



Industrial Decarbonisation Policy News – February 2022

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UK Government

BEIS Advanced Modular Reactor Research, Development and Demonstration Programme – Indicative Programme Outline Published

1st February 2022

The department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy have released a new document which provides an indication of the proposed Advanced Modular Reactor Research, Development & Demonstration (RD&D) Programme. The stated aim of this programme is to demonstrate that High Temperature Gas Reactors (HTGR) can provide cost competitive electricity generation, process heat for industrial and domestic use, and play a role in low-carbon hydrogen production.

[More information.](#)

The UK and Belgium Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation

24th February 2022

BEIS Minister for Energy Greg Hands and Belgium's Minister for Energy Tinne Van der Straeten signed an agreement on energy cooperation. This memorandum of understanding deepens the UK and Belgium's bilateral relationship and enables closer working on important energy priorities including low carbon hydrogen, carbon capture, usage and storage, offshore wind or multipurpose electricity interconnection.

[More information.](#)

UK Government Provide Boost for Renewable Energy Storage Technologies

23rd February 2022

BEIS have awarded £6.7 million to 24 projects based across the country that are developing innovative energy storage technologies, in the first phase of funding through the [Longer Duration Energy Storage competition](#), part of the government's £1B [Net Zero Innovation Portfolio](#). This will be followed in time by a second phase of funding, in which projects will be assessed on their potential to commercialise their technologies, with successful projects receiving a share of £68 million in further funding.

[More information.](#)

UK Government Publishes its Levelling Up White Paper

2nd February 2022

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has published its Levelling Up White Paper. On Net Zero, it seeks to show that the already committed investments in new technologies can benefit left behind areas. BEIS R&D spending in 2023-23 will have levelling up as a core objective, aiming for at least 55% of its funding to be spent outside the Southeast by 2024-25.

[More information.](#)

The UK and Australia Agree on Boost to Bilateral Cooperation

16th February 2022

The United Kingdom and Australia have agreed new measures to boost bilateral cooperation and work more closely together in the Indo-Pacific. £25m has been allocated by the UK government to support the initiative, which includes new climate-science projects.

[More information.](#)

Westminster

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee: Delivering a UK Science and Technology Strategy

22nd February 2022

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee began its new inquiry on Delivering a UK science and technology strategy by holding an evidence session with witnesses from the University of Sheffield and UCL, representatives from the Wellcome Trust, the Centre for Science and Policy and the Campaign for Science and Engineering, and former Minister for Universities and Science Lord Willets. The committee asked about the witnesses' perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the UK's scientific and technological research and development and explored the ways funding could be allocated to achieve the UK Government's ambition of making the UK a "science superpower".

Full footage available [here](#).

Environmental Audit Committee Call for Evidence - Technological Innovations and Climate Change: Green Steel

The Environmental Audit Committee has issued a call for evidence on green steel, as part of the committee's examination of "technological innovations and climate change". The committee is inviting written submissions on:

- The technologies there are to produce "green steel"; how close they are to commercialisation; and the benefits and risks of each,
- The relationship between low-carbon steelmaking technologies and the development of other decarbonising technologies,
- The timescales needed to achieve fossil fuel feedstock replacement and fossil fuel-free energy throughout the supply chain for steel products,
- The targets the Government should set for low-carbon steelmaking in the UK,
- The policy support for low-carbon steelmaking in the UK provided in the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy and the Net Zero Strategy,
- How effective the Clean Steel Fund is expected to be in helping to deliver decarbonised fuel capacity in the UK,
- Any additional policy support required to encourage the transition to low-carbon steelmaking,

- The desirability or otherwise of establishing a low-carbon steelmaking pilot at a UK site,
- The consequences to the UK steel sector from a failure to invest in alternative technologies in a globally competitive market.

Written evidence should be submitted through the Committee's web portal by **10 March 2022**.

[More information.](#)

Scotland

Scottish Government Publishes Initial Plan Framework Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation (INTOG)

22nd February 2022

The Initial Plan Framework outlines the Scottish Government's intention to facilitate the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy and oil and gas decarbonisation. The framework builds on the prior "Sectoral Marine Plan, for Offshore Wind Energy 2020" by providing routes to acquiring a seabed lease for two additional categories of wind project: Innovation Projects of less than 100MW, and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Projects that can support the electrification of offshore oil and gas infrastructure. The latter includes an option for excess generation to be fed into the grid or utilised for hydrogen generation as a secondary function. Awards will accordingly be split into two pots and will be determined on an open auction basis, with the bidding window expected to open in June 2022.

[More information](#)

Scottish Government Consultation on Draft National Planning Framework 4 – One Month Remaining

28th February 2022

The National Planning Framework 4 (NP4) consultation was published in November 2021 and sets out the Scottish Governments priorities and policies for the planning system up to 2045, including how the approach to planning and development will help to achieve a net zero, sustainable Scotland by 2045. NPF4 differs from previous NPFs in two ways. It incorporates Scottish Planning Policy and the NPF into a single document and will form a part of the statutory development plan.

This consultation is due to close on the 31st of March.

[More information.](#)

The Scottish Government and UK Government Announce Plans for Two Scottish "Green Freeports"

14th February 2022

The announcement follows the selection of eight freeports in England in March 2021, several of which in geographical proximity to industrial clusters such as in the Humber, Teesside, Liverpool and Solent area. Freeports, located near shipping ports or airports, are hoped to stimulate economic activity and contribute to 'levelling up' through considerable tax reliefs and other benefits. After months of disagreement, the Scottish and UK Governments have now reached an agreement to establish two 'green' freeports in Scotland. The SNP has insisted that these need to contribute towards a just transition to net-zero emissions by 2045, delivering net-zero benefits and creating new green jobs. The Green Party, the SNP's junior partner in the Scottish Government, remains critical of green freeports, which it sees as 'corporate giveaway' and a means of 'greenwashing'. Both UK and Scottish Government will choose prospective sites together, with further criteria expected to be published in March and winning bids announced over the summer.

[More information.](#)

News

IPCC Working Group II Publish their Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report

Described by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as "*an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership*", the landmark 3676-page Working Group II report paints a harrowing picture of our current trajectory; the risks to people and nature. The authors outline that: "*This report recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies and integrates knowledge more strongly across the natural, ecological, social and economic sciences than earlier IPCC assessments.*" The report also places emphasis on adaptation and resilience, in terms of limits, risks and evidence of maladaptation, and near-term actions for implementing, accelerating and sustaining adaptation in human systems and ecosystems. The report issues a stark warning: "*The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all*".

[More information.](#)

The Committee on Climate Change Submit Advice to BEIS Secretary on North Sea Oil and Gas

24th February 2022

In a 23-page letter to Secretary of State for BEIS, Kwasi Kwarteng, the Climate Change Committee set out advice regarding the future of North Sea oil and gas production. The CCC said it would support a "presumption against exploration" of new oil and gas projects in the North Sea, primarily because of the signal it would send to investors and the world about the UK's commitment to limiting global warming. However, the CCC also left the door open for the Government to approve more North Sea oil and gas drilling, saying that the impact on the planet of new domestic production is "not clear-cut."

[More information.](#)

