



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S
CORPORATE LEADERS GROUP

Business Briefing

The UK's Nationally Determined Contribution

Setting an ambitious climate
change target for 2030

Executive summary

The UK Government has historically demonstrated strong climate leadership. The UK was the first country globally to set a legally binding climate change mitigation target and became the first major economy to set a legally binding net zero emissions target. As host of the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) next year, the UK has a unique opportunity to lead and influence global climate ambition by ensuring its own new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) sets an ambitious emissions reduction target for 2030. In doing so, it can put the UK on track to achieve its 2050 net zero target, while supporting the economy, employment and emissions reductions.

Ahead of a special global climate summit on 12 December 2020, the UK plans to announce its new NDC. The UK is also encouraging other countries to present their own NDCs with a raised ambition level at the summit. The UK can strengthen its negotiations with other countries by ensuring its own new NDC sets an ambitious emissions reduction target for 2030.

Setting a UK NDC that is at a minimum aligned with the UK's 2050 target, as advised by the UK's official Climate Change Committee, is essential in putting the UK on track to achieve net zero emissions. While the UK could accelerate climate ambition and emissions reduction after 2030, this choice would be harder, more expensive and hold back UK industries from establishing themselves in future industries.

To keep global warming below 1.5 degrees and limit the impacts of climate change, global emissions need to halve by 2030 from current levels. **For the UK, this would mean a target of at least a 70 per cent cut in emissions from 1990 levels.** While setting an effective and ambitious emissions reduction target is vital for the UK to show leadership, alongside this target, the UK needs a strong, updated long-term strategy (LTS).

The UK has made a good start on this in setting out its Ten Point Plan and these commitments need to be built on and developed. As we move towards COP26, there is room to develop this plan into a comprehensive LTS for the UK that supports UK business leadership and climate action by setting clear policy directions and taking the UK beyond short-term actions.

This comes at a time when the UK economy has been severely affected by Covid-19, but the UK's green recovery plans, as set out by the Prime Minister, have the potential to generate increased economic growth while delivering reductions in emissions of this order of magnitude.

Based on economic modelling commissioned by The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (CLG) from Cambridge Econometrics, the Ten Point Plan will grow gross domestic product (GDP) by up to an additional 1.8 per cent (£43 billion) by 2030, while achieving a reduction in emissions of nearly 60 per cent on 1990 levels, rising to nearly 70 per cent by 2035. This would put the UK on track to meet its existing 2030 target. However, as this is not in line with its net zero target, the UK will need to go further and faster to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. An ambitious new UK NDC 2030 reduction target of at least 70 per cent supported by a strong LTS could accelerate this.

This briefing seeks to outline the significance of setting such an ambitious UK NDC 2030 emissions reduction target for the UK economy and global leadership. It is set out in four parts, as follows:

Part 1: explains what an NDC is and the significance of an ambitious UK NDC ahead of the UK-hosted COP26 summit.

Part 2: explains how an ambitious NDC can help build a thriving resilient, net zero UK economy through a comprehensive long-term strategy.

Part 3: outlines the economic case for an ambitious NDC.

Part 4: examines the implications for UK business leadership and climate action.

Part 1: The significance of an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the UK

The UK Government has historically demonstrated strong climate leadership. The UK was the first country globally to set a legally binding climate change mitigation target, committing in 2008, as part of the Climate Change Act, to reduce emissions by 80 per cent based on 1990 levels.¹ While the UK has since made progress on reducing its emissions,² further action is still required, with more recent recognition that this original target did not go far enough. As a result, in 2019, the UK became the first major economy to set a legally binding net zero emissions target,³ a move supported by business.⁴ This new target requires the UK to ensure all greenhouse gas emissions reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.

Supported by the credibility of these domestic policies, the UK has been noted for its international leadership on climate action.² It has used its diplomatic resources to support global ambition, including to make the case for a global agreement, which bore results in December 2015, when the Paris Agreement⁵ was negotiated by 195 nations. The Paris Agreement, which sets a long-term aim of keeping warming within 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, was agreed at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The COP is a significant annual global event, as it brings together global leaders with climate experts and campaigners to agree co-ordinated action to tackle climate change.

In 2019, it was confirmed that the UK will host COP26.⁶ Originally due to take place in November 2020, COP26 was to be in a significant year, as 2020 is the first time countries are required to submit new NDCs⁷ since the Paris Agreement was reached. The NDCs are critical to achieving the Paris Agreement, as they set out individual countries' targets for achieving national emissions reductions and adapting to climate change. However, in early 2020 with the Covid-19 coronavirus, a global health crisis of unprecedented scale emerged that has led to previously unimaginable social, economic and political change. In this new context, where governments have quite rightly taken action to address the immediate health crisis through actions that include the cancelling of mass gatherings, the decision was taken to postpone COP26 to November 2021.

While COP26 has been postponed, the UK Government still recognises the need for setting long-term targets and ramping up ambition. In July 2020, the COP26 President, Alok Sharma,⁸ set out the UK's ask for countries to submit more ambitious NDCs and supporting long-term strategies, which can lead to increased emissions reductions by 2030, on the road to net zero emissions. The UK is now encouraging countries to present NDCs with a raised ambition level at a special global climate summit being held in December 2020. Announced in September 2020 by the Secretary-General of the UN and the UK Prime Minister, the summit will take place on the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement and aims to drive momentum towards higher ambition and greater climate action.⁹ It will seek to bring together leaders from governments with civil society and the private sector to "present new measures, boosting ambition and action".

While it is encouraging other countries to submit ambitious NDCs, the UK itself is looking to announce its own increased NDC. When the Paris Agreement was negotiated in 2015, the UK was an EU member state and therefore part of the EU's NDC. The EU set a combined binding target, which would be jointly achieved by all 28 member states through their own domestic targets.¹⁰ Following the UK leaving the EU in January 2020,¹¹ the UK Government has committed to setting

its own, increased NDC ahead of COP26.¹² The UK does have a domestic target of reducing emissions from 1990 levels by 57 per cent by 2030, but this was set out before the UK set its net zero target in law and therefore requires updating.¹³

Setting an ambitious UK NDC that is at a minimum aligned with the UK's domestic net zero target would demonstrate strong leadership and support the UK's international diplomacy. As Presidency of COP26, the UK has significant responsibility in ensuring efficient and effective outcomes from the summit in advancing collaboration on international climate agreements.¹⁴ Countries submitting ambitious NDCs would help to raise ambition globally, advancing global climate action and providing a significant measure of success for COP26. Already there are moves from the EU, China and other countries to raise ambition, so the UK's leadership has the potential to have significant impact and catalyse action from other countries to submit strengthened NDCs.

Strong domestic policies are seen as a clear way the UK can make its negotiations with other countries more effective.¹⁵ Another clear signal is through setting an ambitious new NDC. Given the significance of this year for countries submitting new NDCs, the UK has a unique opportunity to lead and influence how ambitious these are by ensuring its own new NDC sets an ambitious emissions reduction target for 2030.

Part 2: How an ambitious NDC can build a thriving resilient, net zero UK economy

Setting a UK NDC that is at a minimum aligned with the UK's domestic net zero target is essential in putting the UK on track to achieve net zero emissions. The UK's net zero target, set in 2019, requires the UK to ensure all greenhouse gas emissions reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.³ Currently, under the terms of the 2008 Climate Change Act,¹ the UK has a legally binding target for 2030 of reducing emissions from 1990 levels by 57 per cent. However, this was set before the UK set its net zero target in law and therefore requires updating.¹³

While the UK could accelerate climate ambition and emissions reduction after 2030, such a strategy would be significantly harder, more expensive and would hold back UK industries from establishing themselves in future net zero compatible industries. The best strategy for setting a new NDC target for 2030 is to ensure it puts the UK firmly on track to meet its 2050 target. This includes bringing emissions from international aviation and shipping formally into the target.¹⁶

If the UK were to submit an NDC that simply updated the UK's existing national policy and adjusted for various new factors that need to be taken into account it would actually be around 64 per cent.¹⁷ However, if the UK is to follow international guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹⁸ and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)^{19,20} that to keep global warming to within 1.5 degrees and limit the impacts of climate change, current global emissions need to halve by 2030, this would mean setting a reduction target for the UK of at least 70 per cent based on 1990 levels,²¹ a level supported by recent analysis.^{22,23}

Setting an interim target that reflects a fair share of halving emissions by 2030 is the level of ambition required by the Race to Zero campaign for non-state actors, including business, in the lead-up to COP26²⁴ and should be at least equalled by industrialised countries like the UK.²⁵ However, the UK's emissions reduced on average by 2 per cent a year between 1990 and 2018²⁶ and this stronger target requires a reduction of at least 6 per cent per year over the next decade, so this would need to be supported by stronger actions.

Supporting ambition with a strong long-term strategy

While setting an effective and ambitious emissions reduction target is vital for the UK to show leadership, alongside this target, the UK needs a strong, updated long-term strategy (LTS). The UK's current LTS submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2018, the Clean Growth Strategy,²⁷ was written ahead of the UK setting its net zero target. The UK Government has committed to submitting an updated LTS to the UNFCCC that brings forward ambitious plans across key sectors of the economy, including an Energy White Paper, Transport Decarbonisation Plan and Heat and Buildings Strategy.²⁸ These will be delivered alongside a new Net Zero Strategy to be published ahead of COP26 that will "set out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK" with the aim of raising ambition in meeting its 2050 target.

It is vital the UK's LTS supports the economic recovery from Covid-19 while accelerating action towards achieving its net zero target. A clean, green recovery can improve quality of life, build a more resilient and sustainable jobs market, and increase economic resilience.²⁹

Setting a clear, ambitious target supported by a strong LTS can trigger **investment** and support **innovation**:

- **Investment:** Climate action requires significant infrastructure investment in power, transport, homes and buildings, as well as green infrastructure such as nature conservation and land management. These investments create jobs in the short term and support longer term growth.
- **Innovation:** The process of decarbonisation requires an accelerated process of innovation, securing positive change across the economy, and supporting long-term growth and competitiveness.

A strong LTS can also support economic **resilience**:

- **Resilience:** As climate impacts and wider economic changes – alongside other factors like pandemics – undermine economic development, environmental sustainability and social wellbeing, the UK should make long-term plans to be more resilient to such systemic risks and impacts.

To deliver against an increased 2030 target, the LTS needs to cover all sectors of the economy. In taking strong action in all areas, the UK can show leadership globally and nationally by providing clear direction on the actions required to deliver against an ambitious target.

The UK Government has already taken a number of actions over the last year to support emissions reductions,³⁰ including on jobs³¹ and financial services.³² An announcement made in October^{33,34} that the UK would increase off-shore wind generation was the first point in the Prime Minister's subsequently released Ten Point Plan for a 'Green Industrial Revolution' to rebuild the economy.³⁵ Another key headline from the Ten Point Plan was bringing forward the end of the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans to 2030, a step welcomed by business.³⁶

The full plan, which includes £12 billion of government investment and aims to create at least 250,000 highly skilled green jobs, is as follows:³⁷

1. **Advancing offshore wind:** quadrupling offshore wind power to 40GW by 2030, including 1GW of innovative floating offshore wind power, supporting up to 60,000 jobs and saving 21 MtCO₂e.
2. **Driving the growth of low carbon hydrogen:** aiming to generate 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030 for industry, transport, power and homes, and aiming to develop the first town heated entirely by hydrogen by the end of the decade, supporting up to 8,000 jobs and saving 41 MtCO₂e between 2023 and 2032.
3. **Delivering new and advanced nuclear power:** pursuing large-scale nuclear as a clean energy source and developing the next generation of small and advanced reactors, which could support 10,000 jobs and power two million homes.
4. **Accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles:** ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, with the aim of all these vehicle types being 100 per cent zero emissions by 2035, supporting British car manufacturing to help the creation of 40,000 new jobs and saving 5 MtCO₂e to 2032.
5. **Green public transport, cycling and walking:** making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero emission public transport of the future, creating up to 3,000 jobs by 2025 and saving around 2 MtCO₂e between 2023 and 2032.

6. **Jet Zero and greener maritime:** supporting difficult-to-decarbonise industries to become greener through research projects for zero emission planes and ships, potentially leading to up to 5,200 jobs and savings of up to 1 MtCO₂e by 2032 from clean maritime.
7. **Greener homes and public buildings:** implementing the Future Home Standard quickly, consulting on increased standards for non-domestic buildings, extending the Green Homes Grant and aiming to install 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028, creating 50,000 jobs by 2030 and saving 71 MtCO₂e between 2023 and 2032.
8. **Investing in carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS):** establishing CCUS in two industrial clusters by the mid-2020s, and aiming for four of these sites by 2030, creating up to 50,000 jobs and savings of 40 MtCO₂e between 2023 and 2032.
9. **Protecting our natural environment:** creating new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, running a second round of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, planting 30,000 hectares of trees every year, and investing £5.2 billion in a six-year programme for flood and coastal defences, directly creating up to 20,000 jobs.
10. **Green finance and innovation:** taking steps such as launching a £1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio and providing £100 million for Energy Storage and Flexibility innovation challenges, aiming to unlock a potential 300,000 jobs in exports and domestic industry through new opportunities.

The CLG has welcomed this as a “good step forward for climate action”,³⁸ which is almost unprecedented in its scope, but with climate impacts increasing and other countries accelerating their ambitions there will need to be further action. Building on these already welcome commitments towards a resilient, net zero economy, the CLG recommends that the UK’s updated LTS seeks to:³⁹

Accelerate power decarbonisation

- Set out a clear vision for zero carbon UK power generation that provides certainty to unlock private sector investment.
- Invest in grid infrastructure and key innovations including flexibility, smart grids and power storage.

Make UK buildings efficient and resilient

Ensure all households meet a minimum, high level of efficiency standards by 2030 and the building sector is on track through:

- dramatically expanding energy efficiency programmes
- using large-scale pilot projects to inform a credible heat decarbonisation strategy
- undertaking home heating retrofit programmes to enable all homes to transfer away from natural gas to low carbon alternatives by 2050
- strengthening building standards.

Accelerate clean, resilient transport

- Continue to speed up the roll-out of electric vehicles by bringing the end date for sales of new buses and heavy goods vehicles to 2035.

- Ensure the economic accessibility of electric vehicles to all consumers.
- Invest in innovative pilot projects to accelerate the transition of buses and heavy goods vehicles.
- Fund improved, affordable public transport, and walking and cycling infrastructure and support.

Support low carbon innovation

- Provide support for targeted innovation for net zero transformation of cement and steel.
- Develop a 'net zero economy' skills and education strategy, including to transition workers from fields most impacted by decarbonisation measures.
- Ensure financial support packages require businesses to have science-based strategies aligned with national climate goals.
- Align circular economy principles with a net zero economy, encouraging greater resource efficiency, circular business models and recycling of materials.

Grow a thriving natural environment

- Invest in flood defences and water management.
- Accelerate delivery of water industry environmental enhancement projects to unleash investment.
- Recognise the value of private sector investments in this area, helping them to choose nature-based solutions with social and ecological integrity.
- Enhance green spaces, plant trees, encourage climate-friendly agriculture and restore carbon-rich habitats, supporting the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the UK.

Help enable better public choices

- Implement organised incentives and infrastructure to reward more sustainable behaviour.
- Undertake widespread engagement on the health, economic and environmental co-benefits of sustainable behaviours, such as cutting food waste, changes in diet and using public transport.
- Embed education on sustainability, climate change and behavioural choices, as a requirement in all levels of schooling and in higher education.

Part 3: The economic case for an ambitious UK NDC

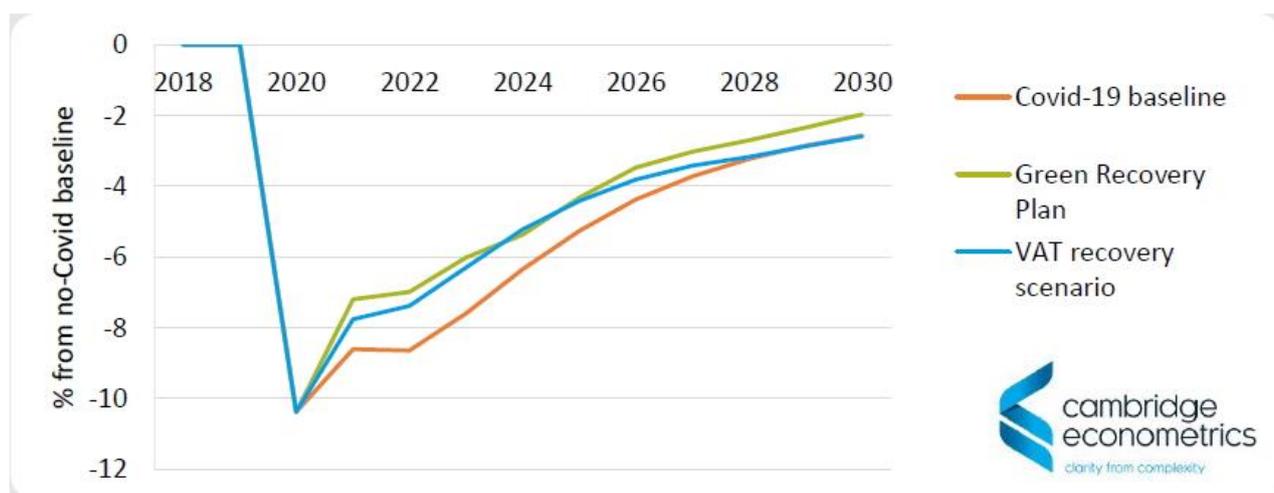
The UK Government has historically demonstrated strong climate leadership while growing the economy. The UK has the highest average decarbonisation rate of any G20 country, with an annual average reduction in carbon intensity of 3.7 per cent since 2000.⁴⁰ By 2018, the UK had reduced emissions by 43.5 per cent based on 1990 levels.⁴¹ In this same period, the UK economy has grown by 75 per cent,²⁸ demonstrating that it is feasible to significantly reduce emissions while growing the economy.

If the UK sets a new NDC of at least 70 per cent, it will need to reduce emissions by at least 6 per cent per year over the next decade, which will require even stronger climate action (see Part 2). This can be accelerated through a comprehensive, updated LTS that also supports the economic recovery from Covid-19.

Green recovery plans grow GDP faster and further while reducing emissions

The UK economy has been severely affected by Covid-19 and is likely to recover slowly. However, economic modelling indicates that adopting a 'green recovery' approach would generate greater growth in GDP at a faster rate than simple action to stimulate economic demand (see Figure 1) while delivering 20 per cent reductions in emissions.⁴²

Figure 1: GDP impacts in the UK (percentage difference from no-Covid baseline (source: Cambridge Econometrics))

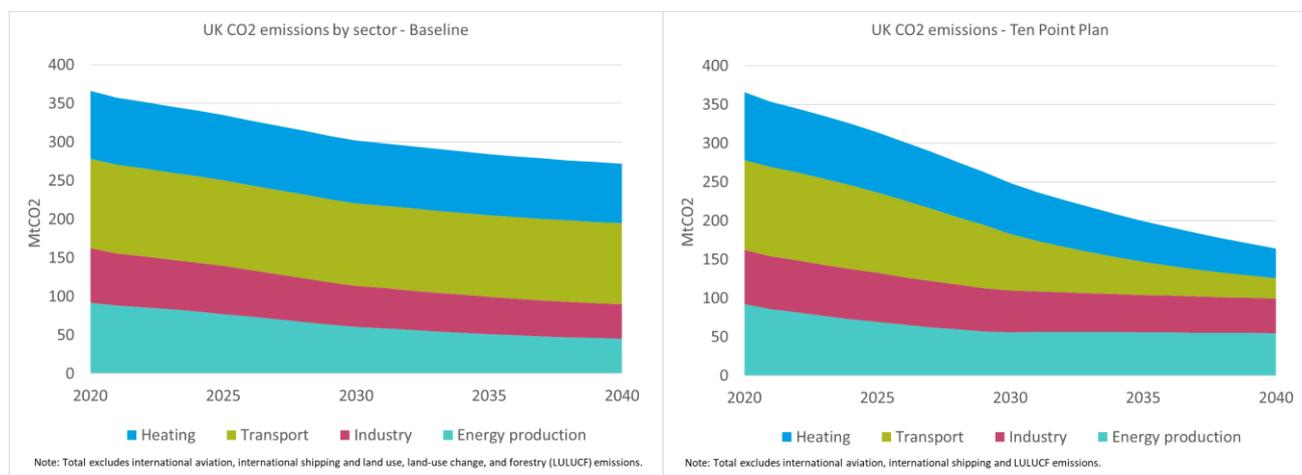


The recently announced Ten Point Plan is also predicted to grow GDP faster than it would have.⁴³ By 2030, the Ten Point Plan is anticipated to add between 1.3 and 1.8 per cent to GDP over a baseline prediction. In monetary terms, this is an additional £41 billion to £43 billion, a multiplier of around £2 extra for every £1 of public investment. While some of this will be directly driven by the government's investment of £12 billion, some of the growth will be from secondary investment. The government's analysis around the Ten Point Plan estimates that the plan could deliver up to £42 billion of private investment across energy, buildings, transport, innovation and the natural environment.³⁷

Alongside growing GDP at a faster rate, the Ten Point Plan is also predicted to increase emissions reductions at a faster rate, putting the UK firmly on track to meet its existing 2030 target of 57 per cent. Modelling anticipates that by 2030, the UK can expect a further 10 per cent of emissions reductions,

enabling the UK to achieve a total reduction in emissions of 60 per cent on 1990 levels, rising to nearly 70 per cent by 2035 and 75 per cent by 2040, with most of these resulting from transport (see Figure 2).⁴⁴

Figure 2: Comparison of total predicted emissions reductions between the baseline and from the Ten Point Plan by sector between 2020 and 2040 (source: Cambridge Econometrics)⁴⁵



However, to achieve net zero by 2050, the UK will need to go further and faster and achieve reductions across all areas of the economy. As the modelling identifies a time lag between investment and emissions reduction of around five to ten years, with the majority of emissions reductions being achieved after 2025 and accelerated between 2030 and 2035,⁴⁶ the UK needs to account for this when developing its LTS to ensure it can put itself on track to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

An ambitious NDC and LTS can protect UK competitiveness

Setting a strong NDC and supporting LTS is seen as increasingly necessary to protect the UK's competitiveness. While the UK became the first major economy to set a legally binding net zero emissions target,³ an increasing number of countries are adopting net zero targets, with recent announcements by Japan,⁴⁷ South Korea⁴⁸ and China.⁴⁹ Over 110 countries now have climate neutrality by 2050 targets, and it is estimated that over half of the global economy and around half of all carbon emissions are now under net zero commitments.⁵⁰ If the US adopts this ambition it will bring the total to two-thirds.^{51,52}

In addition to net zero targets, these countries are developing plans and commitments in specific economic areas like electric vehicles, renewable energy and the circular economy. While there is concern the UK's net zero target may increase operational costs and change consumer demand,⁵³ analysis shows that climate targets could increase competitiveness long term through presenting opportunities for greater innovation and efficiency.^{54,55} For all sectors, especially those that may find the transition more challenging, ensuring the UK's LTS supports a just transition will be critical to supporting businesses to remain competitive.⁵⁶

A green recovery in numbers

- **2.2 million:** by 2030, up to 2.2 million jobs will be associated with the low carbon economy in the UK, rising to up to 5 million by 2050.⁵⁷
- **155,000:** by 2030, a UK green recovery plan would create 155,000 jobs in the economy. Of these, 72,500 (46 per cent) are predicted to be from a car scrappage to electric vehicle (EV) scheme and 11,000 (7 per cent) from necessary electricity grid upgrades for renewables and EVs.^{42,58}

- **250,000:** the UK Government's Ten Point Plan is predicted to create 250,000 highly skilled green jobs by 2030.³⁵
- **£5.3 billion:** by 2035, the cost to the UK economy in health and social care due to air pollution could rise to £5.3 billion without clear policies to reduce pollutants.⁵⁹
- **£600 billion:** by 2030, the low carbon economy in the UK is predicted to be worth up to £600 billion, rising to up to £1,400 billion by 2050.^{42,58}
- **£15 billion:** by 2030, the UK's 12 low carbon sectors that have the strongest potential for innovation could contribute nearly £15 billion through domestic economic activity and nearly £11 billion through exports; by 2050 this rises to £27 billion through domestic economic activity and £26 billion through exports.⁶⁰

Part 4: The implications for business leadership and climate action

Businesses are already showing leadership by setting their own ambitious net zero targets. Over 175 UK businesses⁶¹ are part of the Race to Zero campaign (<https://racetozero.unfccc.int>), which requires non-state actors to set interim targets that reflect a fair share of halving emissions by 2030.²⁴ Alongside this, UK investors are also aligning their portfolios to the goals of the Paris Agreement.^{62,63} UK businesses and investors would value a clear signal from the UK Government that ambition for the economy aligns with their own aims.⁶⁴

To support UK business leadership and climate action, delivery against an ambitious NDC needs to be embedded in UK policy through a comprehensive, just and inclusive delivery plan supported by all parts of government. The decision to publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy in the lead-up to COP26^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} was welcomed by business groups, especially the opportunity this presents to include policies that will deliver near-term emission reduction in multiple sectors.⁶⁵

While many businesses are taking the lead in setting their own net zero commitments, to achieve an ambitious 2030 target requires action across the whole of the UK economy. This is a position supported by the UK Business Secretary and COP26 President Alok Sharma, who has called on businesses and investors to act in the lead-up to COP26 by.⁶⁶

- committing to 100 per cent renewable sources by 2050 at the latest, through the RE100 initiative (<https://www.there100.org>) and the Powering Past Coal Alliance⁶⁷
- joining the EV100 (<https://www.theclimategroup.org/ev100>) campaign and committing to all the vehicles a company owns or operates being zero emission by 2030
- signing up to the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)⁶⁸ to build a greener and more resilient financial system
- joining the Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment (<https://resilientinvestment.org>) to help transform infrastructure investment, by integrating climate risks into decision-making
- joining the Race to Zero coalition,⁶⁹ for example, through signing up to Business Ambition for 1.5°C.⁷⁰

Additionally, businesses can take leadership to support the UK Government in delivering against an ambitious NDC and strong LTS by:

- **Investing in low carbon solutions that create new jobs:** Companies should prioritise investment in available solutions like the retrofitting of buildings, deployment of renewable energy or in achieving mass production and economies of scale in technologies that can decarbonise industry. This will support the creation of new jobs now while reducing the risk of climate change.
- **Using science-based approaches to align company strategy with climate goals:** Companies can help advance the UK's wider goals by setting science-based targets consistent with limiting global average temperature increase to 1.5°C and reaching net zero emissions by no later than 2050. Understanding and integrating science into decision-making is the best way to protect against future shocks.

- **Integrating risk into company disclosure to increase future business resilience:** Consistently screening for risk in company investments and strategy will ensure future investment decisions mitigate climate change, avoid stranded assets and prevent future risks. This should be undertaken in line with the recommendations of the TCFD.

Business support for an ambitious UK NDC

UK businesses would value a clear signal from the UK Government that ambition for the economy aligns with their own aims. A number of companies have shared their support with the CLG, as follows:

- **Martin Garratt, CEO, Cambridge Cleantech, said:** “Cambridge Cleantech urges the UK Government to set an ambitious 2030 net zero target for the country and will support a plan to achieve the target by developing and implementing highly innovative environmental goods and services which will help alleviate the climate crisis and provide a springboard for a clean growth economy.”
- **Stephen Moorhouse, Vice President and General Manager, Great Britain, Coca-Cola European Partners, said:** “At Coca-Cola European Partners in GB we have reduced our carbon impact by more than a third over the last decade but we know much more is needed. We are one of many organisations who have signed the Business Ambition for 1.5 pledge as we understand the importance of businesses collaborating with clear and ambitious targets. We support a bold NDC from the UK government as a crucial step to accelerate the wider transition to net zero.”
- **Dougie Sutherland, CEO, Cory Riverside Energy, said:** “After leading the way in setting the 2050 net zero target, the UK now has a prime opportunity to set an ambitious NDC and lead by example at COP26.”
- **Emmanuelle Spriet, CEO, E-Voyages Ltd, said:** “At E-Voyages, we are committed to support the ambition of a net zero target and are pivoting our business to embrace carbon neutral on all fronts. As a destination management company, our tours are being re-designed so that we can offer a sustainable travel experience for our clients with a clear ambition to offer only packages that leave as small a carbon footprint as possible.”
- **Gordon Power, Chief Investment Officer, Earth Capital, said:** “It is critical for the UK to show climate leadership in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow. A strong 2030 NDC submission will send out a clear signal of the direction of travel and if combined with sector based targets can spur innovation and green growth.”
- **Colin Matthews, Non-Executive Chairman, EDF in the UK, said:** “The energy sector can support decarbonisation while delivering the jobs the country needs, but we need a national plan. Hinkley Point C will provide low carbon electricity to millions of homes for decades and has already created thousands of jobs. An ambitious UK NDC, part of a long-term strategy for reducing emissions, would deliver new investment into renewable and nuclear energy projects, including Sizewell C, enabling the UK to achieve Net Zero by 2050.”
- **Nicola Lovett, CEO, ENGIE, said:** “Climate change remains the biggest challenge of our time. Setting an ambitious 2030 NDC in line with the UK’s net zero target would not only reinforce the Government’s determination to deliver on climate change, but also serve as a further

catalyst for green economic growth. More importantly, ahead of COP26 it would also set a tone that inspires other nations on their journey to net zero.”

- **James Brueton, CEO, EnviroBuild, said:** “It is crucial that the government set an ambitious UK 2030 NDC in line with a net zero target. It is going to take a global effort to keep global temperature from rising above 1.5°C and the UK should be leading the way.”
- **Richard Speak, Co-Founder, Environmental Finance, said:** “We are running out of time to restore our planet and protect our climate for future generations and this is becoming increasingly important for the citizens of the world. Domestically we must be ambitious and see this as an opportunity for the UK to lead a global movement to invest in the technologies and nature based solutions that will prevent the collapse of our natural systems. An ambitious net zero target will be a catalyst for seismic shift of investment from destructive activities into regenerative ones, and enable the green economy, accelerate green finance, and deliver the sustainable economic growth the people of the UK are now demanding.”
- **Roy Bedlow, Chief Executive, Low Carbon, said:** “By setting an ambitious NDC, the UK has the opportunity to demonstrate strong climate leadership and to galvanise coordinated global action to tackle climate change. Clear and ambitious policy can encourage investment in renewable energy generation at scale as a foundation for a competitive, zero emissions UK economy.”
- **David Fairbrother, Managing Director, NSR Management Ltd, said:** “As we come out of the pandemic, we have the perfect opportunity to create a greener and more sustainable future with the added boost to the economy this will provide. I fully support the public letter sent to the government on 3rd November.”
- **Jack Broadley, Founder/Owner, Pelorus Consulting, said:** “Pelorus Consulting pledges its full support for this call to action both in the way we inform, influence, and work with our clients and through our company's commitment to achieve a net zero position by 2025. We fully support a UK 2030 NDC in line with the net zero target.”
- **Jose Luiz Moura Neto, SVP & COO UK & Ireland, Salesforce, said:** “As we approach the five year anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the UK has an opportunity to catalyse global action by delivering a credible and ambitious target. We encourage the UK government to establish a target and plan that aligns with the promises of a green recovery, economic resilience and a more equal society, sending a clear message to other governments and businesses that this level of ambition is critical for addressing the climate emergency.”
- **Keith Anderson, Chief Executive, ScottishPower, said:** “At ScottishPower we have the knowledge, tools and passion to help drive forward the race to zero. But if we want to release the full benefits of this transition and drive the uptake of new technology, support behaviour change and move at the pace climate science demands, then our ambition must be matched by an equally ambitious UK NDC target for 2030. Setting an ambitious target of 70% by 2030 would be a clear signal to investors that the UK is ready to build back greener and that it's happening now. This level of ambition would not only inject real leadership in the build up to COP26, but also reflect the high levels of public concern on climate change, something that has only grown stronger over the course of this challenging year.”

- **Stephen Rouatt, CEO, Signify UK&I, said:** “I want to express my support for the public letter being sent by business groups to the Prime Minister on 3rd November, on setting an ambitious UK 2030 NDC in line with the net zero target. I believe that setting an ambitious goal is key to delivering a positive impact.”
- **Mark Smith, Chief Executive, Southern Co-op, said:** “It’s really important that all businesses step up to the challenge of limiting the growth in global temperatures. We must, and we will, do our bit to help prevent that happening. As part of developing a more prosperous economy, we would urge the Prime Minister to take these proposals seriously and to set an ambitious UK 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution by the end of the year.”
- **Jason Tarry, CEO, UK & Republic of Ireland, Tesco, said:** “Our supply chain and long-term business sustainability depend on the health of the natural environment. Our customers and colleagues expect Tesco to play its part in caring for the planet, including meeting our net zero climate ambitions. We support efforts to set an ambitious NDC, because having a clear pathway of action is key to Britain leading the fight against climate change.”
- **Sarah Bentley, CEO, Thames Water, said:** “At Thames Water we are committed to reducing our operational carbon to Net Zero by 2030 and to going beyond this by 2040. We have been making good progress and realise to reach Net Zero we will need to extend and deepen our collaboration with partners, especially in our supply chain. Setting an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution will help to stimulate low carbon innovation, solutions and actions across the economy that are needed to deliver Net Zero as quickly as possible.”
- **Harry Grocott, CEO & Founder, Treconomy, said:** “It is abundantly clear that there is public desire to take climate action, and as a democracy it is essential that this is reflected by our politicians through this pledge. A strong and robust NDC will give the country purpose as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, and a north-star for green growth.”
- **Dave Worthington, Managing Director, Verco, said:** “We strongly support the call for an ambitious UK 2030 NDC both for the economic benefits this will bring to the UK, and the positive impact this leadership position can have on the outcomes from COP26. We, and many of the clients we support have already committed to achieve net zero emissions by 2030 in recognition of the material associated risks and opportunities so encourage Government to accelerate the pace of both national and international decarbonisation.”
- **Charles Malissard, Head of Media & Public Affairs, WSP, said:** “An ambitious UK NDC will act as a catalyst to the international community and the private sector up and down the country that the road to net zero is well and truly underway and that the UK Government is committed to this agenda – no ifs, no buts.”
- **Liz Barber, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water, said:** “The stable climate is critical to affordable water supplies and flood resilience. We would welcome a strong national policy framework to enable, support and rapidly escalate bold carbon reduction across all sectors of the economy. Yorkshire Water is striving to lead by example, reducing our operational emissions by 80% over the last ten years and now working with the whole English water sector towards net zero operational emissions by 2030.”

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) is a globally influential Institute developing leadership and solutions for a sustainable economy. We believe the economy can be 'rewired', through focused collaboration between business, government and finance institutions, to deliver positive outcomes for people and environment. For over three decades we have built the leadership capacity and capabilities of individuals and organisations, and created industry-leading collaborations, to catalyse change and accelerate the path to a sustainable economy. Our interdisciplinary research engagement builds the evidence base for practical action.

Authors and acknowledgements

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