

## ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring August 2021

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

### Key dates

6 September 2021: House returns

24 September – 17 October 2021: Conference recess

17-20 September 2021: Liberal Democrat Party conference

25-29 September 2021: Labour Party conference

3-6 October 2021: Conservative Party conference

22-24 October 2021: Green Party conference

### Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Climate change – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Climate change & net zero – Build back better/infrastructure

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Climate change & net zero - Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

## Climate change & net zero – Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
04/08/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p><b>Carbon Capture and Storage: Planning Permission - UIN HL1706</b></p> <p><b>Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb:</b> To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Greenhalgh on 16 July, whether the Environment Agency takes any legal account of CO2 emissions when issuing permits; and whether any local authority has "supported the transition to a low carbon future" by requiring carbon capture technology as part of planning permission.</p> <p><b>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:</b> On the UK's exit from the European Union all relevant EU environmental legislation became part of UK law. This includes the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) which prescribes much of the permitting requirements the Environment Agency delivers through permits issued to installations in England, under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR). The UK no longer participates in the EU Greenhouse Gas Trading System (EU ETS) Directive and has established its own emissions trading scheme. The same framework applies, and the ETS explicitly and directly seeks to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The Environment Agency is the regulator in England for the ETS and for other climate change regulatory frameworks which may also apply to certain activities, whether they require permits or not. These include Climate Change Agreements and the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme.</p> <p>Where an installation's emissions of greenhouse gases are subject to the ETS (which, given the larger scale of IED activities, is likely), the IED prohibits the Environment Agency from setting emission limit values in the environmental permit under EPR. Instead, emissions of greenhouse gases are regulated via the ETS which requires operators to obtain separate ETS permits, to monitor and report all their greenhouse gas emissions and to surrender allowances for every tonne of carbon dioxide, or equivalent, emitted (one allowance is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide).</p>

			<p>The Environment Agency seeks to limit direct and indirect emissions of carbon dioxide and many other greenhouse gases via its EPR permitting approaches for all relevant activities, whether subject to IED or not. Examples include requirements on energy efficiency and resource efficiency (including water, energy and waste) by requiring applicants of such activities to scale and assess the impact of their emissions on global warming (<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/assess-the-impact-of-air-emissions-on-global-warming">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/assess-the-impact-of-air-emissions-on-global-warming</a> and attached to this answer), with the intent of reducing their emissions by selecting the best available techniques and processes to control their emissions.</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future, including by supporting renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. Local Planning Authorities should consider this when considering whether to grant planning permission. Where relevant, this can include considering the appropriateness of carbon capture technologies. <a href="#">Here</a></p>

#### Climate change & net zero – Transport

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
13/08/21	Press release	DfT	<b>Multimillion-pound initiative to improve local roads across England.</b> Drones and 3D printing technology being explored to fix potholes while councils receive funding to improve traffic light systems to cut congestion and emissions. <a href="#">Here</a>
18/08/21	Press release	HE	<b>Highways England accelerates switch to lower carbon asphalts.</b> Highways England is accelerating the use of warm mix asphalts as standard across its supply chain as part of a drive toward net zero carbon emissions. <a href="#">Here</a>
24/08/21	Press release	DfT	<b>Greener, longer goods vehicles could be rolled out from next year.</b> Trial of the vehicles found them to be safer, more economical and better for the environment. <a href="#">Here</a>

## Climate change & net zero – Misc.

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/08/21	Press release	BEIS	<b>Government boosts UK resilience against climate change.</b> New research to step up the UK's resilience to the impacts of climate change is made possible by the launch of a new £5 million research programme. <a href="#">Here</a>
09/08/21	Press release	Cabinet Office	<b>UK calls for greater global ambition as UN finds world warming faster than previously estimated.</b> UN report out today warns we'll likely reach 1.5 degrees warming in the next one or two decades unless we take immediate action. <a href="#">Here</a>
09/08/21	Speech	Cabinet Office	<b>Speech by COP26 President, Alok Sharma, on the IPCC's climate change report at a panel discussion with climate scientists.</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
10/08/21	Press release	Defra	<b>Local communities urged to help shape the natural world around them.</b> Government launches consultation into a new nature mapping plan for local communities. <a href="#">Here</a>
12/08/21	Press release	LGA	<b>Climate emergency: LGA poll shows more than nine in 10 residents support increased biodiversity.</b> Ninety-four per cent of residents polled by the Local Government Association want to see increased biodiversity in their area, including the planting of trees and protection of green spaces. <a href="#">Here</a>
13/08/21	Press release	FoE	<b>Government must help councils face up to the climate crisis.</b> BBC survey finds almost 9 out of 10 councils have declared a climate emergency but more than a third support policies that increase emissions. <a href="#">Here</a>
16/08/21	Press release	BEIS	<b>Government to tighten rules to stop 'greenwashing' of electricity tariffs.</b> How energy retailers market 'green' electricity tariffs to consumers will be reviewed, amid concerns that some are overstating how environmentally friendly their products are. <a href="#">Here</a>
17/08/21	Press release	BEIS	<b>UK government launches plan for a world-leading hydrogen economy.</b> First-ever vision to kick start world-leading hydrogen economy set to support over 9,000 UK jobs and unlock £4 billion investment by 2030. <a href="#">Here</a>
19/08/21	Written correspondence	HM Govt	<b>Correspondence from UK Net Zero Business Champion <a href="#">Andrew Griffith MP</a> to the technology sector about steps they can take to fight climate change.</b> <a href="#">Here</a>
19/08/21	Written correspondence	HM Govt	<b>Correspondence from UK Net Zero Business Champion <a href="#">Andrew Griffith MP</a> to the manufacturing sector about steps they can take to fight climate change.</b> <a href="#">Here</a>

19/08/21	Written correspondence	HM Govt	<b>Correspondence from UK Net Zero Business Champion <a href="#">Andrew Griffith MP</a> to the retail sector about steps they can take to fight climate change. <a href="#">Here</a></b>
25/08/21	Press release	BEIS	<b>£4 million funding to boost UK biomass production.</b> 24 projects receive government funding of up to £200,000 to increase UK production of biomass that can be used as sources of green energy. <a href="#">Here</a>
27/08/21	Press release	Defra	<b>Thousands of hectares of vital peatland to be restored to help tackle climate change and protect biodiversity.</b> Over £16 million to be awarded through the first round of Natural England 's Peat Restoration Grants. <a href="#">Here</a>

## 25 year Environment Bill/OEP

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
29/07/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p><b>Environment Protection - UIN HL2054</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle:</a></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to The Independent on 14 July that they hoped to use the Environment Bill "to seek powers to ensure information about environmental impacts, such as carbon emissions, is provided with certain products", whether they can (1) provide details of the means by which they plan to do this, and (2) list the products to which they expect to apply the powers.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:</a></b> In accordance with our Resources and Waste Strategy, the powers being sought through our Environment Bill will allow the Government to ensure consumers are provided with clear, consistent and trustworthy information, enabling them to make more sustainable purchasing decisions and helping shift the market towards more resource efficient products. These information-sharing requirements may focus on durability, reparability and recyclability, and there is scope to include other criteria where appropriate, such as embodied carbon or water usage during production. They could take a number of different forms such as consumer information rating schemes, or labels specifying that a product meets a certain environmental standard.</p>

			We are working on developing a plan for making use of these powers, and will take on board responses to our recent consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England – towards a resource efficient economy. In parallel, as outlined in the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is preparing to launch a Call for Evidence on low carbon industrial products. The response to the Call for Evidence will be used to develop proposals for new policies to grow the market for these products, including a new labelling system for intermediary industrial products reflecting their impact on the environment. <a href="#">Here</a>

### Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
20/08/21	Press release	WRAP	<b>Household food waste rising as restrictions relaxed.</b> Positive food management behaviours adopted during lockdown led to a 43% decline in food waste, but as the UK reopens household food waste is rising. <a href="#">Here</a>

### Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (eg TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
29/07/21	Press release	TfN	<b>Leaders appointed will put the region at the heart of the levelling up agenda.</b> Martin Tugwell and Cllr Louise Gittins take up key leadership roles at the North's statutory Sub-national Transport Body to lead strategic investment plans. <a href="#">Here</a>