

UK'S NET ZERO TARGET



BACKGROUND

In the past, the UK was once the major producer of carbon emissions and the CCC has suggested that the carbon emissions in the UK should be at net zero by 2050. The UK's government then has recognized the impacts of climate change and the necessity of net zero from its history. According to the research, the UK emissions are decreasing while the global emissions are still increasing. Even if the UK is not the main contributor to global emissions, it is still trying to achieve the net zero target with the intention to set an example for the other countries. Also to show its moral responsibility and to get the benefit from the first-mover advantages in reaching net zero target before the others.

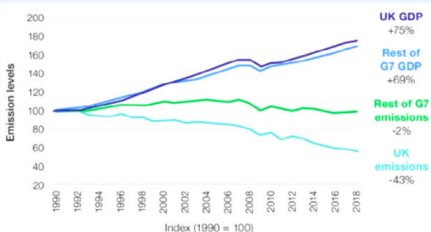
PROGRESS IN 2021

- UK will be the organiser for the 26th **UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26)**; focusing on the action through the goals of the Paris Agreement and UN framework in the details of climate change.
- Since 2019, the UK's emissions have been decreasing with the support of the Sixth Carbon Budget which emission levels have been deducted by 48% due to covid-19 situation. Along with the decreasing in traveling demand which dropped the transport emissions by 29%.
- Updated mitigation policies in 2021 to support Net Zero Concept such as:
 - ✓ Develop both **'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'** and **'National Infrastructure Strategy'** together focusing on sustainability along with economic growth with the funding plan 1 billion euro for **'Net Zero Innovation'**
 - ✓ **Industrial Decarbonization Strategy**: limit the industry emissions
 - ✓ **North Sea Transition Deal**: aim to decrease emission for gas and oil supply by 10% in 2025.
 - ✓ **The Peat and Trees Actions Plans**: provide funding for restore peat and new woodland.

CHALLENGES



- The policy must be more specific and realistic. According to the 2020 progress report, there are 72 recommendations but since 2020 to June 2021, only 11 have been achieved.
- The government must consider how to link the Net Zero Conception to the Sixth Carbon Budget as well as the legislation.
- According to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, they are seemed to be beneficial in terms of emissions reduction, but it is only a temporary way so the government needs a proper plan to make this last longer



TARGET AND PLANS



- At first, the UK aimed to reduce GHG emissions to 80% by 2050.
- Later in 2019, the climate change act was amended to achieve net zero by 2050, previously was only 80%
- In April 2021, UK's government set the ambitious target to reduce emissions to 78% by 2035 compared to 1990
- Moreover, it plans to use resource and energy efficiently to reduce the demand for energy across the economy
- Encourage people to reduce carbon-intensive activities
- Use more electrification especially in transportation and home appliances to reduce environmental impact
- Develop a hydrogen economy in some industries such as automotive industry to achieve longer distances
- Having carbon capture and storage in industry

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

- Charge fuel duty tax on UK's car drivers
- Establishing emissions trading scheme, to give the industry the incentive to lower emissions and save cost by giving permits to set the maximum acceptable emissions level and allow to trade the permits at market rate
- Have a climate change levy, charging the polluters on every unit of energy consumed

Figure 1 Changes in UK emissions by sector

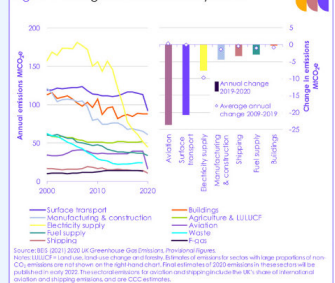
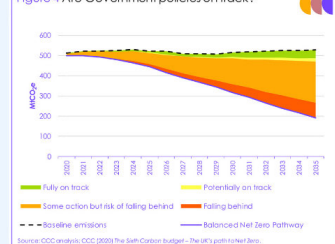


Figure 4 Are Government policies on track?



BENEFITS OF NET-ZERO TARGET

GDP: Since 1990-2019, emissions levels of UK have been decreasing by 43% which create a better economy reflecting by the raising in the number of GDP by 75%. The main sources come from high-value services such as financing low-carbon projects, climate-risk assessments, legal and consulting expertise.

Health: There will be a positive effect on people's health as the lower the GHG emissions, the lower the air pollution level. From this, it may also encourage people to consume less red meat and consume more green plants. This will therefore lead people to have a healthier lifestyle.

New opportunities: By having a zero-carbon society, it will give the UK the new economic and industrial opportunities such as being able to offer a low-carbon technology, goods, and services.



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