

Vivian is the Senior Analyst for international action at the Climate Change Committee, the official independent advisory body to the UK government on reducing emissions and adapting to the risks of climate change.

He is on loan to the Committee from the University of Edinburgh where he is a senior researcher in climate change mitigation and low carbon energy, working on the science and policy context of the direct management of carbon dioxide in the climate and energy system including net-zero targets and scenarios, negative emissions technologies and carbon capture and storage.

Richard is the Senior Analyst for Climate Science at the Climate Change Committee, the official independent advisory body to the UK government on reducing emissions and adapting to the risks of climate change.

Prior to joining the Committee on Climate Change, Richard worked at the interface of climate science and policy as a post-doc researcher, including on the recent IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C as a chapter scientist for Chapter 1 and a contributing author to Chapters 2, 3 and the Summary for Policymakers. Richard holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford in atmospheric physics.