Legislating on climate change: Learnings from the UK and Mexico

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Scientifically informed, long-term approach to policymaking

### Long-term target to 2050

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What and how?</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce emissions by at least 80% on 1990 levels</td>
<td>Long-term direction of travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covers the whole economy and all greenhouse gases</td>
<td>Defines the UK’s contribution to solving climate change</td>
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![Target graphic]
### Rolling set of medium-term targets

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<th>What and how?</th>
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<td>Sequence of 5-year targets</td>
<td>Basis for concrete policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended by Committee on Climate Change (CCC)</td>
<td>Long-term target translated into near-term actions</td>
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<td>Debated and legislated by Parliament</td>
<td>Flexibility built in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set 12 years ahead</td>
<td>Progressive, ratcheted emissions cuts</td>
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</table>

![Graph showing actual emissions and targets from 1990 to 2050](image)

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**Actual emissions**

- **2008 - 2012:** -25%
- **2013 - 2017:** -31%
- **2018 - 2022:** -37%
- **2023 - 2027:** -51%
- **2028 - 2032:** -57%
- **2033 - 2050:** -80%

**Million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent**
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
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
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).
Mexico’s General Law On Climate Change

Emission reduction targets to 2030 and 2050
Emision Peak and GDP Intensity Targets
Independent Advisory Body (C3)
Clean Energy Targets
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

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 strengthens 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/

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