

Legislating on climate change: Learnings from the UK and Mexico

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Long-term target to 2050

What and how?

Reduce emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels

Covers the whole economy and all greenhouse gases

Outcomes

Long-term direction of travel

Defines the UK's contribution to solving climate change



Scientifically informed, long-term approach to policymaking

Carbon budgets

What and how?

Sequence of 5-year targets

Recommended by Committee on Climate Change (CCC)

Debated and legislated by Parliament

Set 12 years ahead

Outcomes

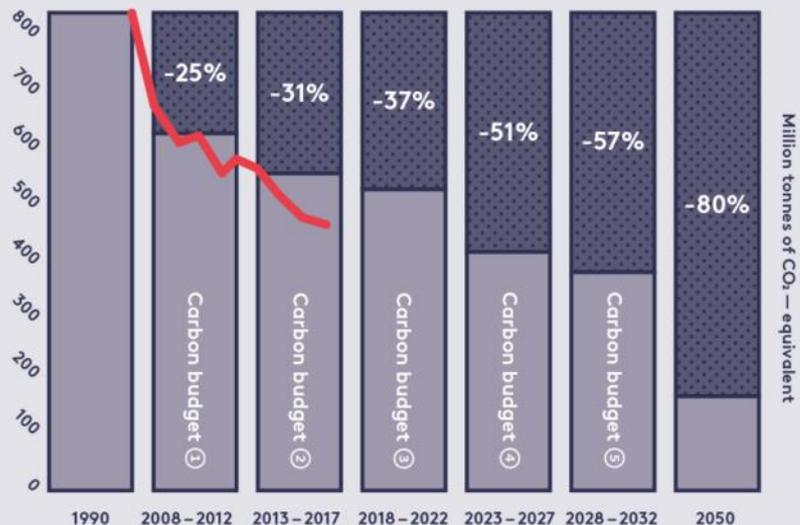
Basis for concrete policy

Long-term target translated into near-term actions

Flexibility built in

Progressive, ratcheted emissions cuts

Actual emissions



Rolling set of medium-term targets

The Committee on Climate Change: independent advisory body

What and how?

Experts and secretariat

Annual budget approx. £3.7m,
funded by government

Recommends carbon budgets

Modelling and scenario-planning

Advises on risks and opportunities
from climate change

Monitors progress on emissions
reduction and climate resilience

Outcomes

Independent, objective
analysis

Advice on carbon targets
generally followed

Long-term consistency in approach

Transparency and legitimacy

More informed decision-making

Used in Parliament to push for
greater ambition



Continual adaptation planning

What and how?

5-year cycles of adaptation programmes and risk assessments

Scrutinised by CCC

Outcomes

Introduced climate change risk into public and private sector decision-making

Prepares for the now unavoidable impacts



Year 1



Year 5



Year 10



Year 15



Year 20

Duties and powers to deliver

What and how?

Government is accountable to Parliament to deliver

Government obliged to produce plans to meet budgets

CCC provides annual progress reports to

Parliament
Judicial review if non-compliant

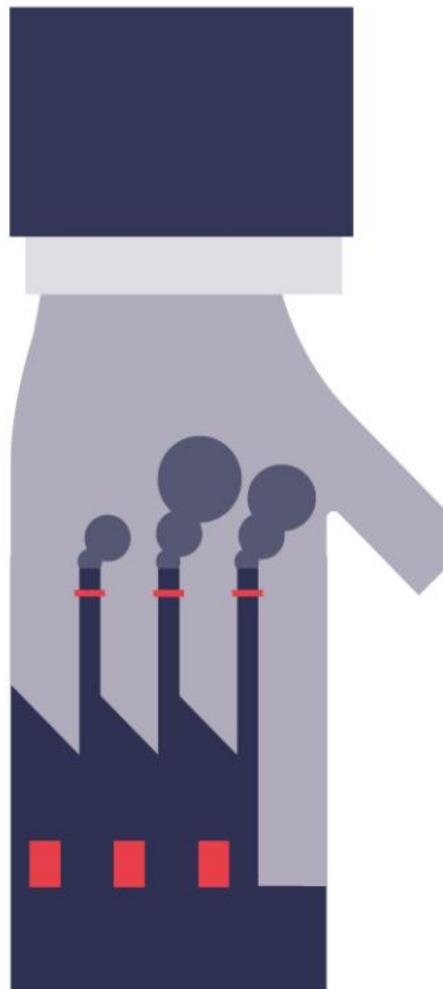
Outcomes

Assigns clear responsibilities

Holds government accountable

Enables public scrutiny

Provides basis for policy implementation



Differences made by the Act



1 A better political debate on climate change



2 The climate consensus has held

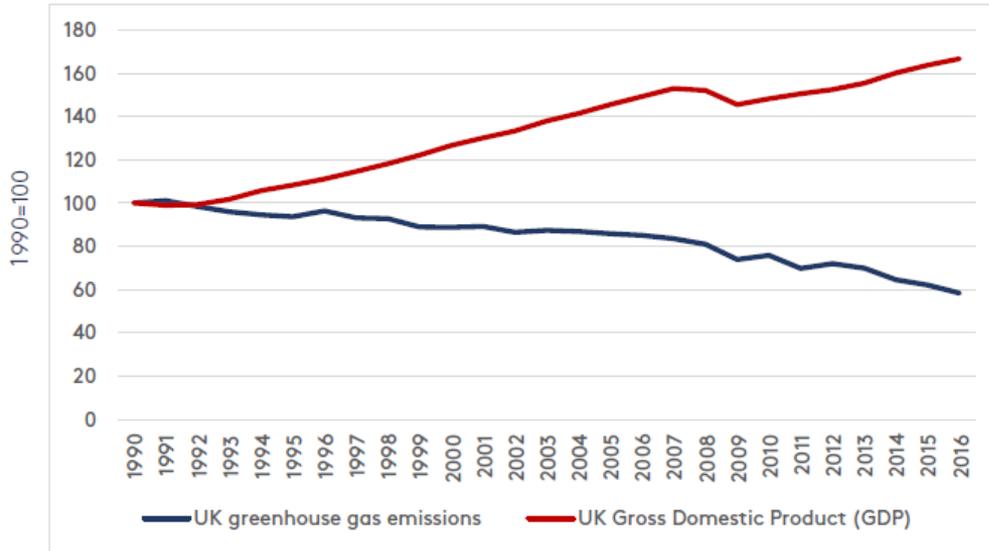


3 International leadership, inspiring others to act



4 Share of low-carbon power up from 20-45% by 2016

UK-wide greenhouse gas emissions and GDP



Note: Series indexed to start at 100 in 1990. In 2016 UK GDP was £1.9 tn and greenhouse gas emissions were 466 m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Source: CCC (2017a).



Emission reduction targets
to 2030 and 2050



Emission Peak and GDP
Intensity Targets



Independent Advisory
Body (C3)



Clean Energy
Targets

• Mexico's General Law On Climate Change



Transparency
Framework



Policy instruments



Climate Change
Fund



National Climate
Change System

Source: Averchenkova, Elcano
Royal Institute (Forthcoming).



Clear mandate



Government's accountability

- mandated to respond to input



Allocated predictable
funding

KEY FACTORS OF SUCCESS OF THE INDEPENDENT CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY BODIES



High level of technical
expertise



Independence from the
Government

- financial and administrative



Parliamentary oversight

Source: Averchenkova, Elcano
Royal Institute (Forthcoming).

Impacts of climate laws **and learnings on design** from UK and Mexico

Advances domestic efforts and strengthen international standing

Sets a long-term direction for climate policy in the face of future political change

Improves political awareness, quality of the political debate and political consensus

Guides low-carbon transition in the energy sector

Does not substitute for political leadership: sustained commitment to implementation

Long-term goals and intermediate steps to achieve them

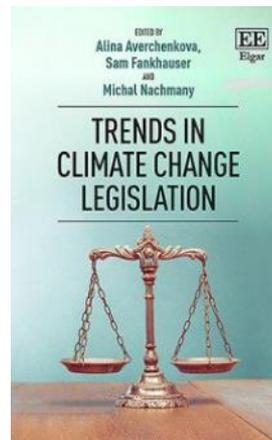
Financing strategy, link to budgeting process

Strong coordination mechanisms beyond environment

Clear institutional mandates; Parliamentary oversight

Independent policy evaluation and advisory body

For more information see:



The Governance and Legislation research programme:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/research-theme/governance-and-legislation/>