Terms of Reference for the Ministerial-led CCUS Council

Objectives

The purpose of the CCUS Council is to review progress of the Government’s new approach to CCUS, its new ambition and the commitments made in the Clean Growth Strategy. The CCUS Council will be the primary forum for engaging the CCUS sector on discussing and addressing key strategic issues to enable the Government’s ambition for CCUS to be achieved.

Recognising that the deployment of CCUS in the UK is as much an institutional challenge as an infrastructure delivery challenge, the Council is to advise on development and deployment of CCUS covering technology, infrastructure, phasing, regulation, commercial framework and cost minimisation. The scope includes electricity generation, industrial decarbonisation, heat, hydrogen production and bioenergy. Additionally it will:

- advise on CCUS progress and priorities as set out in the Government’s new approach to CCUS;
- review the work of the CCUS Cost Challenge Taskforce and the Government’s implementation of the CCUS Cost Challenge Taskforce’s plan delivered to Government (once published); and
- monitor CCUS costs and deployment potential (including on the Government’s ambition for deploying CCUS at scale during the 2030s);

Given the implications for the power and industrial sectors, and for the use of heat and production of hydrogen, the Council should take an energy system wide approach in considering these matters.

How the Council works to meet these objectives and its success criteria will be discussed and agreed at the first meeting.

Handling

Discussions within the Council will be treated as official sensitive although a formal record of each Council meeting will be made publically available.

Process

The CCUS Council will meet at least three times a year and will be co-chaired by the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry and James Smith, Chair of the Carbon Trust. The first Council meeting will be held in January 2018 and will set the context and vision for the Council.

The Council will run for two years (but may be extended if required) as part of a programme to progress CCUS in the UK. Working groups may be established to progress specific actions agreed by the CCUS Council.

The Council will be supported by officials from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.