

Energy and Climate Change Committee

Priorities for holding Government to account

Background to CIWEM

1. CIWEM is the leading independent Chartered professional body for water and environmental professionals, promoting excellence within the sector.

Response

Which DECC policy areas do you think require particular scrutiny over the next five years?

2. The ability of DECC to deliver carbon budgets to decarbonise the economy through actively promoting renewable energy sources and reducing demand. This is set against a backdrop of cuts to the department's budget and whether it has the staff and resources to achieve mandatory targets.
3. The potential for community energy schemes, especially where they link to improved resilience. This could include the scope for local network (grids), a model for locally produced and owned energy networks.
4. DECC to work closely with other government departments so that energy decisions are made with due regard to potential impacts on the management of other resources, food and water for example.
5. The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will drive international development efforts over coming decade. The Committee should assess progress across DECC and other Departments, for example DFID, on energy security overseas, particularly in the context of meeting SDG targets. DECC's international engagement activities need to be maintained and improved to provide the UK and UK companies with a good entry point into overseas markets.

What should be the Committee's scrutiny priorities over the next twelve months?

6. Ensuring that the Government adopts the Committee on Climate Change's advice for the 5th carbon budget.
7. Ensuring DECC has established policies to achieve the 4th carbon budget and whether the Department has the resources available and staff budget to achieve this.
8. Reviewing home energy efficiency policies will be absolutely essential now that the Green Deal Finance Company has closed to applications and the Government has committed to improving a million more homes by 2020. A new scheme should also integrate hot water efficiency, incentivising both energy and water efficiency.