



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy Security & Net
Zero

**Department for Energy Security & Net
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Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee
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22 February 2024

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your questions at my appearance before the Environmental Audit Committee on 31st January, regarding the following:

1. The national cooling action plan equivalent mandated by the Global Cooling Pledge, and whether this would contain a comprehensive national heat resilience strategy.
2. Whether the Government is on track to sign CCUS contracts by the summer recess.
3. The expected timescales for publication of the Land Use Framework.

The Global Cooling Pledge

The Global Cooling Pledge includes a commitment to “*publishing a national cooling action plan, considering cooling when publishing a national action plan, or publishing a regulation or equivalent by 2026 and to reflect relevant efforts in designing nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement and HFC phase-down plans*”.

Our approach to meet this will involve developing a National Cooling Action Plan equivalent in the form of a UK Cooling Outlook. This UK Cooling Outlook will provide a consolidated view of cooling across sectors in the UK and will serve as a framework for bringing together existing relevant policies, data on emissions and refrigeration, and evidence on cooling in the UK. This will enable the identification of opportunities and priorities for sustainable cooling. In doing so the UK Cooling Outlook will serve as a key first step in the development of heat resilience plans for priority sectors.

As committed to in the Global Cooling Pledge we aim to publish the UK Cooling Outlook by 2026. Given this is a cross-cutting issue we will work across Government and are engaged in the early stages of development to design the scope of this framework. Further details will be provided in the formal response to the Environmental Audit Committee’s Report dated 31st January 2024.

CCUS Contracts Timings

We are working collaboratively with industry partners across both Track-1 Clusters to maintain our ambitious timetable to take a Final Investment Decision and begin construction of the UK’s first of a kind carbon capture and storage network, in 2024. This will ensure we create a strong footing to deliver 20-30Mt of CO₂ storage capacity by 2030.

We know that our target to take a Final Investment Decision in 2024 is ambitious but we are determined to meet our commitment to support two CCUS Clusters by the mid-2020s. All delivery partners are continuing to make progress against their schedules, and are working collectively with the Government and regulators to ensure that their first of a kind projects lay the foundations for a resilient and effective CCUS network.

We recognise the significant challenges ahead of us and are working closely with our delivery partners and cross-government stakeholders to ensure we create a strong business case that demonstrates both Clusters are viable, deliverable, affordable and offer clear value to the taxpayer.

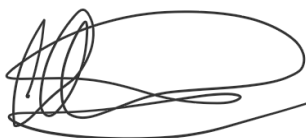
Land Use Framework Timings

The Land Use Framework will be published in 2024. The Framework will build on the insight from the House of Lords Land Use in England Committee's inquiry and support delivery of the full range of Government commitments through multifunctional, resilient, and productive landscapes.

The Government has made significant progress over the past year in the areas that the Land Use in England Committee identified as policy priorities in their final report, 'Making the most out of England's land'.

Thank you again for your questions. I hope you find the information helpful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy Security & Net Zero