

Terms of Reference for the Government-Industry CCUS Council

Objectives

The purpose of the CCUS Council is to support the Government's ambition to deploy CCUS from the mid-2020s and at scale during the 2030s and review progress. This is essential to the UK achieving its world leading commitment to net zero by 2050.

The CCUS Council will act as a key forum for engaging the CCUS sector on strategic issues for deployment of the technology.

The three priority areas for the CCUS Council are:

- 1) Business models – development of sustainable, market based, commercial frameworks for CCUS; identifying and removing barriers to deployment; effective utilisation of the CCS Infrastructure Fund announced at Budget 2020 to enable the construction of at least one CCS cluster by the mid-2020s and another by 2030;
- 2) Deployment pathway – establishing an approach, including policies and institutional arrangements, that supports deployment in regional industrial clusters and the economy generally; securing economies of scale for the transport and storage infrastructure; learning by doing; ensuring alignment with the whole energy systems transformation; and
- 3) Supply chains – to ensure CCUS projects are delivered at top quality, on time and highly cost effectively; to ensure that maximum social and economic benefit is secured, long term for individuals, UK companies, regions and the nation; to support development of world leading technologies and knowhow that enable valuable UK exports and promote international deployment of technologies vital to beating climate change.

Given the implications for the power and industrial sectors and for the use of heat and production of hydrogen, the CCUS Council will adopt an energy system wide approach. There will be close liaison with other Councils involved in energy and climate change.

In pursuing these priorities, the Council will put emphasis on diversity and inclusion (D&I) in technical, commercial and managerial skills and jobs for people from all backgrounds. This recognises the benefits of maximising the pool of talent; fostering innovation and creativity; and creating opportunity for everyone. The Council will play a strong part in supporting wider progress throughout government and industry on diversity and inclusion. The Council will support best practice and make progress on D&I a key part its agenda.

Membership

Members are drawn from key stakeholder groups across the CCUS sector and serve on a voluntary basis.

Collectively, the Council will have knowledge of how the energy system needs to be transformed; of the application of CCUS within that transformation; of policy and regulatory arrangements necessary for successful deployment; of diversity and inclusion; and of the wider public view of how CCUS is best deployed to achieve net zero.

Membership will be reviewed on a yearly basis, with a maximum of 30 full members, including the chairs. Attention will be paid to geographical distribution; stakeholder representation; and diversity of thought and background when determining the membership.

Responsibilities

CCUS Council members are expected to:

- Attend and contribute to meetings, advising on how to address key strategic issues;
- Provide insight, input and expertise on key topics and outputs;
- Ensure that all Council members are informed of significant developments in the CCUS sector, identifying trends and opportunities;
- Use their influence to advocate, champion and provide thought leadership for the CCUS Council's work; and
- Use their networks to encourage more diversity and inclusion in the CCUS sector workforce.

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 James Smith, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.

The Council will continue running for its third year as part of a programme to progress CCUS in the UK, including alongside the newly established CCUS Expert Groups and Hydrogen Advisory Council. 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, who will provide the secretariat function.

Handling

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