

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring September 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
 27 October: Budget & Spending Review

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
23/09/21	Oral evidence	PAC	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Challenges in implementing digital change. Here

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
15/09/21	Written question	DfT	<p>Public Transport: Finance - UIN 47033 Sarah Olney, Richmond Park (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the ICE discussion paper: public transport funding post-covid, published on 21 June 2021, what plans he has to transition future (a) investment and (b) spending on public transport post-covid-19.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): My department noted the ICE 's discussion paper with interest, in particular its observations that high quality public transport has a key role to play in reducing emissions, improving air quality and tacking congestion. Ensuring the long-term strength of the transport system post-Covid-19 is critical to our recovery.</p> <p>We have continued to support the transport sector through Covid-19,</p>

			<p>providing additional funding to keep critical services running. We recognise there is uncertainty about the future level of transport demand, including changes in peoples' behaviour post pandemic, and we continue to monitor these trends. However, we are confident that through our reforms and investment in areas such as buses, cycling and walking, as well as rail, we can increase public transport demand and provide people with better access to jobs and opportunities. This will boost the whole of the UK economy as we build back better from Covid-19. We will continue to engage experts from across the transport sector, such as the ICE, as we develop our approach. Here</p>
20/09/21	Oral evidence	Treasury select committee	<p>Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Jobs, growth, and productivity after coronavirus. Here</p>
24/09/21	Written answers	DLUHC	<p>Apprentices and Kickstart Scheme – UIN 50720</p> <p>Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to support local authorities to (a) invest in apprenticeships and (b) identify Kickstart placements in their maintenance departments in order to tackle potential skills shortages in those teams.</p> <p>Neil O'Brien, Harborough (Con): Officials in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities work closely with their counterparts in the Department for Education and Department for Work and Pensions, to collectively engage at regional and local levels with organisations such as mayoral combined authorities, local enterprise partnerships and local government on skills and labour market challenges. There are currently 637 high-quality employer-designed apprenticeship standards available, supporting employers, including local authorities, to develop the skilled workforces they need, which include maintenance skills. To support employers in creating new apprenticeship opportunities, a higher incentive payment of £3,000 for each new apprentice they recruit as a new employee between 1 April and 30 September 2021, has been introduced in England.</p> <p>In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions is working closely with over 100 local authorities across Great Britain to</p>

			deliver the Kickstart Scheme. Local authorities are acting as gateway organisations helping to source Kickstart jobs from local employers, with some local authorities also having Kickstart jobs within their own organisations. Here

Climate change – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/09/21	Press release	Defra	£9 million fund for local authorities to tackle air pollution. New round of Air Quality Grants for local authorities opens to benefit communities and reduce the impact of polluted air on people's health. Here
14/09/21	Written answers	COP26	<p>Air Pollution: Pollution Control - UIN 4441 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the President of COP26, whether tackling toxic air is part of his priorities for the COP26 summit.</p> <p>Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con): For COP26, countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 Green House Gas emissions reduction targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to accelerate the global phase out of coal, encourage renewables deployment, curtail deforestation, and speed up the switch to electric vehicles. By tackling the causes of climate change, we can also reduce the impacts of poor air quality on premature deaths throughout the world. As set out in its NDC the UK supports and is pushing for decarbonisation approaches that strive to improve air quality and minimise adverse impacts on human health. Our domestic policy pathway will be outlined in the UK's Net Zero Strategy which will be published ahead of COP26.</p> <p>Through our COP26 campaigns, we are seeking closer integration with public health objectives to facilitate a global green, healthy and sustainable recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic. Here</p>
28/09/21	Written questions	Defras	<p>Livestock: Air Pollution - UIN 51595 Hilary Benn, Leeds Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to reduce methane and CO2 emissions from animal agriculture in order to help meet the UK's net zero emissions target.</p>

			<p>Victoria Prentis, Banbury (Con): The Government is committed to take action to mitigate climate change and to adapt to its impact. We are introducing three schemes that reward environmental benefits: the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery. Together, these schemes are intended to provide a powerful vehicle for achieving the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and our commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, while supporting our rural economy). Through these schemes, farmers and other land managers may enter into agreements to be paid for delivering public goods, including adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.</p> <p>The Agricultural Transition Plan outlined how the government will support farmers and land managers by investing the money freed up from phasing out direct payments to pay for improvements to the environment, improve animal health and welfare and reduce carbon emissions. Defra takes a key role in supporting emissions reduction by providing scientific advice and evidence. This includes long term breeding work to develop more efficient, productive and resilient crops and livestock, as well as research on more efficient feeding strategies for livestock. Innovation in livestock feeds is resulting in promising technologies to reduce methane emissions. We have commissioned work to holistically evaluate suitability, scalability and net mitigation effects of methane-inhibiting livestock feed supplements in a UK context.</p> <p>More detail on the Government plans to help the UK meet its climate targets will be set out in the Net Zero strategy, to be published ahead of COP26. Here</p>
29/09/21	Written question	HoL/Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN HL2763</p> <p>Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to grant new regulatory powers to councils to combat non-transport related pollution.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Local authorities already have powers to require controls on many non-transport sources of pollution through environmental permitting. Through the Environment Bill we are strengthening the Local Air Quality</p>

			<p>Management framework to broaden the range of partners required to work with local authorities to tackle local sources of pollution, and making it easier for local authorities to use their powers to tackle domestic solid fuel burning. We will continue to work with local authorities to review existing powers and build capability.</p> <p>There are already emission standards that Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) must comply with before they are sold, and the Government recently agreed to increase the stringency of these standards. Defra also recently completed a research project aimed at improving the evidence base on emissions from NRMM, and we are currently considering next steps. We have introduced Medium Combustion Plant and Specified Generator controls which require new generators to meet nitrogen oxide emission limits from January 2019. Further, since October 2019, operators of existing diesel generators which may pose a risk to local air quality have been required to hold an environmental permit and comply with permit conditions to protect local air quality.</p> <p>New solid fuel boilers placed on the market after 31 December 2019 must comply with the requirements of Ecodesign Regulation (EU) 2015/1189 and new regulations will also come into force in 2022 which mean that all new stoves sold in England will need to meet agreed, stringent emission standards. This will raise the minimum standard of new appliances across the country. As outlined in our Clean Air Strategy we will also consider the case for tighter emissions standards for medium combustion plants to those already introduced and to consider how to tackle emissions from smaller plants which do not fall within the scope of these regulations or eco-design regulations. Here</p>

Climate change & net zero – Build back better/infrastructure

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
31/08/21	Press release	Cabinet Office	Geospatial Commission launches pilots to improve how data about land is used in the UK. Three pilots in Devon, West Midlands and Northern Ireland will test how to identify and improve key data that helps inform decisions on whether land across the UK is used for housing, infrastructure or net zero. Here
07/09/21	Consultation outcome	BEIS	The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a consultation outcome on the Green Heat Network Fund: proposals for the scheme design. Here
07/09/21	Oral answers	HM Treasury	Net Zero Emissions and Green Investment – Vol 700 Bambos Charalambous, Enfield, Southgate (Lab): What fiscal steps he is taking to help achieve the Government's net zero emissions target. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Kemi Badenoch (Con): The Prime Minister's 10-point plan demonstrates our commitment to net zero. It sets out £12 billion of new Government investment in green industries. This will create and support up to 250,000 highly skilled green jobs in the UK. In addition to this £12 billion, our plan will attract up to three times as much private investment by providing regulatory certainty and robust green finance frameworks. More here
13/09/21	Debate	HoL	Levelling-up Agenda in the North - Vol 700 Ian Lavery, Wansbeck (Lab): It is a pleasure to examine in this House a phrase that so many of us have heard over the past year. However, perhaps little real thought has been given as to what it actually means. "Levelling up" is the latest catchphrase, the latest rhetorical device, to emanate from the Government Back and Front Benches, but what does it actually mean and, perhaps more importantly, what should it mean? After last week's debacle of national insurance rises and universal credit cuts, many people are questioning whether the Government are serious about helping areas that they see as having been left behind. The truth is that that has never been part of the levelling-up agenda. Levelling up, as the Government see it, is simply to pour steel and concrete into shiny

			infrastructure projects in communities in the north and in the midlands, but there is no plan to tackle the grotesque inequalities that have been allowed to develop over decades in our country. More here
15/09/21	Debate	HoC	Levelling-up Agenda – Vol 700 Dan Jarvis, Barnsley Central (Lab) : I beg to move, that this House has considered the Government's Levelling-up agenda...I declare an interest: I am a metro Mayor. I have always supported the Prime Minister 's intention to level up the country, but it is outrageous that the UK has the worst regional inequality of any comparable developed nation. The gap is stark, from life expectancy to income, from unemployment to education, from productivity to health, and covid is making it worse. That is not a small thing. It is an injustice—a stain on our country—and tackling it should be a matter of raging and persistent urgency, not some optional extra in the national political agenda. I continue to want to work with the Government to do that, but as the Minister knows well, it is not words that count but action. Here

Climate change & net zero - Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/09/21	Press release	NAO	Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme. The Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme was delivered to an over-ambitious timetable and was not executed to an acceptable standard, significantly limiting its impact on job creation and carbon reduction. Here
09/09/21	Written answers	BEIS	Heating: Housing - UIN 41813 Jonathan Edwards, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Ind) : To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of using biofuel heating oil to decarbonise off gas grid dwellings; and if he will make a statement. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con) : As set out in the 2020 Energy White Paper, the Department will consult later this year on new regulations to phase out fossil fuel heating in off-grid homes, businesses, and public buildings. We recognise that liquid biofuels may play a role in future off-gas-grid decarbonisation, particularly for properties that are not suitable for a heat pump. However, further evidence is needed to consider what role

			these biofuels could play. The Department will publish a new Biomass Strategy in 2022, which will review the amount of sustainable biomass available to the UK, including liquid biofuels, and how this could be best used across the economy to achieve our net zero target. It will also assess the UK's current biomass sustainability standards, which are some of the most stringent in the world, to see where and how we can improve them even further. Here
16/09/21	Press release	DfT	Government commissions action to improve rail air quality. Review commissioned to ensure air quality standards and regulations are fit for purpose on the rail network. Here

Climate change & net zero – Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/09/21	Oral answers	HoL/MHCLG	<p>Net-Zero Emissions: Planning and Building Regulations - Vol 814</p> <p>Lord Whitty: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to align England 's planning system and building regulations with (1) the net zero emissions target, and (2) other environmental goals.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh (The Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government):</p> <p>Through our current programme of planning reform, we will ensure that the planning system continues to play an effective role in supporting progress towards net-zero emissions and delivering meaningful change for our environment. In addition, the future homes standard will ensure that new homes built from 2025 will produce at least 75% less carbon emissions than homes delivered under current regulations. More here</p>

Climate change & net zero – Transport

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/09/21	Press release	Dft	Fuelling a greener future – E10 petrol available at pumps from today. Here
06/09/21	Written answers	Dft	<p>Railways: Electrification - UIN 38386 Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to accelerate a rolling programme of electrification, especially on the busiest rail routes as part of the Transport Decarbonisation Plan.</p> <p>Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con): In Decarbonising Transport: a Better, Cleaner Britain, we've committed to delivering an 'ambitious, sustainable, and cost-effective programme of electrification, guided by the Network Rail-led Traction Decarbonisation Network Strategy', to help us deliver a net zero railway by 2050. To ensure this programme is deliverable, affordable, and achieves value for money, we will continue to develop new schemes individually and carefully through the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline process in the usual way. Here</p>
06/09/21	Written answers	Dft	<p>Railway Stations: Bicycles - UIN 41348 Charlotte Nichols, Warrington North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will make it his policy to ensure that bicycle storage facilities are installed at every railway station in the UK.</p> <p>Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con): We are steadily increasing cycle storage at stations, including at city-centre termini, and also investing in safe cycle routes to stations. We plan to increase space on existing trains wherever practically possible and make it easier to reserve bike spaces online. Since 2010, the Department has invested £40 million in the Cycle Rail programme, creating around 30,000 new and improved cycle parking spaces and other facilities to make it more convenient to cycle to railway stations. Here</p>
06/09/21	Written answers	Dft	<p>Transport: Carbon Emissions UIN 38387 Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on ensuring that the Transport Decarbonisation Plan is (a) fully funded and (b) delivered in full.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): The Secretary of State for Transport engaged with The Chancellor of the Exchequer</p>

			throughout the development of the Transport Decarbonisation Plan. Discussions on future funding will take place as part of the Spending Review process. Here
06/09/21	Written answers	Dft	Railways: Carbon Emissions - UIN 38388 Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how he plans to remove all diesel-only trains on the rail network by 2040 as part of the Transport Decarbonisation Plan. Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con): To meet our net zero commitment, and our ambition to remove diesel trains by 2040, as set out in the Decarbonising Transport: a Better, Cleaner Britain, we will continue to electrify more of the network, building on the almost 700 track miles of electrification that we have delivered in England and Wales in the last three years, and deploy hydrogen and battery trains on some lines, where they make operational and economic sense. Here
07/09/21	Press release	Dft	The Department for Transport has published a written ministerial statement on Draft Legislation: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2021: Here
09/09/21	Written statement	Dft	Transport Secretary encourages UK to switch to electric vehicles. A new government-backed app will help drivers to see which electric vehicles best suit their lifestyle. Here
09/09/21	Written answers	Dft	Transport: Environment Protection - UIN 38322 Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of increasing funding for sustainable forms of transport to encourage more polluting vehicles to be removed from the roads. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): Our recently published Transport Decarbonisation Plan set out the actions we will take to decarbonise private and commercial road vehicles, as well as increasing the share of trips taken by public transport, cycling and walking. This includes a £2 billion package of funding over five years for cycling and walking, £3 billion of transformative funding to level up bus services across England, tens of billions of pounds in enhancements and renewals of the rail network, and a £2.8 billion package of measures to support our ambitious phase out dates for the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans. More sustainable

			<p>journeys will deliver carbon reductions, as well as air quality, noise and congestion, which will be complemented by significant improvements in public health and wellbeing. Here</p>
10/09/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation: Hydrogen - UIN 38487 Alexander Stafford, Rother Valley (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on reforms to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation Order to support an increase in green hydrogen production.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Department is in regular contact with the Department for Transport (DfT) on these issues. DfT recently consulted on changes to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), including the use of power purchase agreements (PPAs) and eligibility of hydrogen used in maritime, rail and non-road vehicle, which will allow a broader range of electrolytic hydrogen producers to be eligible for support. BEIS officials are working with those in the DfT on how the RTFO and our proposed hydrogen business model, currently out for consultation, can be complimentary in promoting hydrogen production in line with our stated ambitions. Here</p>
15/09/21	Oral evidence	Transport Select Committee	<p>Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Decarbonising transport - with Rachel Maclean, Minister for Transport Decarbonisation and Future of Transport and Richard Bruce, director of environment and future mobility in the DfT. Here</p>
21/09/21	Debate	HoC	<p>Decarbonising Aviation – Vol 701 Fleur Anderson, Putney (Lab): I beg to move, that this House has considered decarbonising aviation...If we are to achieve our net zero ambition and turn the tide in the fight against climate change, we need to fight on many fronts. Aviation is a front we simply cannot retreat from. I am sure the Minister is ready with a list of the ways in which sustainable aviation fuel is going to save the aviation industry, but I hope to hear more than that: about how we can incentivise alternative ways to travel, or not travel, and a new commitment to look again at Heathrow expansion, as it is not compatible with the decarbonisation strategy published in July. Sustainable aviation fuel alone will not</p>

			mean that we can head off into a new era of guilt-free flying. We must also have a reduction in flights and an associated increase in public transport, if we are to achieve net zero at the necessary speed. More here
22/09/21	Oral evidence	Transport Select Committee	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Work of the Secretary of State for Transport. Here

Climate change & net zero – Misc.

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/09/21	Govt. response	PASC	Achieving government's long-term environmental goals: Treasury minutes: Government response to the Committee of Public Accounts on the Fortieth report from Session 2019-21. Here
07/09/21	Evidence session	Industry & Regulators Committee	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Ofgem and net zero. Expert advisers give evidence on costs of net zero. Here
08/09/21	Evidence session	EAC	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Mapping the path to net zero (including Chair of ADEPT's Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Carolyn McKenzie) Here
09/09/21	Press release	BEIS Committee	Climate Change – Government must listen to the public, says Business Committee Chair. The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Committee has today published the Government's response to the BEIS Committee's Climate Assembly UK: where are we now? report (which was published on 8th July 2021). Here
10/09/21	Written answers	BEIS	Carbon Emissions - UIN 41370 Paula Barker, Liverpool, Wavertree (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment his Department has made of the ability of the UK to achieve net zero by 2050; and whether the UK is currently on track to meet that target. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): Over the last three decades, the UK has achieved record clean growth and has met its world-leading climate change commitments. Between 1990 and 2019, our economy has grown by 78% while our emissions have decreased by 44%, this is the fastest reduction in the G7. The UK over-achieved against the first (2008-12) and second (2013-17) carbon budgets, and the latest projections show that we are on track to meet the third (2018-22). We recognise the need for further action to

			<p>meet the fourth (2023-27) and fifth (2028-32) carbon budgets. Our sector decarbonisation strategies, and wider plans to deliver a green economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, will contain further proposals to support delivery of carbon budgets 4 and 5.</p> <p>We have already published the Energy White Paper, Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, Transport Decarbonisation Plan and Hydrogen Strategy, and will publish the Heat and Building Strategy in due course. We will also publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy. This will raise ambition as we outline our path to meet net zero by 2050, our Carbon Budgets and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Here</p>
10/09/21	Press release	BEIS Committee	<p>Renewable Energy: Finance - 38305 Alan Brown, Kilmarnock and Loudoun (SNP): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of (a) the potential merits of a larger number of Power Purchase Agreements in the UK electricity market and (b) the effect of those agreements on (i) Government subsidies provided to renewable energy generators through the Contract for Difference scheme and (ii) electricity cost for consumers; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Government recognises that achieving our 2050 net zero target will require increased deployment across a range of renewable technologies. The UK's main support mechanism is the Contracts for Difference Scheme (CfD), which has been hugely successful at bringing forward large-scale renewable generation at low costs to the consumer. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) can improve the financial viability of renewable projects built without Government support. PPAs of this nature do not add to consumer levy costs, have the potential to create additional renewable generation capacity and can reduce overall demands on the grid if meeting the needs of large energy users. All routes to deploy cost effective low carbon generation are welcome and given our highly ambitious carbon budget</p>

			and net zero targets, we anticipate that PPAs will be an important part of the landscape to complement Government mechanisms such as the CfD. Here
13/09/21	Press release	BEIS	Biggest ever renewable energy support scheme backed by additional £265 million. Details of how the UK will get more electricity from renewable sources will be published today, as the Government announces the biggest-ever round of its flagship renewable energy scheme. Here
13/09/21	Written answers	Defra	Carbon Emissions - UIN 45282 Sarah Owen, Luton North (Con) : To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of Climate Assembly UK's report entitled <i>The path to net zero</i> . Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con) : The Government welcomed and thanked the Climate Assembly UK for their report. The Government has been working closely with the Climate Assembly UK since it was first commissioned. The Climate Assembly UK's recommendations demonstrate strong public support for the Government's intention to deliver net zero and build back greener. Initiatives like the Climate Assembly UK play an important role in helping develop policies that are achievable and fair. The Government is looking closely at the Climate Assembly UK report's findings and departments will consider them in plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050. The Government will publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26, setting out the vision and policies to reach net zero. This will address many of the themes set out in the Climate Assembly UK report, including those where Defra is responsible. Here
13/09/21	Written answers	BEIS	Carbon Emissions: Taxation - UIN 44486 Virginia Crosbie, Ynys Môn (Con) : To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to introduce carbon pricing to encourage clean hydrogen production from nuclear energy and renewable energy sources. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con) : The UK has an ambitious carbon pricing mechanism through our new UK Emissions Trading Scheme, launched at the start of this year to increase our carbon pricing ambition over the EU scheme it replaces. The UK ETS will be the world's first net zero carbon cap

			<p>and trade market, and a crucial step towards achieving the UK's target for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. We have committed to explore expanding the UK ETS to other sectors.</p> <p>We are also consulting on a business model to provide revenue support to low carbon hydrogen production plants in order to unlock private investment in hydrogen projects. This will be complemented by the £240m Net-Zero Hydrogen Fund (NZHF), aimed at supporting multiple low carbon production routes that can realistically deploy in the 2020s to contribute to our 5GW ambition. As described in our recent Hydrogen Strategy, electrolysis using low carbon power, renewable or nuclear, will have an important role as we scale up UK hydrogen production. Here</p>
14/09/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Carbon Emissions: Costs - Vol 45954 Virginia Crosbie, Ynys Môn (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will publish the (a) supporting data and (b) costs for each of the decarbonising policies being proposed by the Government to achieve net zero by 2050; and what estimate he has made of the cost of achieving net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): There is inherent uncertainty in any cost estimate for the thirty-year transition to net zero, but it is clear the cost of inaction is much higher than the cost of action on climate change. The Stern Review estimated the impacts of unmitigated climate change at equivalent to 5-20% of global GDP. Ahead of COP26, the Government has committed to publish a Net Zero Strategy, setting out the Government's vision for the transition to a net zero economy and outlining our path to meet the UK's emissions targets. HM Treasury are also conducting a review on the costs of reaching net zero, to inform the Government's approach to achieving a transition in a way that works for households, businesses and public finances, and maximises growth opportunities. Here</p>
15/09/21	Press release	CCC	<p>It's time to turn the tide on UK adaptation action. The recent assessment report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has once again highlighted the stark reality of climate change</p>

			unfolding across the globe due to human activity. Here
16/09/21	Oral evidence	HCLG committee	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Local government and the path to net zero. Meeting with Lord Debden (Chair CCC). Here
16/09/21	Written questions	BEIS	Renewable Energy: Carbon Emissions - UIN 48335 Sarah Jones, Croydon Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what his Department's policy is on changing market rules to enable community energy groups to supply renewable energy on a local basis; and what steps his Department is taking to support local renewable electricity generation as a way of meeting the UK's Carbon Budget. Greg Hands, Chelsea and Fulham (Con): The current Ofgem regulatory regime allows for a company to supply a specified geographic area, and small scale electricity operations may be able to operate without being regulated by Ofgem. We are supporting community energy through the Rural Community Energy Fund and there are already mechanisms in the market to allow local supply. We will work with Ofgem to ensure that local communities can play their role in delivering Net Zero and a Green Recovery. Here
16/09/21	Debate	HoL	Net-zero Carbon Emissions: Behaviour Change – Vol 814 Baroness Blackstone: That this House takes note of the role of behaviour change in helping the United Kingdom to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, as set out in the report by the Climate Change Committee Reducing emissions: 2021 Progress Report to Parliament, published on 26 June; and of the case for a public engagement strategy to facilitate this. My Lords, I applaud the Government's commitment to net-zero carbon by 2050 and appreciate that they are working to try to achieve a successful outcome to COP 26 in November. However, I am not confident that they have done enough yet to engage the public in order to facilitate the behaviour change necessary to reduce emissions. I want to set out the case for doing so, following the valuable report to Parliament of the Climate Change Committee at the end of June. More here

20/09/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Climate Change - UIN 50123 Sarah Olney, Richmond Park (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to support those communities most affected by climate change in the UK.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Climate change is already with us, and further changes are expected in the coming decades, despite ambitious commitments from the UK and the global community to cut carbon emissions. Building the resilience of our society, economy and environment to the impacts of climate change is therefore a priority for Government.</p> <p>Adaptation is a challenge for the whole of society, and is fundamentally place-based. Local authorities and communities have a critical role to play in developing community resilience. The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) in conjunction with Defra's Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, has published adaptation guidance for all local authorities. This good practice guide outlines practical steps for local authorities to enhance local resilience. ADEPT has also published its blueprint to accelerating resilience to climate change risks and green recovery at the local level. In addition, the Cabinet Office provides Local Resilience Forums with the National Security Risk Assessment and Local Risk Management Guidance to support their work to develop effective local resilience plans and fulfil their statutory duty to conduct local risk assessments.</p> <p>Defra has made significant progress to protect communities from future flooding and coastal erosion. Last year, the Government published its long-term Policy Statement which sets out our ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk. The Policy Statement includes five policies and over 40 supporting actions which will accelerate progress to better protect and better prepare the country against flooding and coastal erosion in the face of more frequent extreme weather as a result of climate change.</p>
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			<p>The Government is making record investment in flood and coastal defences. We have doubled the amount invested in the flood and coastal defence programme in England to £5.2 billion over the next 6 years. This will fund around 2,000 new defence schemes to better protect 336,000 properties. At the March 2020 Budget, the Government announced a £200 million 'place-based resilience programme', which will run for 6 years from 2021. This will help to inform future approaches to prepare communities for flooding and coastal erosion across the country. Funding will help around 25 local areas to take forward wider innovative actions that improve their resilience to flooding and coastal erosion including natural flood management, property flood resilience and community engagement.</p> <p>The Government published its latest National Adaptation Programme in 2018, and will publish the next one in 2023, building on this year's advice and evidence from the independent Climate Change Committee. As well as the Defra policies I have mentioned, the Government's programme contains actions from all relevant Government departments and sectors of the economy. For example, MHCLG's Future Buildings Standard consultation recently proposed a new regulation to prevent the health risks of overheating in new buildings. And DHSC is establishing a climate resilience working group to drive adaptation and health protection actions across the health sector.</p> <p>Here</p>
21/09/21	Oral evidence	BEIS committee	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Net Zero Governance. Here
22/09/21	Oral evidence	EAC	Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Mapping the path to net zero. Here
23/09/21	Written question	Defra	<p>Climate Change - UIN 51801</p> <p>Sarah Olney, Richmond Park (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to support communities worst hit by the impacts of climate change such as flooding and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Climate change is already with us, and further changes are expected in the coming decades, despite ambitious commitments from the UK and the global</p>

			<p>community to cut carbon emissions. Building the resilience of our society, economy and environment to the impacts of climate change is therefore a priority for government, on land and at sea.</p> <p>Between 2015 and 2021 government invested £2.6 billion to better protect 314,000 homes from flooding. In July 2020, Defra published its floods Policy Statement, setting out the Government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk. Starting from 2021, the Government will invest £5.2 billion in a six-year capital investment programme for flood and coastal erosion risk management to build over 2,000 new flood defences. This investment will better protect 336,000 properties, including 290,000 homes, from flooding and coastal erosion by 2027.</p> <p>In addition, up to £170 million will be spent to accelerate work on 22 shovel-ready flood defence schemes that will begin construction before the end of 2021/2022, which will provide an immediate boost to jobs supporting local economies as communities recover from the impact of coronavirus. An additional £200 million will be invested in the Innovative Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. This will help over 25 local areas over six years to take forward wider innovative actions that improve their resilience to flooding and coastal erosion.</p> <p>In England, we are establishing a Nature Recovery Network. As part of the Network, we are taking steps to bring 75% of protected sites by area into favourable condition, and to create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites. Restoring and expanding habitats is good for wildlife, but nature recovery also provides wider environmental benefits, from clean air to recreation to tackling climate change. Such restoration will be hugely beneficial in helping to support the resilience of ecosystems themselves to climate change. For example, improving the condition and diversity within, and connectivity between, our wildlife habitats will help species survive in their existing locations, and allow them to</p>
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			<p>move towards more suitable climates where necessary.</p> <p>The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT), has recently worked with Defra's Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, to publish adaptation guidance for local authorities. This good practice guide outlines practical steps for local authorities to enhance local resilience. ADEPT has also published its blueprint to accelerating resilience to climate change risks and green recovery at the local level. The UK is at the forefront of marine protection with 372 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) protecting 38% of UK waters. We have built a comprehensive network of MPAs and are focusing on making sure they are protected properly.</p> <p>In June the Government published its response to the Benyon Review into Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMA). The government will designate a number of sites in 2022. JNCC and Natural England, along with Cefas, have developed and published ecological criteria based on the principles outlined in the Benyon Review to start selecting potential HPMA locations. A number of estuarine and coastal habitat restoration initiatives to benefit people and nature are underway, including the Environment Agency's Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef initiative. Natural England is also leading the EU-funded LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project, which aims to restore seagrass and maerl habitat in five Special Areas of Conservation.</p> <p>Marine nature-based solutions, including the protection and restoration of blue carbon habitats, will contribute towards achieving the government's vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas and our climate change objectives. The UK Marine Strategy provides the framework for monitoring, assessing and taking measures to achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status in our seas. Here</p>
24/09/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Small Businesses: Carbon Emissions - UIN 50021</p> <p>Jim Shannon, Strangford (DUP): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent steps he has taken to support small businesses to</p>

			<p>contribute to the Government's net zero target.</p> <p><u>Greg Hands, Chelsea and Fulham (Con):</u> Ahead of the UN climate change conference (COP26), the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has launched the Together for Our Planet (TFOP) Business Climate Leaders campaign, aimed at encouraging as many UK small businesses as possible to join the 'Race to Zero' – a global effort to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we all generate to zero by 2050. Small businesses join the Race to Zero via the SME Climate Commitment. Upon making the SME Climate Commitment, UK small businesses gain access to a Together For Our Planet digital toolkit so they can display to customers they are taking action as part of a UN - and Government-backed campaign. Here</p>
30/09/21	Press release	Cabinet Office	<p>Companies bidding for major government contracts face green rules. New greener rules for companies bidding for major government contracts come into force today. Here</p>

25 year Environment Bill/OEP

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/09/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Climate Change - UIN HL2370 <u>The Marquess of Lothian:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee in its report Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk, published on 16 June, which highlighted a growing gap between the level of climate change risk the UK faces and the level of adaptation underway; and what steps they are taking (1) to increase UK biodiversity, and (2) to ensure the restoration and protection of wildlife habitats.</p> <p><u>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:</u> The Climate Change Committee's (CCC) Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk presented a detailed and up to date insight into the growing risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. It will help inform greater ambition and action on enhancing resilience and inform the third Climate Change Risk Assessment Government Report, which we will lay in Parliament in January 2022. This</p>

			<p>report will state our position relative to the CCC 's evidence and advice and set out a forward look for adaptation in the UK, including to the third National Adaptation Programme. We welcome the evidence the CCC has presented and recognise the need to go further in preparing for the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Domestic biodiversity policy is devolved in the UK, and this response refers to action in England. Our 25 Year Environment Plan marked a step-change in ambition for biodiversity and the natural environment and we are already taking action to fulfil this ambition. We have committed to protect 30% of our land and sea by 2030, and will be extending protections on land and piloting Highly Protected Marine Areas in English waters to boost biodiversity recovery. Since 2010 we have already established over 100 new marine protected sites. We have also brought forward the first Environment Bill in over 20 years with ambitious measures to address the biggest environmental priorities of our age, including restoring and enhancing nature. The Bill requires a new, historic legally binding target to be set to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030. This will help us to deliver our commitment to leave the environment in a better state for future generations.</p> <p>Furthermore, we are investing in nature restoration and in nature-based solutions to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change and to support new green jobs, for example through our £640 million Nature for Climate and £80 million Green Recovery Challenge funds. Here</p>
06/09/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Climate Change and Ecology - UIN 36757 Luke Pollard, Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 21 June 2021 to Question 14214 on Climate Change and Ecology, whether the Government plans to declare a climate and ecological emergency.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): This Government was the first of any major economy to set a net zero target in law, building on the legal framework to prevent and adapt to the effects of climate change in the Climate Change Act. The</p>

			Environment Bill now requires a new, historic legally binding target to be set to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030. Here
07/09/21	Written statement	Defra	The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a written ministerial statement on Environment Bill – Establishment of the Office for Environmental Protection: Here
07/09/21	Oral answers	HoL/BEIS	Climate Change - Vol 814 Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, published on 9 August. Lord Callanan (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy): The Government are deeply concerned about the findings of the IPCC's latest report, which shows that there is no doubt that human activity has changed the climate. The report is a further warning of the need for urgent global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade and reach net zero around 2050. This reinforces the importance of achieving the Government's COP 26 objectives and the necessity of a UK transition to net zero. More here
13/09/21	Written answers	Defra	Office for Environmental Protection - UIN 42120 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the initial work of the Interim Office for Environmental Protection. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): I am satisfied that the Interim Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) is fulfilling its interim functions and undertaking all necessary preparations to establish the OEP as a body corporate, ready to meet its objectives by the time the Environment Bill provisions relevant to the OEP are commenced. Here
21/09/21	Debate	HoC/BEIS	Net Zero Emissions by 2050 - Vol 701 Robert Lagan, High Peak (Con): What steps his Department is taking to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Hands: Ahead of COP26, we will publish a net zero strategy. This will set out

			our vision for transitioning to a net zero economy and outline our path to meet net zero by 2050. Ahead of this, we have already published important sector strategies and made major green investments in key technologies, including a £240 million net zero hydrogen fund and a £1 billion fund for carbon capture. More here
22/09/21	Press release	BEIS	£220 million to help big-emitting industries reduce fossil fuel use. Businesses in some of the UK's most polluting industries will be able to bid for a share of £220 million to help cut their carbon emissions. Here

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
30/08/21	Press release	Defra	Chewing Gum Task Force to clean up our high streets. Gum firms to invest up to £10 million over next five years to significantly reduce gum litter. Here
08/09/21	Debate	HoC	Plastic Waste – Vol 700 Elliot Colburn, Carshalton and Wallington (Con): I beg to move, that this House has considered reducing plastic waste...Reducing plastic waste is a mammoth topic to tackle. I fear our short time today will allow us only to scratch the surface. I would like to begin by outlining why this is such an important issue to discuss. It is a topic often raised with me by residents of Carshalton and Wallington. I am sure colleagues here today will share similar experiences from their constituencies. I had the pleasure of visiting Culvers House primary school in Hackbridge recently after pupils had written to me about plastic pollution and why they were so passionate about it. They thought more could and should be done. I am very grateful for their insight. More here
09/09/21	Written answers	Defra	Fly-tipping: Rural Areas - UIN 41164 Bim Afolami, Hitchin and Harpenden (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to (a) tackle the increase in fly-tipping in rural communities and (b) prosecute the perpetrators of fly-tipping. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government is committed to tackling fly-tipping wherever it takes place, including in rural communities. Defra chairs the

			<p>National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group (NFTPG), through which we work with a wide range of interested parties such as the National Farmers Union, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Countryside Alliance and the Country Land and business Association, to promote and disseminate good practice with regards to preventing fly-tipping, including on private land.</p> <p>In April 2021 we commissioned a research project considering the drivers, deterrents and impacts of fly-tipping tipping, which will include consideration of rural areas. This research project is due to be completed before the end of this year and will support informed policy making. We are exploring additional funding opportunities, including supporting digital solutions. Fly-tipping investigation and enforcement is the responsibility of local authorities, and the Environment Agency in certain circumstances. We expect enforcing authorities to investigate all incidents of fly-tipping and make use of the enforcement powers available to them where there is sufficient evidence; such as by issuing a fixed penalty notice or prosecuting fly-tippers and recovering investigation, enforcement and clearance costs where possible. We also encourage councils and others to publicise their enforcement activity.</p> <p>Through the Environment Bill we are seeking powers to introduce an electronic waste tracking system. A comprehensive digital waste tracking system will help regulators detect when waste doesn't reach the next stage, which may indicate illegal activity. This, along with other measures being introduced as part of the Bill (for example amendments to the section 108 powers of entry) will help to tackle waste crime, including fly-tipping. We are working with the NFTPG to develop a fly-tipping toolkit which will help local authorities, landowners and others work in partnership to tackle this crime. The toolkit will cover, among other things, how to present robust cases to the courts to support suitable sentences. Here</p>
10/09/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste - UIN 38459 Beth Winter, Cynon Valley (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment,</p>

			<p>Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to reduce plastic waste.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. We are making great strides to tackle plastic pollution across the country. In December 2018 we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which sets out how we want to achieve this and move towards a circular economy and keep resources in the system for as long as possible.</p> <p>In October 2020, we introduced measures to restrict the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. The single-use carrier bag charge, which has led to a 95% reduction in the use of single-use carrier bags by the main supermarkets, has been increased to 10p and extended to all retailers to encourage customers to bring their own bags to carry shopping and reduce the volumes of single-use plastic being used. We are also currently in the process of preparing a public consultation on banning single-use plastic plates, cutlery, balloon sticks and expanded polystyrene food and drinks containers, and we will continue to review the latest evidence on problematic products and/ or materials to take a systematic approach to reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastic products. Moreover, at Budget 2020 the Chancellor announced the tax on plastic packaging of £200 per tonne for plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content, effective from April 2022.</p> <p>Our Environment Bill will enable us to significantly change the way that we manage our waste and take forward a number of the proposals from the Resources and Waste Strategy. The Bill will include powers to create Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes; introduce Deposit Return Schemes (DRS); establish greater consistency in the recycling system; better control the export of plastic waste; and give us the power to set new charges for other single-use plastic items. Our consultations on an EPR scheme for packaging and a DRS for drinks containers closed on 4 June and</p>
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			<p>our consultation on our proposals for consistency in the recycling system in England closed on 4 July. More details can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/environment/waste-and-recycling</p> <p>The Government has put together a package of nearly £100 million for research and innovation to tackle the issues that arise from plastic waste. £38 million was set aside through the Plastics Research and Innovation Fund, the last funding competition of which opened in June 2020. The Resource Action Fund included £10 million specifically to pioneer innovative approaches to boosting recycling and reducing litter. The Government has also announced £60million of funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, alongside a £150 million investment from industry, towards the development of smart, sustainable plastic packaging (SSPP), which will aim to make the UK a world leader in sustainable packaging for consumer products. Two SSPP funding opportunities have been open for bids in 2021: the SSPP Demonstrator Round 2 and the SSPP business-led research and development competition.</p> <p>Science estimates that the annual plastic flow into the ocean will triple between 2016 and 2040. Due to the scale of the marine litter challenge the UK believes it is time to start negotiating a new global agreement on marine plastic litter and microplastics at the United Nations Environment Assembly. A new global agreement would build upon the important work we are doing to tackle marine litter both domestically and internationally and support our commitments to eliminate plastic entering the ocean. Here</p>
14/09/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Fly-tipping - UIN 43552 Alberto Costa, South Leicestershire (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to tackle fly-tipping.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Our 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy set out our strategic approach to prevent, detect and deter waste crime. This</p>

			<p>included a commitment to strengthen sentences for fly-tipping and develop a fly-tipping toolkit. The toolkit, which will be developed with the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group, will be a web-based tool to help local authorities and others work in partnership to tackle fly-tipping.</p> <p>In recent years we have also bolstered local authorities' powers to tackle fly-tipping. We have introduced the power to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £400 to both fly-tippers and householders who pass their waste to an unlicensed waste carrier. We have also provided local authorities with powers to stop, search and seize vehicles of suspected fly-tippers. In April 2021 we commissioned a research project considering the drivers, deterrents and impacts of fly-tipping. This research project is due to be completed before the end of this year and will support informed policy making. We are exploring additional funding opportunities, including the role of digital solutions.</p> <p>We are also preparing a number of legislative reforms to tackle waste crime, which should help to tackle fly-tipping. We are taking forward the commitment in the Resources and Waste Strategy to develop proposals for the reform of the waste carrier, broker, and dealer regime. We are working with industry and the regulator and we intend to consult later this year. We also intend to consult on the introduction of mandatory electronic waste tracking. Digital records of waste movements will allow regulators to detect when waste doesn't reach the next stage, which may indicate illegal activity including fly-tipping.</p> <p>We are bringing forward several measures in the Environment Bill to ensure agencies and authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. These new powers will help ensure waste criminals, such as illegitimate waste operators reliant on fly-tipping for income, are held accountable for their actions. Here</p>
21/09/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste - UIN 48336 Sarah Jones, Croydon Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment,</p>

			<p>Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ban the (a) export of plastic waste and (b) most polluting single use plastics as part of its plans to tackle the causes of plastic pollution.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> (a) The Government has committed to banning the export of plastic waste to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We will consult before the end of 2022 on options to deliver the ban.</p> <p>(b) The Resources and Waste Strategy for England sets out the Government's plans to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste throughout the life of the 25 Year Environment Plan. For the most problematic plastics we are going faster - which is why we have committed to work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable, or compostable by 2025. We have made significant progress, introducing one of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products and significantly reducing the use of single-use carrier bags use with our 5p charge. In May we increased the charge to 10p and extended it to all retailers.</p> <p>In general, we prefer to help people and companies make the right choice, rather than banning items outright. It is ultimately for businesses to decide what materials they use to supply products to customers. There may, however, be times when a ban is appropriate as part of a wider strategic approach. In October 2020, we introduced a restriction on the supply of plastic drinking straws, cotton buds and drink stirrers, and we are currently in the process of preparing a public consultation on banning the supply of single-use plastic plates, cutlery and expanded polystyrene drinks containers. We will continue to review the latest evidence on problematic products and/ or materials to take a systematic approach to reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastic products.</p> <p>We have included a number of measures in the Environment Bill to enable us to tackle plastics and plastic waste. These</p>
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			include measures to impose charges on single-use plastic items; introduce a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers; and make producers cover the costs of collecting and managing plastic packaging waste. As well as this, the Bill gives us powers to provide consistent recycling services for household and businesses; ensure all packaging is labelled either 'recyclable' or 'not recyclable'; set requirements regarding design and material usage for products; and will allow us to better control the export of plastic waste. Here
21/09/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Glass: Recycling - UIN 48185 Robert Halfon, Harlow (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of having a re-melt target for glass collected by the proposed scheme of Extended Producer Responsibility.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Our recent consultation on introducing a deposit return scheme (DRS) did not propose a re-melt target for DRS, but the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO), which would be established for the purpose of running a DRS, would have an obligation to pass on any materials collected through the scheme to reprocessors for recycling. We are continuing to finalise the policy of the DRS and these details will be provided in a government response which will be published in due course. This will also be accompanied by an Impact Assessment on the final scope and policy agreed for the scheme.</p> <p>Re-melt targets were first introduced under the current packaging producer responsibility regime in 2013 and have contributed to more beneficial glass recycling. An annual re-melt target of 72% has been set for 2021 and 2022. With regards to glass packaging in scope of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, it therefore is Government's intention to retain a re-melt target. In its recent consultation, government stated this intention and invited respondents to offer their views on a future re-melt target rate. The Government is considering the responses to the consultation and will</p>

			<p>publish a government response in due course.</p> <p>We also want to make recycling easier at kerbside and ensure that there is a comprehensive, consistent service across England. The Environment Bill stipulates that all local authorities in England must make arrangements for a core set of materials to be collected for recycling from households. This core set includes: paper and card; plastic, glass, metal, food waste and garden waste. We recently published our second consultation on recycling consistency which sought views on including on the materials in scope of collection, transitional arrangements, and statutory guidance. We are currently analysing responses to the consultation and intend to publish our government response in due course. Here</p>
21/09/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Deposit Return Schemes - UIN 50657 Ian Mearns, Gateshead (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, for what reasons his Department has delayed the introduction of a deposit return scheme for plastic and glass bottles to 2024; and if his Department will bring forward that introduction date in response to the climate emergency and the impact of plastics on wildlife and marine life.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government is committed to introducing a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers. We recently undertook a second consultation on introducing the DRS, in which we set out timelines for the scheme to go live. We want an ambitious but realistic timetable to ensure we implement a DRS that will be as effective as possible. We reviewed the timelines required to implement a DRS and anticipate the scheme will be launched in 2024, subject to the outcome of the second consultation and parliamentary passage of the Environment Bill. Here</p>
29/09/21	Written questions	Defra	<p>Litter: Coastal Areas - UIN 52596 Damien Moore, Southport (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department plans to take to tackle littering in coastal areas.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Local councils are responsible for keeping</p>

			<p>public land clear of litter and Defra is committed to supporting them in doing so. We published the Litter Strategy for England in April 2017, setting out our aim to deliver a substantial reduction in litter. We have almost doubled the maximum fixed penalty fine for littering to £150. Through a recent grant scheme administered by the environmental charity WRAP, we have also awarded almost £1m to local councils to provide new litter bins. We have been proud to support national clean-up days such as the Great British Spring Clean and the Great British Beach Clean, and we will continue do so in future. Measures in the Environment Bill, including the Deposit Return Scheme and restrictions on single-use plastic items, will also provide significant additional support to local councils in tackling this issue. Here</p>
29/09/21	Written questions	Defra	<p>Fly-tipping - UIN 52432 Adam Holloway, Gravesham (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he has taken to coordinate (a) Police and Crime commissioners, (b) the Environment Agency and (c) local police forces to ensure that they are adequately responding to fly-tipping. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Defra is committed to working with partners to stamp out the menace of fly-tipping wherever we can. Our 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy set out our strategic approach to tackling waste crime, including fly-tipping. Our focus is on enabling local action by providing a clear legal framework of rights, responsibilities and powers and setting national standards.</p> <p>Local authorities and the Environment Agency are encouraged to work in partnership with national and local police bodies in carrying out their enforcement functions against fly-tipping. Defra are working with a wide range of interested parties through the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group (NFTPG) to raise awareness of fly-tipping and to develop a fly-tipping toolkit. Members of the NFTPG include local authorities, the National Police Chiefs Council and the Environment Agency. The toolkit will support partnership working, intelligence sharing, dealing with fly-tipping</p>

			<p>associated with unauthorised encampments and the use of technology to report fly-tipping.</p> <p>In the Environment Bill, we are bringing forward measures to go further, giving agencies and authorities enhanced powers of entry and access to evidence to strengthen their ability to tackle waste crime, and enhancing our ability to track waste and to crack down on rogue operators. 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
30/08/21	Press release	TfN	Heading North for summer: Report reveals £21bn annual visitor spend across the region. Pan-regional figures reveal the full importance of the North of England visitor economy for the first time, with 25% of all England 's tourism spend taking place in the region. Here
01/09/21	Press release	TfN	Rail electrification announcement 'welcome news' says Transport for the North. Here