

United Kingdom

Emissions	Climate Commitment Status
<p>0.9% of global emissions¹</p>  <p>Agriculture = 42.1 MtCO₂eq in 2019² or 9% of total emissions excluding LULUCF ↓ -19% since 1990</p> <p>6.0 MtCO₂eq LULUCF emissions in 2019³</p> <p>Net source of emissions</p>	<p>2020 update submitted⁴ ✓</p> <p>LTS submitted in 2021⁵ ✓</p> <p>CAT rating⁶ ALMOST SUFFICIENT</p> <p>Net zero commitment: 100% reduction of GHG emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels (Source: The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment Order) 2021)</p> <p>Net zero details:</p> <p>Date: 2050</p> <p>Legal status: In law</p> <p>Gases covered: All GHGs</p> <p>Credits allowed: Likely. The net UK carbon account covers “the amount of carbon units credited to the net UK carbon account” but “the circumstances in which carbon units may be credited to the net UK carbon account” must be regulated by the Secretary of State (section 27, no further information)</p>
How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?	
Criteria	NDC Assessment
<p>Specific policy priorities or actions for agriculture and food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC does not include a specific agriculture section, but food security and policy are highlighted as a priority area; it further outlines specific policies implemented or planned at the national level and in each devolved administration related to food security and policy and terrestrial biodiversity that could have an impact on agriculture The UK’s Agriculture Act requires the government to develop a domestic and international food security report every three years, with the first report to be published in 2021 The UK is taking ambitious action to phase down the UK’s use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), including in refrigeration equipment for food storage and distribution and promoting the uptake of sustainable refrigeration and cold chain technologies domestically and internationally; a review of the F-gas Regulation will be conducted and a report to be published in 2022 will set out any further measures the UK can take to reduce HFC emissions The NDC also addresses the fisheries subsector and marine climate risks through existing and new marine and fisheries policies The UK is committed to delivering a national shift to healthy diets supported by a sustainable food system which contributes towards a reduction in GHG emissions Adaptation programmes are mentioned in the context of the fisheries industry 	<p>▲▲</p> <p>High: NDC provides indications of specific orientations pursued by the Party in different agricultural and food sub-sectors</p>
<p>Specific policy priorities or actions for LULUCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC only references LULUCF when defining the sectors and pools covered, with all LULUCF pools included (above ground biomass, below ground biomass, litter, deadwood soil organic carbon and stocks of harvested wood products) Several policies and schemes related to forests and peatlands are mentioned under “Other contextual aspirations and priorities” but are not explicitly linked to actions to be undertaken for the implementation of the NDC Relevant actions include developing the new Sustainable Land Management scheme and the National Forest for Wales, work to improve the condition of Protected Sites Network, and the National Peatland Action Programme 	<p>▲</p> <p>Medium: NDC provides detail focus areas of technological development needs or plans related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</p>
<p>Key policies in the NDC supporting priorities:</p> <p>Agriculture and food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK’s Agriculture Act F-gas Regulation Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) UK’s Marine and Coastal Access Act UK Fisheries Act 2020 England’s Resources and Waste Strategy 2020 Programme for Government (includes a local food strategy) 	<p>▲▲▲</p> <p>Very high: NDC lists sectoral policies related to both agriculture and food and LULUCF which are directly linked to actions/orientations</p>

How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?		
Criteria		NDC Assessment
Key policies in the NDC supporting priorities (cont'd): LULUCF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Land Management scheme • National Forest for Wales • National Peatland Action Programme • Edinburgh Declaration and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, Nature Recovery Action Plan • England Peat Strategy 		 Very high: NDC lists sectoral policies related to both agriculture and food and LULUCF which are directly linked to actions/orientations
Dedicated financial resources associated with policies or action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to mobilise £12 billion in government investments to create and support highly skilled green jobs, including for nature and innovative technologies 		 Medium: NDC provides a general indication on existing or planned public funding to finance mitigation policies and actions in either agriculture and food or LULUCF
Spatial information for mitigation provided in the NDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Government's National Adaptation Programme outlines how the UK will address marine climate risks by introducing a Sustainable Fisheries policy, giving consideration to climate change in marine planning, building ecological resilience at sea and protecting natural carbon stores through the UK's network of Marine Protected Areas 		 Medium: NDC provides information on spatial planning related to climate mitigation and adaptation and/ or includes a non-actionable map, i.e. one that is not useful in isolation or when combined with other data layers to inform policy. E.g. Map of administrative regions
Technology details provided in the NDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to mobilise £12 billion in government investments to create and support highly skilled green jobs, including for nature and innovative technologies • In November 2020, the UK Prime Minister set out his ambitious Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution. Spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies • The UK is taking ambitious action to phase down the UK's use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), including in refrigeration equipment for food storage and distribution and promoting the uptake of sustainable refrigeration and cold chain technologies domestically and internationally 		 High: NDC provides detail focus areas of technological development needs or plans related to agriculture, food or LULUCF
What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
Healthy diets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK is committed to delivering a national shift to healthy diets supported by a sustainable food system which contributes towards a reduction in GHG emissions • Sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production 	 NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition
Productive and regenerative agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture listed in IPCC sectors covered • UK Agriculture Act obligates the UK Government to produce a domestic and international food security report every three years 	 NDC provides inexplicit or unclear information on the critical transition (topic is mentioned, but not as a policy action)
Protecting and restoring nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated section on terrestrial biodiversity which includes the UK devolved domestic biodiversity policies • UK is committed to delivering a green recovery including measures to protect biodiversity and accelerate a just transition to net zero; in England, the government will publish a new strategy for nature following agreement of new global biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, expected in 2021 	 NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition

What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
Protecting and restoring nature (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK will fulfil its responsibilities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature; and implement the Convention on Biological Diversity's vision that by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintains ecosystem services, sustains a healthy planet and delivers benefits essential for all people; this will provide significant climate mitigation and adaptation benefits 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
A healthy and productive ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated section on ocean and marine environment The sustainable use, protection and restoration of the UK's marine environment is underpinned by the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), the Environment Bill and Fisheries Act, UK Marine Policy Statement, UK Marine Strategy, commitment to an ecologically coherent well-managed network of Marine Protected Areas, and Joint Fisheries Statement UK Marine and Coastal Access Act and Fisheries Act: building ecological resilience at sea and protecting natural carbon stores 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Diversifying protein supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Reducing food loss and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase down the UK's use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), including in refrigeration equipment for food storage and distribution and promoting the uptake of sustainable refrigeration and cold chain technologies domestically and internationally. The UK is committed to delivering a national shift to healthy diets supported by a sustainable food system which contributes towards a reduction in GHG emissions; the Resources and Waste Strategy sets out England's plans to move away from a linear economy, towards a more circular and sustainable economy in which natural resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised Ireland published the second iteration of the national Waste Prevention Programme Stopping Waste in its Tracks which aims to decouple waste from growth 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Local loops and linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Resources and Waste Strategy sets out England's plans to move away from a linear economy, towards a more circular and sustainable economy in which natural resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised; the Welsh Government is investing in people to develop the skills needed for a low-carbon, circular economy, including reskilling workers in existing industries. Scotland's Making Things Last strategy sets out priorities to achieving its commitment to moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. In the 2020 Programme for Government, Scotland has committed to developing a local food strategy Northern Ireland published the second iteration of the national Waste Prevention Programme Stopping Waste in its Tracks which aims to decouple waste from growth The UK is committed to delivering a national shift to healthy diets supported by a sustainable food system which contributes towards a reduction in GHG emissions 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
Digital revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2020, the UK Prime Minister set out his ambitious Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution; spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies. The UK is taking ambitious action to phase down the UK's use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), including in refrigeration equipment for food storage and distribution and promoting the uptake of sustainable refrigeration and cold chain technologies domestically and internationally The UK will comply with future UNFCCC reporting guidelines on tracking, and reporting on, progress against the UK's NDC 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC provides inexplicit or unclear information on the critical transition (topic is mentioned, but not as a policy action)</p>
Stronger rural livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) completed a public discussion exercise on a future Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland in February 2020; this will be Northern Ireland's first overarching Environment Strategy and the findings of the public discussion will inform its development; the Department intends to issue the draft strategy for public consultation in spring 2021 Spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies, the plan will mobilise £12 billion of government investment to create and support up to 250,000 highly skilled green jobs in the UK, and unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC provides inexplicit or unclear information on the critical transition (topic is mentioned, but not as a policy action)</p>
Gender and demography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality issues are included in domestic decarbonisation policies. The UK is dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion, including women's empowerment and gender equality. Public authorities must fulfil responsibilities set out under the UK's Equality Act (2010) 	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>

What specific institutional arrangements for climate have countries put in place?

Dedicated body in place:

- Climate Change Committee (CCC), an independent statutory body that advises the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including emissions reduction targets established by the Climate Change Act

Consultation processes:

- The approach to the UK's NDC was discussed in meetings with NGOs, civil society and business groups, and covered in correspondence with representatives of these groups and interested Parliamentarians
- Ahead of COP26 and beyond, the UK will continue to carry out a wide range of engagement with a cross-section of society including experts, industry, non-governmental organisations, trade bodies and the wider public
- The CCC relies on a range of evidence, including expert and stakeholder sources; the CCC has run public calls for evidence, roundtables and workshops with nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), industry stakeholders and trade associations, and held more than 200 meetings with individual stakeholders across all sectors
- The CCC provided advice on the UK's 2030 NDC

SUMMARY

Summary of the NDC analysis:

- The NDC provides some detail on specific orientations in the AFOLU sector, including various orientations by individual devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and some detail on their implementation.
- Specific orientations are described in the agriculture and food section, including a focus on sustainable food systems. More generic orientations are provided for the LULUCF sector.
- The NDC provides an extensive list of relevant policies, both for agriculture and for LULUCF, and these are directly tied to actions to be undertaken in the sectors.
- Some detail is provided on public investment in green jobs "including in nature" but the link to the AFOLU sector is not specified.
- Generic indications on the use of spatial planning are provided in the context of marine planning.
- Some specific information is provided with regards to technology, especially with regards to the phase down of HFC gases and technologies for sustainable refrigeration, though few details are provided on technologies for agriculture and LULUCF.
- Much of the information collected here is listed under the NDC section entitled "other aspirations and priorities", with the section on policies and measures lacking detail. Moreover, the UK Agriculture Act is mentioned here, but not explicitly tied to mitigation measures in the agricultural sector in the NDC.
- The NDC addresses many of the critical transitions, and even in those addressed in an inexplicit manner like "stronger rural livelihoods" it includes a public discussion for the environment strategy of Northern Ireland and strong focus on green jobs, though it lacks detail on rural communities and agriculture in general.
- The "protecting and restoring nature" critical transition is addressed well with the UK's commitment to a green economy through measures to protect biodiversity and achieve net zero emissions. Following the new global biodiversity targets under the CBD, England will public a new nature strategy. The NDC also addresses the transition on "a healthy and productive ocean" well through various policies including UK Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), the Environment Bill and Fisheries Act, UK Marine Policy Statement, UK Marine Strategy, commitment to an ecologically coherent well-managed network of Marine Protected Areas, and Joint Fisheries Statement

REFERENCES

1. Source: ClimateWatch, accessed 30 August 2021. <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/compare-all-targets?>
2. Source: UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, accessed 30 August 2021. https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party
3. Source: UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, accessed 30 August 2021. https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party
4. Submitted 12 December 2020. Source: UNFCCC. <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20Kingdom%20of%20Great%20Britain%20and%20Northern%20Ireland%20First/UK%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution.pdf>
5. Latest version submitted 19 October 2021; Source: UNFCCC. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UK%20Net%20Zero%20Strategy%20-%20Build%20Back%20Greener.pdf>
6. Climate Action Tracker, accessed 15 September 2021. <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/uk/>