

MAKING ZERO CARBON BRITAIN



FOREWORD

Vision10 is a high level, cross-party influencer programme set-up to analyse challenges, recommend policy solutions and establish business collaboration setting a pathway to a zero-carbon economy.

The UK is facing historic challenges as the global economic order is shifting, influenced by changing international relationships, innovation, renewable energy, a push for resource efficiency, citizen action and the effects of climate change.

Technological innovation is creating a pathway to a decarbonised, decentralised, digital, citizen led future. These changes present a new set of domestic and global opportunities and the UK Government has a unique opportunity to set the tone and commitment to a long-term trajectory (regulatory programme and delivery schedule) to deliver a clean skilled, competitive and technologically driven economy.



INTRODUCTION

Vision10 conducted a series of high-level investigations with political and business leaders to examine the low carbon challenges confronting the UK. Our investigations sought zero solutions to future energy use and supply, examined new and SMART technologies and explored the need to accelerate and embed low carbon policies in the UK.

Vision10 analysed evidence on how the UK can generate green growth and jobs, meet climate change targets, promote technological innovation and protect the UK's natural capital in a post-Brexit Britain.

Vision10 provides long term vision for the transition to a zero carbon economy in the UK. It sets out what clean growth and a sustainable industrial strategy should look like and challenges policy makers to support a framework to put zero carbon at the centre of policy.

THE ZERO CARBON CHALLENGE

Our research tells us there is a huge disconnect between business realities, political understanding of the scale of the challenges and the ability to deliver visionary change.

In order to seize the opportunities a zero economy presents, elected officials and policy makers need to understand the link between digital, decarbonisation, mobility, devolution and citizen empowerment.

There must be a shift in emphasis from a fossil fuel, growth focused economy to a resource efficient, sustainable approach designed to achieve a just transition with zero carbon imbedded in policy making across Government departments.



The UK is a global leader in R&D and for innovations that secured Government support and consistent policy making, including off-shore wind and low carbon transport, investment has flowed and these industries have thrived. Business innovation and clean technologies will revolutionise our future energy mix, how citizens will engage with resources, transport and interdependence will be influenced by these changes. Vision10 is calling on government and business to create and deliver a policy making plan for a zero carbon future.

The Climate Change Act positioned the UK as a global leader, setting tough carbon targets and putting the UK on a pathway to significant emissions reduction. The Government's commitment to delivering Net-Zero by 2050 is significant. However, these progressive policies do not go far enough, fast enough. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projections in order to maintain global average temperature increase at 1.5 degrees, a critical measure for keeping Climate Change in check, governments and businesses must act now and commit to key targets and policies.

The UK Climate Change Committee recommends urgent change in the order to meet the Net-Zero emissions target by 2050.

Unfortunately, the Brexit process has slowed progress at a critical time, change and innovation have been stymied, challenging the UK's global leadership position and leaving the nation lagging behind. Clear and decisive leadership must emerge to prepare and position the UK for the transition to a zero carbon future.

OUR INVESTIGATION

We heard evidence from a range of experts and policy makers on what they think needs to be done to make Britain Zero Carbon. We asked:

- Is energy market reform the key to unlocking a low carbon, secure and affordable future?
- Can Britain lead an innovative and sustainable future in a competitive global marketplace?
- Is devolution the solution to drive smarter greener cities?
- How can the UK put digital innovation at the heart of a low carbon energy revolution?



Our **Vision10** investigations concluded that:

The UK Government has failed to develop a coherent road map or a long-term vision to deliver a zero-carbon economy.

The UK Government is neither prepared or leading the strategic delivery of low carbon energy and technological innovation required to achieve or a zero-carbon economy.

The UK Government Departments are not joined in policy or vision. In particular, Her Majesty's Treasury is perceived to be an obstacle to the support, funding or advancement of low carbon innovation and delivery.

More powers must be devolved to promote and support zero carbon solutions in our cities and communities. This will support regional economic development and lay the foundations for green growth, green jobs, zero carbon homes and low carbon local industrial strategies.

UK energy policy is not fit for the future. It is too fossil fuel dependent and centralised on an aging grid which cannot cope with the digital revolution and low carbon supply.

The UK lacks a coherent energy efficiency plan. The development of eco homes are hampered by regulations and code enforcement.

The UK lags behind European neighbours in building and retrofitting energy efficient homes. Fuel poverty and winter deaths continue rise.

There needs to be a new approach to the future supply of energy which supports low carbon fuels and renewable energy sources.

The UK must learn from global competitors and international market leaders how to capitalise on low carbon innovation, work successfully with policy makers and maximise .

There must to be a shift in policy thinking to bridge the skills gap between existing and the new and transferable skills needed to make Britain zero carbon in the future.

VISION10 PLEDGES

Our investigations and the evidence heard makes it clear that there needs to be a dynamic and dramatic shift in Government thinking. There is a dangerous divide between 'strategy rhetoric' and the policy reality.

Vision10 is calling on businesses and politicians to pledge their support for a net-zero economy; to work collectively to deliver unprecedented changes, in-line with the UK binding emissions reduction targets and commitment to support the transition to a zero carbon future; and recognise the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change call for immediate and concerted action to maintain global temperatures at the critical 1.5 degree threshold.



To make Britain zero carbon and meet the scale of the challenge, Government needs to support, expand and prioritise all of the **Vision10** pledges:

- 1** **Net-zero** must be placed at the heart of the UK Government's **Industrial and Clean Growth strategies** and they must be committed to adopting a whole systems approach to decarbonising UK energy infrastructure.

- 2** Committed to, and visibly supporting, clean growth and **digital innovation to deliver decarbonised, decentralised and affordable energy, EV** and infrastructure.

- 3** Support for **Smart Cities' innovation, green jobs and skills** to deliver green growth to help rebalance the economy and **support industries outside London**.

- 4** Secure a **cross departmental commitment to regulatory reform**, the creation of incentive programmes and the delivery of **joined up, long-term solutions; to provide market stability** and meet emissions reduction targets.

- 5** Deliver zero carbon infrastructure projects including **renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport** and development.

- 6** Long-term commitment to support zero carbon innovation including **funding for research, training, Catapult and innovation** test beds.

- 7** Take action to bridge the serious **skills gap and provide transferrable skills training** to deliver a net zero future.

- 8** Encourage and support **regional economic growth by devolving more powers to local and regional leaders** to deliver green growth and zero carbon technologies and innovation.

- 9** Drive investment in **zero carbon digital technologies to accelerate, consistent, long-term policy and financial investment** in new technologies, provide market stability and lead the way.

- 10** **Develop a post-BREXIT plan to kick start policies** which deliver low carbon /net zero funding, devolve powers for low carbon sustainable solutions and create greater consumer choice, awareness and engagement.

Vision10 is supported by:

Parliamentary Advisory Panel: Peter Aldous MP, Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP, Prof Paul Ekins OBE, Baroness Featherstone, Martin Powell, Dr Alan Whitehead MP, Lord Whitty and Laura Sandys

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Note:

The Vision10 investigation and evidence sessions took place over 18 months between 2017 and 2018.



NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

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