

Green Technical Advisory Group (GTAG) Terms of Reference

Aims and purpose

The Green Technical Advisory Group or “GTAG” is an expert group made up of key financial market stakeholders and subject matter experts which will provide independent advice to HMG on the development and implementation of a UK green taxonomy (the “UK Taxonomy”), comprised of technical screening criteria (“TSC”) on particular economic activities.

Role and remit

The role of the GTAG will be to provide non-binding advice to HMG on market, regulatory and scientific considerations for developing and implementing a UK Taxonomy which facilitates more informed investment decisions. This includes advising on:

- Approach to developing a UK Taxonomy that is usable and practicable for financial and non-financial firms.
- UK Taxonomy requirements which drive informed decision-making for investors whilst placing a proportionate burden on business.
- Drawing together scientific and subject matter expertise to assist HMG in determining TSC.
- The rationale, implications and recommendations for any deviations from existing international frameworks or taxonomies.
- How to deal with and manage any data gaps.
- How the UK Taxonomy can best support the UK’s transition to Net Zero.
- How the UK Taxonomy could be used to align and accelerate the delivery of wider HMG policy, including its Net Zero Strategy, Green Finance Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan.
- The role the UK Taxonomy could play in tracking green financial flows.

In addition, the Group may advise HMG on other issues if identified by HMG. The GTAG’s role is advisory. It will feed into but not replace the Government’s policy development process, and the TSC will be subject to appropriate, open consultation prior to making.

Approach to convening and working

- Membership - GTAG membership will be by invitation. Experts will be drawn from representatives of the users of the UK Taxonomy (financial and non-financial); taxonomy and data experts; subject matter experts drawn from academia, NGOs, the Environment Agency, and the Committee on Climate Change.
- Confidentiality requirements – The day-to-day work and deliberations of the GTAG should be respected as confidential to support open, high-trust debate with the group. Members are free to discuss their involvement in the GTAG and share personal views on key issues on the condition that anything shared by the Government with the GTAG on a confidential basis is not disclosed without express permission.
- Timespan of work and frequency of meetings – The GTAG is expected to be convened for two years in the first instance. At this point the remit and membership of the Group will be reviewed. During the first 12 months, the Group will meet on a quarterly basis undertaking work, as needed, in between these meetings. Additional ad hoc meetings may be convened if deemed necessary.
- Outputs – Outputs will consist of a series of issues papers developed to fulfil the agreed scope of work. These will be delivered according to an indicative timetable agreed after the inaugural meeting of the GTAG.
- Transparency and communication – The list of members and observers, ToR and high-level minutes will be published on a dedicated webpage.
- Relationship with Sector-specific sub-groups – In addition to the strategic GTAG group that will advise on cross-cutting issues, HMG will establish GTAG sub-groups where appropriate to provide specific technical expertise on a given sector (e.g. on energy) to assist HMG in determining TSC. Sub-groups will include additional technical experts to those in the strategic group.