

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring October 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

3-6 October 2021: Conservative Party conference

22-24 October 2021: Green Party conference

27 October: Budget & Spending Review

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/10/21	Press release	HCLG Committee	Government should press ahead with devolution agenda, say MPs. The new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Michael Gove, should press ahead with further devolution in England and examine the case for devolving greater powers over services including health, housing, planning and education, says the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee in a report published today (Friday). Here

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/10/21	Article	Conservative Party/The Guardian	Levelling up isn't about north or south, or city or town. It's about restoring local pride. Comment piece by Neil O'Brien. Here
18/10/21	Written question	DLUHC	Regional Planning and Development - UIN 52506 Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will define levelling up. Neil O'Brien, Harborough (Con) : Levelling up is about empowering local leaders and communities; growing the private sector and boosting living standards, particularly where they are lower; spreading opportunity and improving public services, particularly where they are lacking; and restoring local pride. As the Prime Minister

			set out in his speech on the 15 July 2021, the forthcoming Levelling Up White Paper will set out further details. Here
25/10/21	Oral answers	DLUHC	Regeneration in Towns and Cities – Vol 702 Jerome Mayhew, Broadland (Con) : What steps his Department is taking to support regeneration in towns and cities. Kemi Badenoch, The Minister for Levelling Up Communities (Con) : The Department is investing billions in local growth funds—including the towns fund and the levelling-up fund, which I mentioned earlier—to deliver regeneration across the UK as we level up across all parts of the country. Our high streets strategy, published earlier this year, outlined our vision for supporting thriving places. We have an ambitious agenda for improving opportunity, living standards and public services, and for renewing pride for the whole of the UK. That will be set out in our upcoming levelling-up paper. More here
27/10/21	Press release	HM Treasury	Budget and Spending Review – October 2021: What you need to know. Measures announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak in the Budget and Spending Review. Here
28/10/21	Press release	BEIS	BEIS in the Spending Review 2021. A summary of policies from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that are included in the government's Spending Review. Here

Climate change – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
25/10/21	Written question	Defra	Air Pollution - UIN 56692 Daisy Cooper, St Albans (LD) : To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Government plans to reduce the UK limits on air pollution in line with those set out by the World Health Organisation. Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con) : Improving air quality is a priority for the government and we are committed to tackling a diversity of pollutants which harm human health and the environment. The UK has ambitious targets in place to reduce emissions of five damaging air pollutants by 2020 and 2030. Our landmark Environment Bill will improve air quality by establishing a duty to set a legally binding target to reduce fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). In addition,

			<p>through the wider environmental target framework, we propose a long-term population exposure reduction target for PM 2.5 . This dual target approach to reducing PM 2.5 is supported by expert groups the Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) and the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP).</p> <p>Government is committed to evidence-based policy making and we will consider the World Health Organization guideline level for PM 2.5 alongside independent expert advice and evidence and analysis considering a diversity of factors when setting these targets. We expect to publish a public consultation on proposed targets in early 2022 and these statutory targets to be laid in Parliament in October 2022. Here</p>
26/10/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 57366</p> <p>Daisy Cooper, St Albans (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to help ensure air pollution levels near (a) schools, (b) hospitals and (c) GP surgeries do not exceed the World Health Organisation's recommended limits.</p> <p>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): Air pollution is a particular threat to vulnerable groups, including the elderly, the very young and those with existing health conditions such as asthma. However, while targeted local action can be taken, this needs to form part of a wider programme of actions on air pollution. For example, we are continuing to drive forward the ambitious actions outlined in the Clean Air Strategy, such as phasing out the sale of house coal and small volumes of wet wood for domestic burning, which is a major source of PM 2.5; the pollutant known to have the most adverse health impacts.</p> <p>Our landmark Environment Bill will improve air quality by establishing a duty to set a new concentration target for PM2.5, which will act as a minimum standard across the country. In addition, through the wider environmental target framework, we propose a long-term population exposure reduction target for PM2.5. These targets will work together to reduce PM2.5 in areas with the highest levels and drive continuous improvement across the country.</p>

			<p>Government is committed to evidence-based policy making and we will consider the World Health Organization guideline level for PM 2.5 alongside independent expert advice and evidence and analysis considering a diversity of factors when setting these targets</p> <p>We have also committed in the Environment Bill to review the National Air Quality Strategy with a key objective of promoting and supporting greater local action to identify and address air pollution inequalities, targeting action at vulnerable groups and communities.</p> <p>Under the Local air Quality Management Framework, Local Authorities are required to review and assess local air quality and act where local air quality objectives are exceeded. Local authorities have a range of powers to take action to reduce pollution from road vehicles, such as introduce 20mph zones and enforcing anti-idling laws. Local authorities in England can install School Streets restricting vehicle access around schools using standard traffic signing. £338 million has been made available this year through active travel funding. This will enable LAs to deliver new safe cycling and walking routes in their areas, which could include the delivery of school streets. Defra 's annual Air Quality Grant scheme provides funding to local authorities to tackle local air pollution and reduce emissions affecting schools, businesses and residents. It has awarded nearly £70 million in funding to a variety of projects since it started in 1997. This year £9 million has been allocated to the grant scheme to support local authorities to improve local air quality. Here</p>
28/10/21	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Winter Air Quality – Vol 702 Kate Osamor, Edmonton (Lab): What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the impact of steps taken to improve winter air quality on the health of children and adults who are vulnerable to respiratory disease. Jo Churchill, The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: We know that air pollution is a particular threat to vulnerable groups. We continue to drive forward the ambitious actions in the clean air strategy, such as</p>

			phasing out the sale of house coal for domestic burning. The Environment Bill also makes a clear commitment to set targets for fine particulate matter, which is the pollutant of most concern for human health. We are working across Government, including with the Department of Health and Social Care, which has overall responsibility for respiratory diseases, to address actions on air pollution. More here

Climate change & net zero – Build back better/infrastructure

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
19/10/21	Written question	HoL/BEIS	<p>Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme - UIN HL2819</p> <p>Lord Berkeley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include (1) an equivalent to, or (2) a replacement for, the Renewable Heat Incentive for large-scale renewable heat generation in their Heat and Buildings strategy.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: Large scale renewable heat generation will be supported in a number of ways, including through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund, the Green Heat Network Fund and the Green Gas Support Scheme. Further information on each of the schemes can be found on the GOV.UK website. Here</p>
19/10/21	Press release	BEIS	<p>UK's path to net zero set out in landmark strategy. The Net Zero Strategy sets out how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Here</p>
19/10/21	Strategy	BEIS	<p>Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener. Here</p>
19/10/21	Strategy	BEIS	<p>Heat and Buildings Strategy: Here</p>
19/10/21	Debate	BEIS	<p>Net Zero Strategy and Heat and Buildings Strategy – Vol 10</p> <p>Greg Hands, (The Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy): With permission, Mr Speaker, I will make a statement on the net zero strategy and the heat and buildings strategy...The statement is all about future generations as well, because we know that we must act now on climate change. The activities of our economies, communities and societies are changing our environment. If we do not take action now, we will continue to see the worst effects of climate change. More here</p>

19/10/21	Press release	EAC	Embodied carbon and retrofitting policy under the microscope by MPs. The Environmental Audit Committee examines embodied carbon and the retrofitting and reuse of buildings with academics, industry professionals, the Chartered Institute of Building and the Green Alliance. Here
20/10/21	Statement & Debate	HoL	Net Zero Strategy and Heat and Buildings Strategy - Vol 815 "With permission, Mr Speaker, I will make a Statement on the net zero strategy and the heat and buildings strategy. The Statement is all about future generations as well, because we know that we must act now on climate change. The activities of our economies, communities and societies are changing our environment. If we do not take action now, we will continue to see the worst effects of climate change. More here
20/10/21	Oral evidence	EAC	Oral evidence: Sustainability of the built environment, HC 76. Here

Climate change & net zero - Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
18/10/21	Press release	BEIS	Plan to drive down the cost of clean heat. Plans to incentivise people to install low-carbon heating systems in a simple, fair and cheap way as they replace their old boilers over the coming decade. Here
			Housing: Carbon Emissions and Renewable Energy - UIN 59886 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to help ensure that new homes are (a) carbon neutral and (b) fuelled by renewable energy sources. Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): From 2025, the Future Homes Standard will make sure that new homes produce at least 75% lower CO2 emissions compared to those built to current standards. In the short term, this represents a considerable improvement in the energy efficiency standards for new homes. Homes built under the Future Homes Standard will be future proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency. Here

Climate change & net zero – Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Climate change & net zero – Transport

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
14/10/21	Written question	HoL/DfT	<p>Transport: Carbon Emissions - UIN HL2824</p> <p>Lord Berkeley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to decarbonise the rail network by 2035, (2) to shift 25 per cent of freight from road to rail by 2030, and (3) to end the sale of fossil fuel-powered ships and decarbonise existing ships by the mid-2030s.</p> <p>Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Our recently published 'Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain' committed to delivering a net zero rail network by 2050, with sustained carbon reductions in rail along the way, and stated our ambition to remove all diesel-only trains (passenger and freight) from the network by 2040.</p> <p>The Government continues to support the modal shift of freight from road to rail due to rail freight's better environmental performance and its contribution to alleviating congestion on Britain's roads. The Government committed to setting a growth target in its Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and in the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail, however there is no specific target for moving freight from road to rail by 2030. Further details about the rail freight growth target, including timings, will be confirmed in due course and Government will be working closely with industry partners to develop the target.</p> <p>The Government continues to incentivise modal shift through the Mode Shift Revenue Support scheme, a £20 million scheme in 2021/22, which supports the carriage of freight by rail and water on routes where road haulage has a financial advantage. Additionally, the Government invests significantly in the rail network to improve its capability and capacity for freight. Between 2014-2019, the Government invested over £235 million in the Strategic Freight Network and further infrastructure funding is being made</p>

			<p>available going forward through the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP).</p> <p>The Transport Decarbonisation Plan also sets out our commitment to consult on potential measures to phase out the sale of new, non-zero emission domestic vessels, building on the pathway set out in the 2019 Clean Maritime Plan. Internationally, the UK has played a key role in the development of the International Maritime Organization's strategy for climate change, and we will be pushing for a zero emissions international shipping industry by 2050 in future negotiations. Here</p>
20/10/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Carbon Emissions: Aviation - UIN 53995 Ben Lake, Ceredigion (PC): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the Jet Zero strategy's alignment with the UK's (a) Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and (b) sixth Carbon Budget.</p> <p>Robert Courts, Witney (Con): The approach set out in the Jet Zero Consultation, which commits the UK aviation sector to net zero by 2050 and sets out our proposals for how that will be achieved, is aligned to our economy wide and legally-binding net zero commitment. Our Nationally Determined Contribution and the Sixth Carbon Budget are both informed by the net zero commitment, and guidance from the Climate Change Committee. We have committed to include the UK's share of International Aviation and Shipping (IAS) emissions in the Sixth Carbon Budget. Emissions from IAS are not included in the scope of the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution, in line with international expectations and the guidance of the CCC. Here</p>
21/10/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Transport: Carbon Emissions - UIN 56199 Feryal Clark, Enfield North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the Treasury to help ensure that transport decarbonisation measures are adequately funded in the comprehensive spending review.</p> <p>Trudy Harrison, Copeland (Con): The Department for Transport is committed to decarbonising the UK's transport system. Our pathway to net zero was set out in our ambitious Transport Decarbonisation Plan earlier this year and reducing the</p>

			<p>environmental impacts of transport is one of our Departmental Priority Outcomes. Department for Transport ministers have had positive and ongoing engagement with their HM Treasury counterparts throughout the Spending Review process. Ministers across Government are committed to achieving net zero by 2050 and we will continue to progress towards this goal over this coming Spending Review period. The outcomes of Spending Review will be published at Autumn Budget on Wednesday 27. Here</p>
26/10/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Local authorities: Renewable Fuels - UIN 57037</p> <p>Andrew Bridgen, North West Leicestershire (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether his Department will offer support to local authorities replacing conventional diesel with HVO fuel to run their vehicle fleet.</p> <p>Trudy Harrison, Copeland (Con): The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) certificate trading scheme is successfully supporting a market for low carbon fuels in the UK, including biodiesel. Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) is a type of biodiesel. Those supplying HVO for use in road vehicles in the UK, and which meets sustainability criteria, are eligible for reward under the RTFO scheme.</p> <p>There is no funding programme specifically for local authorities switching to fuel their existing fleets with HVO, and there are no current plans to introduce such a programme. The primary support for the wider deployment of HVO is the RTFO scheme, which provides a competitive market for a broad range of low carbon fuels.</p> <p>Local authorities are well placed to determine how best to decarbonise their vehicle fleets. The Department is supporting this through a grant provided by the Energy Savings Trust. This provides tailored outreach advice to local authorities in support of the development and implementation of their own transport decarbonisation strategies, including advice on the decarbonisation of their own vehicle fleets. Later this year the Department will also publish a transport decarbonisation toolkit for local authorities, which will provide guidance to support</p>

			local areas to deliver more sustainable transport measures including decarbonising their own fleets. Here

Climate change & net zero – Misc.

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/10/21	Speech	BEIS	Secretary of State speech to the Energy UK conference. Here
13/10/21	Press release	EA	Adapt or die, says Environment Agency With less than three weeks to COP26, Environment Agency warns that adaptation – becoming resilient to the effects of climate change – is just as vital as mitigation. Here
15/10/21	Press release	Prime Minister's Office	Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan kickstarts green investment boom. More than £5.8 billion of foreign investment in green projects has been secured since the launch of the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan. Here
17/10/21	Report	LGA	Delivering Local Net Zero – how councils could go further, faster. Here
18/10/21	Written question	DLUHC	Local Government: Carbon Emissions - UIN 53284 Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he will take to ensure that all decisions made by local authorities are compatible with the Government's net zero emissions target. Eddie Hughes, Walsall North (Con): DLUHC is responsible for the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which clearly sets out that the Government expects the planning system to help mitigate and adapt to climate change and implement the move to a decarbonised future. The Framework expects Local Plans to take account of climate change over the longer term; local authorities should adopt proactive strategies to reduce carbon emissions and recognise the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008 As part of our current programme of planning reforms we intend to do a fuller review of the NPPF to make sure it contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation as fully as possible. Government departments have provided extensive support for local authorities to act on climate change, including over £1.2 billion in dedicated grants last year, and £12 billion is available to support large

			scale net zero and levelling up projects through the UK Infrastructure Bank. Not to mention extensive other sources of funding that have the flexibility to be used to support net zero, such as the £4.8 billion Levelling Up fund. Here
19/10/21	Ministerial statement	BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a written ministerial statement on Climate Change Update. Here
19/10/21	Press release	Prime Minister's Office	Prime Minister and Bill Gates launch £400m partnership to boost green investment. The strategic partnership with the Breakthrough Energy Catalyst will mobilise £200million of private sector funding over 10 years. Here
19/10/21	Press release	EAC	EAC to hold final session examining local government's abilities to meet net zero. In its final session examining the National Audit Office's report on Net Zero and Local Government in England, the Environmental Audit Committee will be quizzing ex-MP and former member of the EAC, Alan Simpson, and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Here
20/10/21	Press release	EA	New report: regulation helping protect against climate change. High rate of regulatory performance in England is helping fight climate change impacts, but more must be done to secure a healthy environment, says EA report. Here
20/10/21	Debate	HoC	Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy – Vol 701 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): I beg to move, that leave be given to bring in a Bill to place duties on the Secretary of State to decarbonise the United Kingdom economy and to reverse inequality; to establish a 10-year economic and public investment strategy in accordance with those duties which promote a community and employee-led transition from high-carbon to low and zero-carbon industry; to require the Government to report on their adherence to the strategy; to establish higher environmental standards for air, water and green spaces; to make provision to protect and restore natural habitats; and for connected purposes. More here
25/10/21	Written question	Defra	Carbon Emissions - UIN 56296 Philip Dunne, Ludlow (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has an emissions reductions plan. Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): On 19 October, the Government's Net Zero

			<p>Strategy was published, setting the UK on the path to deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The Net Zero Strategy sets out Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy and covers a wide range of actions across different sectors. The Natural Resources, Waste and Fluorinated-Gases (F-Gases) chapter covers Defra related sectors and their emission reductions including agriculture, peat and tree planting. Here</p>
25/10/21	Written question	BEIS	<p>Carbon Emissions: Costs - UIN 59798 Anne Marie Morris, Newton Abbot (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department made of the potential non-financial costs to society of achieving the Government's net zero emissions target.</p> <p>Greg Hands, Chelsea and Fulham (Con): The Department conducted cost-benefit analysis of our net zero ambition as part of the Impact Assessment for setting the sixth carbon budget. The net present value of meeting the sixth carbon budget and net zero target, compared to no further action, was estimated as a net benefit of £266 billion. Here</p>
28/10/21	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Climate Change: Economic Situation - UIN 59894 Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the long-term economic costs of future climate change ; and what steps he has taken to prepare for the effects of climate change on the UK economy.</p> <p>Helen Whately, Faversham and Mid Kent (Con): HM Treasury has published the Net Zero Review (NZR), which is an analytical report that uses existing data to explore the key issues and trade-offs as the UK decarbonises. This is against a backdrop of uncertainty on technology and costs, as well as changes to the economy over the next thirty years. It focuses on the potential exposure of households and businesses to the transition, and highlights factors to be taken into account in designing policy that will allocate costs over this time horizon.</p> <p>As highlighted in the Net Zero Review, the overall impact is uncertain and challenging to estimate. Existing estimates suggest that the impact on GDP by the end of the</p>

			<p>transition is likely to be relatively small, and dwarfed by the costs of global inaction. The economic impact will be uneven across the economy. The scale of the change for some businesses, sectors and regions is likely to be substantial. Ultimately, this will depend on policy decisions and how the economy responds.</p> <p>The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published the Net Zero Strategy, which sets out the Government's vision for the transition to a net zero economy and outlines illustrative paths to meet the UK's emissions targets. HM Treasury is already taking action, for example by issuing the world's first Sovereign Green Bond to fund public investment, establishing the UK Infrastructure Bank to support novel and emerging green technologies, and publishing the Roadmap to Sustainable Investing to put UK businesses in a better position to withstand climate-related risks and seize the opportunities presented by the transition to net zero. HM Treasury has also reviewed its governance, capabilities and processes to support this transition, as set out in the Net Zero Review. Here</p> <p>The Net Zero Review can be accessed here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-review-final-report</p> <p>The Net Zero Strategy can be accessed here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy</p>
29/10/21	Press release	HCLG Committee	Net Zero - Government will struggle to achieve 2050 target unless they engage with local councils on climate action. Here
29/10/21	Report	HCLG Committee	Local Government and the path to Net Zero: Report here
29/10/21	Oral evidence	HCLG Committee	The Public Accounts Select Committee has published uncorrected oral evidence for their inquiry: Achieving Net Zero: Follow up. Here

25 year Environment Bill/OEP

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
26/10/21	Written question	HoL/Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Public Consultation - UIN HL3026</p> <p>Baroness Parminter: To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) when they will publish their response to the consultation on the environmental principles draft policy statement, and (2) why their response to that consultation has been delayed.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We will publish the response to the consultation on the Environmental principles draft policy statement later in the year. We received 216 responses to the consultation and have been considering them carefully over the summer and alongside the passage of the Environment Bill. Here</p>

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
18/10/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Incinerators - UIN 53160</p> <p>Geraint Davies, Swansea West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on ensuring targets for waste incineration help progress on the (a) Government's net zero emissions target and (b) circular economy.</p> <p>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): There have been no recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues specifically on targets for waste incineration. However, powers being adopted via the Environment Bill will require the Government to set long-term, legally binding environmental targets, with at least one within the area of Resource Efficiency and Waste Reduction. My department is exploring how targets can help to reduce the amount of 'residual' waste we generate. Officials are currently gathering evidence to enable Ministerial decisions on the targets, which will be consulted on in the new year. Here</p>
18/10/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Street Cleaning - UIN 53243</p> <p>Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what data his Department holds on the frequency of road sweeping by local authorities in England.</p>

			<p><u>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con):</u> Defra does not hold data on the frequency or road sweeping by local authorities in England, or on the number of street litter bins maintained by local authorities. Local councils are responsible for keeping their public land clear of litter and refuse. It is up to councils to decide how best to meet this statutory duty. Statistics on waste managed by local authorities are available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results. <u>Here</u></p>
22/20/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Food: Waste - UIN 58932</p> <p><u>Dr Drew Hendry, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (SNP):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support the agricultural industry to minimise food waste.</p> <p><u>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con):</u> This is a devolved matter and the information provided therefore relates to England only. The Government funds the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to administer the Courtauld Commitment 2030 voluntary agreement, including the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap (FWRR), which aims to reduce food waste from farm to fork through collaboration with businesses.</p> <p>Included in the FWRR is a practical model for how farmers and growers can be supported to measure on-farm food surplus and waste and take action to reduce it. WRAP estimates that around 50 farm businesses have undertaken measurements to date, with most of those in the last two years. The aim is to provide support for another 30 farmers and growers. We are also supporting WRAP 's and the Institute of Grocery Distribution 's Whole Chain Food Waste Reduction Plans (WCP). A toolkit is available to help businesses across the supply chain work together to understand waste hotspots for a food product and to identify ways to reduce these. The Roadmap has a target of at least 50 active WCPs in place by 2022.</p> <p>WRAP has also supported farmer-led pilots to understand how food waste</p>

			<p>measurement and reduction can be best implemented in primary production as well as resources for farm advisers to deliver similar projects with their clients. Since 2017, Defra has provided around £12million of grants to the redistribution sector to increase the diversion of surplus food for human consumption from waste destinations. Some of these grants were used to harvest and collect surplus from farms, minimising food waste.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Government's Food Strategy White Paper will cover the entire food system from farm to fork, building on work already underway in the Agriculture Act, Fisheries Act, and Environment Bill as well as docking into wider Government priorities, including Net Zero, the 25 Year Environment Plan, and Build Back Greener. As part of this, Defra is exploring options to reduce carbon emissions from food production including food waste, as well as to incentivise land use change to sequester more carbon and restore nature, and preserve natural resources.</p> <p>Here</p>
25/20/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Food: Waste Disposal - 57034 Andrew Bridgen, North West Leicestershire (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what support his Department is providing to local authorities to implement food waste collections.</p> <p>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): The Environment Bill will require all local authorities in England to arrange for the collection of food waste for recycling. This must always be collected separately from residual waste and dry recyclable materials so that it can be recycled. On 7 May 2021 we published a second consultation on recycling consistency. This consultation closed on 4 July 2021 and sought views on the implementation of separate food waste collections, among other policies. The consultation included questions on the materials in scope of collection and delivery dates. We are currently analysing responses to the consultation and intend to publish our government response in due course.</p> <p>Given the additional costs involved in separate food waste collection, the Government will ensure that local</p>

			<p>authorities are resourced to meet any net new burdens costs arising from this policy. We will continue to engage with local authorities on the cost estimates that we provided in the impact assessment accompanying the second consultation, as well as the appropriate timing for funding to be provided to authorities, to enable sufficient lead-in time ahead of implementation. Here</p>
25/20/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste Disposal - UIN 56387 Dr Drew Hendry, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (SNP): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to (a) reduce household plastic waste and (b) prevent plastic waste from being shipped overseas.</p> <p>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): A) Our 25 Year Environment Plan set out the Government's ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042. In 2018, we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which sets out how we want to achieve this. For the most problematic plastics we are going faster - which is why we are working towards all plastic packaging being recyclable or reusable by 2025.</p> <p>Our Environment Bill will enable us to take forward a number of key proposals including Extended Producer Responsibility, a Deposit Return Scheme, greater consistency in the recycling system, better control of the export of plastic waste and powers to set new charges for single-use plastic items. We have already introduced measures to restrict the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds. We will consult shortly on banning a range of other single-use plastic items, including plates, cutlery and polystyrene cups. The single use carrier bag charge, which has led to a 95% reduction in their use at main supermarkets, has been doubled to 10p, and extended to all retailers. Going further still, from April 2022, plastic packaging without at least 30% recycled content will be taxed at £200/tonne. Taken together, these amount to one of the most comprehensive programmes of any major economy in tackling this issue.</p>

			<p>B) The government recognises the difficulties some importing countries have in dealing with plastic waste and that is why we have committed to banning the export of plastic waste to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); we plan to consult before the end of 2022 on options to deliver the ban. Here</p>
26/10/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Recycling - UIN 58496 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that there is better separation of recyclable materials at source to minimise the contamination of flexible plastic waste by food waste.</p> <p>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): In our second consultation on 'Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England' we consulted on proposals to require plastic films and flexible packaging be included in household and business recycling collections. We also asked for views on how plastic films should be collected to avoid contamination of other recyclables, contamination with food and to make sorting easier. The consultation closed on 4th July and we will publish our response in due course.</p> <p>Through consistent household collections and extended producer responsibility in the Environment Bill, alongside measures such as the plastic packaging tax, we will significantly support the market for all plastics recycling, including flexibles, giving businesses the confidence to invest in enhanced domestic capacity. In pursuit of this, the government, through the UK Research and Innovation Industrial Strategy Challenge, has also invested £20m into four plastics reprocessing facilities to develop new technologies in this area. Here</p>
26/10/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste Disposal - UIN 58497 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department is taking steps to increase the UK's domestic capacity for the disposal of flexible plastic waste.</p>

			<p>Jo Churchill, Bury St Edmunds (Con): In our second consultation on 'Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England ' we consulted on proposals to require plastic films and flexible packaging be included in household and business recycling collections. We also asked for views on how plastic films should be collected to avoid contamination of other recyclables, contamination with food and to make sorting easier. The consultation closed on 4th July and we will publish our response in due course.</p> <p>Through consistent household collections and extended producer responsibility in the Environment Bill, alongside measures such as the plastic packaging tax, we will significantly support the market for all plastics recycling, including flexibles, giving businesses the confidence to invest in enhanced domestic capacity. In pursuit of this, the government, through the UK Research and Innovation Industrial Strategy Challenge, has also invested £20m into four plastics reprocessing facilities to develop new technologies in this area. Here</p>

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