

The **IDRIC Policy News Update** provides a monthly summary of key policy developments relevant to industrial decarbonisation at UK level and in the devolved administrations.

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## Industrial Decarbonisation Policy News - April 2024 issue

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## 1. UK policy

### Call for evidence on non-pipeline CO<sub>2</sub> transport launched

7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

*Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*

A new call for evidence seeks to explore new ways to transport captured CO<sub>2</sub> that would enable more UK industries to adopt carbon capture technology. The call aims to gather information to improve government's understanding of both non-pipeline transport (NPT) value chains and cross-border CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage networks, the costs associated with them, and the potential barriers to deployment. The call for evidence will look to gather views and evidence in 3 areas: 1) non-pipeline transport (NPT) value chain data, 2) CCUS policy landscape, 3) wider deployment considerations. This forms part of government plans for a new competitive UK carbon capture, usage and storage market by 2035 laid out in the [CCUS vision](#) published last December. Stakeholders can share their views and evidence until 16 July 2024.

More info [here](#).

### Local elections bring considerable losses for Conservatives

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

Beginning of May, the Conservatives suffered the worst defeat at a local election by a government since 1996, as voters in England headed to the polls to elect more than 2,600 councillors, 11 mayors, the 25 members of the London Assembly and Police and Crime Commissioners (in England and Wales) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. In the last routine elections before the next general election, the Conservative

Party lost 474 councillors and 10 councils, while the Labour Party was able to gain 186 councillors, the Liberal Party 104, independent candidates took 91 and the Greens 74. In mayoral elections, Conservative Ben Houchen was re-elected as Tees Valley mayor, but Conservative incumbent Andy Street lost his seat as mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority to Labour's Richard Parker. Labour also won the newly-created mayoralities of East Midlands Combined County Authority and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. In London, Labour incumbent Sadiq Khan was re-elected for a third four-year term, with 43.8% of the vote.

More info [here](#).

### **High court declares UK Government climate plans unlawful**

*High Court of Justice*

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

For the second time, the High Court has declared the Government's climate plans falling short of legal requirements of providing sufficient evidence how policies will help achieve the UK's statutory emissions reduction targets. Back in 2022, campaign groups Friends of the Earth, ClientEarth and Good Law Project had taken the Government to the High Court for the first time over a deemed breach of the Climate Change Act 2008. The High Court then mandated the Government to outline a revised net zero plan and provide more clarity on the contributions of individual policies to meeting the UK's legally binding carbon emissions reduction targets. The government published the Carbon Budget Delivery Plan in spring 2023. However, the campaigners argued the assumption that that all policies would be delivered in full was unrealistic and criticised, among other aspects, the reliance on less developed technologies such as carbon capture and storage. In February, the groups filed a new case against in which it claimed the government did not sufficiently consider the risks to delivery of the plan. The High Court now ruled in favour of in 4 of the 5 claims and mandates the government to publish a revised strategy within the next 12 months.

More info [here](#).

### **Chair for new energy system operator confirmed**

*Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

The government has confirmed Dr Paul Golby as inaugural chair and oversee the creation of the National Energy System Operator (NESO). Dr Golby was previously the Chair of the National Air Traffic Service. He is the former CEO of E.ON UK and was previously Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Safety, Environment and Health Committee at National Grid. He is also recognised for his contributions to the engineering field as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. NESO's role will be to plan Britain's electricity, gas networks, and operate the electricity system, whilst driving progress towards net zero, maintaining energy security and minimising costs for consumers. NESO will be operational from summer 2024. NESO has identified five priorities for delivering value for the energy system from Day 1: strategic planning, security of supply, resilience, market development and net zero energy insights.

More info [here](#).

**Government emphasises role of the free market over the state in achieving net zero**

*Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

In a speech at Innovation Zero, DESNZ Secretary Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP stated that the Government's main role in the energy sector is to "remove barriers and create the right market conditions for capital to flow". However, she stated that it wasn't for the Government to "force [green] products on consumers" as she called on industry to promote and price their products in a way that was appealing to consumers. She also rejected a "leviathan of central planning" to achieve net zero, stating that the Government would not set "ever increasing and narrowing net zero targets" nor "dictate outputs and prices".

More info [here](#).

**Application window for Carbon Storage in the English Channel opens**

*North Sea Transition Authority*

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

NSTA opened a competitive process inviting applications for Carbon Dioxide Appraisal and Storage Licences in an area in the English Channel. These licences grant exclusive rights for the exploration and appraisal of potential storage sites for carbon dioxide in the subsurface.

More info [here](#).

**Net Zero Council outlines upcoming workplan**

*Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*

29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

On its first anniversary, the Net Zero Council, which is a consortium of government, banks, energy firms, businesses, and investors, outlined their workplan for the forthcoming twelve months:

- Bring the industry-led roadmaps together to support further work to maximise decarbonisation opportunities across sectors and in priority areas.
- Continue supporting SMEs by backing the expansion of the tools and resources provided by the UK Business Climate Hub.
- Increase the public's awareness of net zero, including providing toolkits for businesses to support engagement with their customers and supply chains.

More info [here](#).

**Welsh Secretary chairs Tata Steel/Port Talbot Transition Board**

*Office of the Secretary of State for Wales*

26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The Tata Steel / Port Talbot Transition Board met to agree how its £100m budget will be allocated to manage the transition to lower emissions steel-making at the Port Talbot plant in Wales. This includes a detailed business case and a transition for affected workers. Under the plans there will be funding

for the retraining of steelworkers, support for businesses in the supply chain, and investment in regeneration projects in Port Talbot.

More info [here](#).

- ➔ Since the meeting, talks between unions and Tata have broken down, see more in the [Wales section](#) below.

### **UK sets 10% sustainable aviation fuel target by 2030**

*Department of Transport*

25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The government has set a target of 10% of all jet fuel in flights taking off from the UK to come from sustainable sources by 2030 and 22% by 2040. The Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) mandate, will come into force in January 2025, subject to parliamentary approval. SAF is made from waste materials or by-products such as household waste, industrial gases or used cooking oil and according to the government produces up to 70% less carbon emissions than the traditional fossil fuels used in most commercial flights. The world's first commercial 100% SAF transatlantic flight took off from Heathrow last November. The government also launched a consultation today into a range of options for a SAF revenue certainty scheme to attract investment to the industry.

More info [here](#).

### **Anglo-German agreement to deepen energy cooperation**

*Prime Minister's Office*

24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The UK and Germany agreed to deepen their cooperation on energy, including a new commitment to conduct a feasibility study on exporting hydrogen from the UK to Germany. The two countries also agreed to deepen cooperation on clean energy infrastructure in the North Sea, with a view to cooperating to protect critical offshore energy infrastructure.

More info [here](#).

### **New Chief Scientific Adviser for science, innovation and technology appointed**

*Department for Science, Innovation and Technology*

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

Professor Christopher Johnson will join DSIT in July as the department's first Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), becoming part of the UK's network of Chief Scientific Advisers. Professor Johnson has over 20 years of experience in engineering and physical sciences, with a focus on safety and security. His background includes fellowships with NASA and the US Air Force as well as supporting the establishment of cyber security labs for the UK Civil Nuclear industry. He is currently Pro Vice Chancellor for Engineering and Physical Sciences at Queen's University Belfast.

More info [here](#).

### **Justin Tomlinson new UK Energy Minister after Graham Stuart's resignation**

*Department for Energy Security and Net Zero*

12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Following the resignation of Graham Stuart MP, Justin Tomlinson MP was appointed Energy Security and Net Zero Minister. He was previously Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions between 2019 and 2020. His responsibilities include geospatial plan and wider planning policy, grid review of electricity market arrangements (REMA), oil and gas, COP and international climate policy, Net Zero Strategy, carbon budgets, international climate finance, multilateral negotiations (G7 and COP), carbon leakage, as well as Ofgem (shared with the Minister for Energy Consumers and Affordability).

More info [here](#).

### **Updates on the proposed commercial frameworks for industrial carbon capture**

*Department of Energy Security and Net Zero*

9<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The government proposed changes for the industrial carbon capture (ICC) and Waste ICC business models for projects participating in the CCUS Cluster Sequencing Track-1 expansion and Track-2 processes. For the ICC business models, proposed changes include switching from fixed trajectory reference prices to carbon market reference price, changes related to companies' free allowances under the UK-ETS and the MRV framework monitoring the biogenic/fossil CO<sub>2</sub> split of captured emissions. The potential changes outlined in this publication mark the first stage in the evolution of the industrial carbon capture (ICC) business models towards enduring business models, in line with the longer-term strategy for the ICC business models and allocation framework set out in the CCUS Vision, published in December 2023.

More info [here](#).

### **British Industry Supercharger: support for energy-intensive industries announced**

*Department for Business and Trade*

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

The Government launched the British Industry Supercharger, which consists of a series of targeted measures to bring energy costs for key heavy industries in the UK in line with other major economies. The support will be made available to sectors particularly exposed to the high cost of electricity including steel, metals, chemicals, cement, glass and paper, and is expected to be worth between £320 million - £410 million in total savings to UK businesses next year. The Supercharger's measures will fully exempt eligible firms from certain costs linked to renewable energy policies, including the small-scale Feed in Tariff, Contracts for Difference and the Renewables Obligation, as well as GB Capacity Market costs. There will also be a 60% reduction in network charges – the costs industrial users pay for their electricity supply.

More info [here](#).

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## 2. UK Parliament

### **Freeports and investment zones governance ‘must be urgently improved’, say MPs**

*House of Commons Business and Trade Committee*

26 April 2024

A new report by the cross-party Business and Trade Committee demands the Government ‘urgently improve’ governance and transparency at freeports and investment zones. Freeports and investment zones were key projects within the Government’s levelling-up agenda, creating geographical areas with preferential tax breaks and business rates for firms that operate inside them. The Committee called out the Government’s failure to publish impact assessments for freeports making it ‘impossible to accurately assess’ whether they or investment zones provided the best value for money. In its report, the Committee calls for ‘long-term political commitment’ that is firmly founded upon public trust and clear accountability. It recommended that a single regional leader is responsible for the projects and to be held accountable for their performance. In addition to measures for more accountability, the Committee also highlighted the need for prioritised access to energy; extended planning freedoms; access to enhanced skills; improved customs arrangements in freeports; and connection to wider government economic security policies, including the potential of relocation incentives for smaller firms.

More info [here](#).

### **MPs welcome Sustainable aviation fuel mandate, but more to be done to reduce emissions from aviation**

*House of Commons / Environmental Audit Committee*

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The cross-party Environmental Audit Committee welcomed the Government’s SAF mandate but remained cautioned “if the industry cannot deliver on its proposed emission savings, the Government may have to reconsider demand management measures.” In its earlier report on the Governments’ plans for delivering net zero aviation (‘Jet Zero Strategy’), the Committee called on the Government rigorously to monitor the industry’s progress, and to reassess its approach if system efficiencies alone fail to meet the 2050 net zero trajectory. Committee members called for the first review of the Jet Zero Strategy to be brought forward from 2027 to 2025 to determine whether the sector remains on track.

More info [here](#).

### **Inquiry: Skills for the future: apprenticeships and training**

*Industry and Regulators Committee, House of Lords*

23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The Industry and Regulators Committee has launched an inquiry into skills policy, focusing in particular on apprenticeships and training, and in the context of the skills the UK workforce needs for the future. The inquiry will examine whether the UK’s current systems and policies for apprenticeships and in-work training are working and, if not, how they should be reformed. In doing so, the inquiry will consider the responsibilities of government, employers, training providers, and individuals, and the

incentives facing these groups. In its first two sessions, the Committee heard evidence from Robert Halfon MP, former Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education; Charles Clarke, former Education Secretary, and representatives of the Centre for Economic Performance, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE), and several local institutions and business groups involved in identifying local skills needs. This inquiry is also currently accepting evidence (until 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024).

More info [here](#).

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### 3. Scotland

#### **New Scottish First Minister and end of the coalition between SNP and Scottish Greens**

After two tumultuous weeks, John Swinney has replaced Humza Yousaf as First Minister in Scotland, now leading a minority government after the coalition with the Scottish Greens broke down. Earlier in April, the SNP's decision to abolish the 2030 climate target (see below) had sparked fierce protests by its coalition partner, the Scottish Greens, and raised the prospect that the party's grass roots could force a break-up of the governing coalition with the SNP. To pre-empt this, then First Minister Humza Yousaf unilaterally terminated the coalition agreement, but found himself potentially a vote short in the case of a no-confidence vote, which both Conservatives and Labour Party intended to lodge. Yousaf resigned and John Swinney MSP ultimately emerged as the sole contender to replace Yousaf as SNP leader and First Minister. The break-up of the Scottish governing coalition followed months of contention between the two parties over various policies, as well as ongoing backbench rebellions from the SNP, which the new First Minister will now need to unify.

#### **Outgoing CCC chief criticises the Scottish Government's policy record**

*Scottish Parliament: Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee*

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

Just days after the Scottish Government's scrapping of the 2030 emissions target, Chris Stark, Chief Executive, Climate Change Committee (CCC), and Professor Keith Bell, the CCC's Scotland Champion, gave evidence on the key findings of the 2023 Progress report. Chris Stark said that the CCC felt that it was time to call out the Scottish Government's underperformance against climate targets. The 2030 target to reduce emissions by 75% against the baseline levels, would require a ninefold increase in recent rates of decarbonisation in the Scottish economy. He said the CCC did not see a policy package that could deliver anything close to that. Stark said that the Scottish Government is due credit for acknowledging that the 2030 target could not be achieved and for retaining the 2045 net zero target. However, he said that the CCC is worried that Scotland could find itself in "empty-vessel legislation", where there is no immediate delivery plan between now and 2045. He called for an introduction of realistic actions over the next 12 months.

More info [here](#).

**Scottish Government sees 2030 interim net zero target ‘unreachable’***Scottish Government*18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Following a report from the independent Climate Change Committee last month which revealed that Scotland’s 2030 carbon reduction goals were no longer credible, the Scottish Government confirmed ongoing speculation that it is off track for the 2030 target and that annual targets for emission reductions will be scrapped. Instead, five-yearly carbon budgets – similar to those used by the UK and Welsh governments – will be used to evaluate progress to net zero. This will be adopted through new legislation on “expedited” timescales. Delivering the statement, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy Mairi McAllan said the decision taken was due to budget cuts imposed by the UK Government and limited devolved powers. She also introduced a package of “new climate action measures” to drive progress towards net zero. The package largely consists of previous announcements relating to EV charging infrastructure and the publication of the energy strategy this summer. She also confirmed that after Grangemouth, there will be a just transition plan for the Mossmorran industrial site.

More info [here](#).[Back to main menu](#)

## 4. Wales

**Unions reject Tata Steel’s restructuring plans***BBC Wales*1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Consultations between Tata Steel and unions over the planned closure of the two blast furnaces at Port Talbot September have broken down. Unions said Tata’s offer of employee support packages and support for training and skills development fell short in mitigating the impact of these changes on workers and communities. The move to electric arc furnaces is seen as a critical step towards reducing emissions from steelmaking, but also leading to job losses during the transition. As BBC Wales reports, 2,800 roles could be cut by the closure of the blast furnaces, with several thousand additional jobs in the community at risk if impacts are not mitigated. A transition board, chaired by Welsh Secretary David TC Davies, has been created to oversee a £100m fund to help those affected by the job cuts. Tata is expected to press ahead with the closure of the blast furnaces in September.

More info [here](#) and [here](#).**Statement on Tata Steel***Welsh Government*30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles MS, expressed his disappointment with the decision to close the two blast furnaces at the Port Talbot site and replace



them with an electric arc furnace. This is because of the “devastating impact” it will have on workers, their families and communities in Wales. With the first tranche of job cuts expected this July, Miles urged Tata Steel to give their workers and supply chain, wherever feasible, the opportunity to work on the decommissioning and construction phase required to move to electric arc steel making.

More info [here](#).

### **Government priorities for new investment in renewables and industrial futures**

*Welsh Government*

23th April 2024

Addressing the Senedd, the new Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language Jeremy Miles said that the government’s ambition is to make Wales the best place to start, invest in and grow a business in the United Kingdom, and to communicate that clearly both within and outside Wales. He said that this will be delivered through focus on three priorities, which will particularly be crucial to accompany new investment in renewables and industrial transformation. The priorities are:

- Increasing productivity and economic dynamism, particularly through investment in skills, innovation, entrepreneurship and export support and the work of the development bank
- Attracting and encouraging business investment in Wales, both in established businesses based in Wales and from new investors, focusing on the creation of new jobs, the growth of Welsh enterprises of all sizes, supply chains and value chains
- Redesigning employability and skills support, particularly to aid the transition to net zero.

More info [here](#).

### **Passing of Infrastructure Bill aims to speed up consenting process**

*Welsh Senedd*

16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The new Infrastructure (Wales) Bill, which was introduced in June 2023, was passed in the Senedd this week. It will bring forth major changes to the legislative framework and will speed up the consenting process on both land and in the territorial sea. The new form of consent will be known as ‘Infrastructure Consent’ and will be issued in relation to Significant Infrastructure Projects, including energy, transport, waste and water, among other infrastructure types. This unified consenting process will create more consistency and certainty in Wales’s ability to deliver, develop and attract further infrastructure investment.

More info [here](#).

### **First minister sets out approach to Delivering Wales’ priorities**

*Welsh Government*

16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

In a statement to the Senedd, new First Minister Vaughan Gething set out priorities for his government. He addressed the NHS, current strikes including in the steel industry, early life and education and the green transition. Discussing the green economy, Gething reaffirmed his commitment to building a greener economy where people can find employment, developing Clean Growth Hubs, a Green Business Loan, and investing in training for net zero skills. He further stressed

that he wants to see Wales at the forefront of a new industrial revolution. On green prosperity he noted the gap in productivity between Wales and the rest of the UK and stated that he wants to see powers restored in Wales to invest in skills and the longer-term future. In discussing clean growth hubs, Gething stated that there was much to learn from the few already in existence, including how best to bring businesses together that care about sustainable practices.

More info [here](#).

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## 5. Consultations and calls for evidence

(ordered by closing date)

- [Electricity distribution network study](#), National Infrastructure Commission, call for evidence, closes on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- [Masterplan consent area regulations](#), Scottish Government, closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024
- Inquiry: Skills for the future: apprenticeships and training
- [Investing in Planning: resourcing Scotland's planning system the Planning System](#), Scottish Government, closes on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024
- [Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement: Consultation](#), Scottish Government, closes on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- [Introduction of a UK carbon border adjustment mechanism](#), HM Treasury, closes on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- [CCUS: non-pipeline transport and cross-border CO2 networks](#), call for evidence, closes on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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## 6. International

*A selection of international policy developments relevant to industrial decarbonisation.*

### **European Hydrogen Bank auction provides €720 million for renewable hydrogen production in Europe**

*European Commission*

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The Commission is awarding nearly €720 million to seven renewable hydrogen projects in Europe, selected through the first competitive bidding process under the European Hydrogen Bank. The funds for this auction come from the revenues of the EU Emissions Trading System. The winning bidders will produce renewable hydrogen in Europe and will receive a subsidy to bridge the price difference

between their production costs and the market price for hydrogen, which is currently driven by non-renewable producers. The seven projects are located in Spain (3), Portugal (2), Finland (1) and Norway (1). The renewable hydrogen produced will be used in sectors such as steel, chemicals, maritime transport and fertilisers.

More info [here](#).

### **European Parliament approves Net Zero Industry Act**

*European Parliament*

25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The EU's flagship program to boost the European manufacturing capacity of net-zero technologies in the EU received the approval of the European Parliament with 361 Yes to 121 No votes (45 abstentions). The plan, proposed by the European Commission last year and informally agreed with the EU member states in the Council, includes a non-binding target to produce 40% of clean technologies used in Europe by 2030 at home. To achieve this, 10 technologies are being prioritised for support, including solar power, onshore and offshore renewable energy, battery and storage technologies, heat pumps and geothermal energy, hydrogen electrolysers and fuel cells, sustainable biogas, carbon capture and storage, grid technologies, and nuclear. The act aims to create enabling conditions for manufacturing of these technologies, including through streamlined permitting rules for production and the set-up of European net-zero academies to support skills development. The act does not raise any additional funds to incentivise production and innovation but includes new rules for national subsidy and public procurement programs to support domestic production, and contains a possibility for allocating national revenues from the Emissions Trading System (ETS) and, for most strategic projects, funding from the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) to projects. The plan also sets a CO<sub>2</sub> injection capacity target of 50 million tonnes by 2030 with mandates for domestic oil and gas producers to contribute based on their production levels from 2020-2023 with penalties if they fail to do so.

More info [here](#).

### **Green investment in US low-income communities supported by \$20bn of grant funding**

5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published plans to allocate \$20bn of grant funding to clean energy and green finance projects as part of the Inflation Reduction Act's \$27bn Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. It hopes to mobilizing many trillions more in private investment, particularly in low-income communities including rural and Native American communities.

More info [here](#).

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## 6. IDRIC Research Spotlight

A selection of recent policy-relevant publications by IDRIC researchers and academic partners. More research outputs can be found in the [IDRIC knowledge hub](#).

### **Driving effective workforce planning and project sequencing to aid efforts to decarbonise UK industry clusters and boost associated economy wide impacts**

POLICY BRIEF

*Hannah Corbett, Antonios Katris, Christian Calvillo, Paulina Gonzalez Martinez*

University of Strathclyde

This brief sets out new findings on the potential ‘congestion effects’ associated with CCUS deployment in the UK against the wider backdrop of persistent worker and skills shortages and the implications of these effects for project delivery and the wider economy.

[Download](#)

### **Understanding and addressing labour supply constraints and their impact on efforts to decarbonise UK industry clusters and the wider economy**

REPORT

*Antonios Katris, Christian Calvillo, Hannah Corbett, Paulina Gonzalez Martinez, Karen Turner, Julia Race*

University of Strathclyde

This report brings together timely new analysis around the impacts of a supply constrained UK labour market characterised by both worker and skills shortages on efforts to decarbonise industry clusters. It explores the associated labour demand pressures and employment changes and what they could mean for industrial decarbonisation project delivery costs and the wider economy.

[Download](#)

### **Leading the post-industrial revolution? Policy windows, issue linkage and decarbonisation dynamics in the UK’s net-zero strategy (2010–2022)**

JOURNAL ARTICLE

*Benjamin K Sovacool, Marfuga Iskandarova, Frank W Geels*

Boston University, Aarhus University, University of Sussex, University of Manchester

This paper explores ongoing policy windows and efforts to decarbonise both the Humber and Merseyside, two clusters leading national net-zero ambitions, with actual, enforceable timetables to achieve decarbonisation. Investigating the efforts undertaken by these two regions to decarbonise industry offers insight into the “green gold rush” and nascent business opportunities in the carbon economy, including large-scale investment of capital into the policies nominally designed to tackle climate change. The study also sheds light on the coevolution of policy windows and issue linkage as net-zero ambitions solidify.

[Download](#)

**Imagining and emplacing net zero industrial clusters: A critical analysis of stakeholder discourses**

JOURNAL ARTICLE

*Huei-Ling Lai, Patrick Devine-Wright*

University of Exeter

This paper employed a place-based research agenda to investigate new industrial spaces (proposed to be) created by/for industrial decarbonization, with a special focus on the imagining and emplacement of net zero industrial clusters in UK policy and industry discourses. It advances a more sophisticated reading of spatial embeddedness and (re)scaling in the multi-sector transition process, including their implications for just transitions and the importance of a network topology of scale in accelerating an inclusive climate mitigation. It argues that a place-sensitive net zero policy mindset is vital for fulfilling ICs and the UK's decarbonization potential in a manner that is both fair and locally grounded.

[Download](#)[Back to main menu](#)**Other policy reports****Innovating to Net Zero 2024**

REPORT

*Energy Systems Catapult*

April 2024

A new report by the Energy Systems Catapult explores how the UK can achieve a cost-effective Net Zero energy system and identifies innovation priorities for the design, delivery and operation of an affordable, desirable and resilient future energy system. It highlights the need to accelerate deployment of mature technologies such as offshore wind and solar; large-scale nuclear; electrification of heating in buildings, among other 'no-regret' technologies. Alongside this, accelerating innovation of more novel technologies is needed, with significant system benefits including for small modular reactors for nuclear; long duration energy storage in both electricity and molecular storage; heavy duty vehicles; aviation and maritime propulsion. The report further highlights that future scenarios depend heavily on bioenergy production, negative emissions and carbon capture and storage technology options, including direct air capture and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage. Without large-scale deployment of these technologies we do not currently see a credible pathway to Net Zero. More urgent and clearer incentives and standards are required to stimulate innovation and market creation for these technology options over the next 15 years.

More info [here](#).**Group of businesses, NGOs and academics set out ambitious Program for Government**

REPORT

*Aldersgate Group*

April 2024

The Aldersgate Group published its Programme for Government, outlining “important climate and environmental measures that will drive growth, bolster energy security, improve productivity and create thousands of jobs across the country”. Recommendations developed following extensive engagement with major businesses, NGOs and academic institutions include amending the planning system to accelerate the delivery of renewables, setting out a clear long-term industrial strategy with decarbonisation at its heart, completing the implementation of the 2023 Green Finance Strategy and delivering a UK Green Taxonomy. The program also asks for measures to boost energy efficiency, decarbonise transport, restore nature, and develop the skills required for a low-carbon future.

More info [here](#).

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