

Hydrogen Delivery Council

Terms of Reference

Objectives

The purpose of the Hydrogen Delivery Council (formerly the Hydrogen Advisory Council) is to inform and advance the development of hydrogen as a strategic decarbonised energy carrier for the UK.

The Council will focus on activity required across the 2020s and 2030s to expand the UK low carbon hydrogen economy, including guiding the implementation of the ambitions set out in the UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) and the subsequent British Energy Security Strategy (2022). The Council should seek to promote economic benefit for the UK and help provide the learning and assurance required to realise the potential of hydrogen in meeting the Sixth Carbon Budget and our net zero commitments.

Through the Council, Government and industry will work together to identify and promote concrete actions required to enable the deployment of low carbon hydrogen at scale for use across the energy system, addressing near-term challenges and maximising opportunities for UK business in this rapidly growing area.

The Council will be the primary forum for Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Ministerial engagement with representatives from the hydrogen sector. The Council and its Working Groups will engage with existing industry and Government-led groups where the remit covers hydrogen or has implications for the development and use of hydrogen, to ensure alignment as required.

Working Groups

The Council oversees several Working Groups which reflect key workstreams. The Working Groups collectively drive forward the work of the Council by delivering against objectives outlined in the Council's current work plan and providing expertise from across industry and academia. Each Working Group has a Champion who sits on the Council and who will regularly report progress against these objectives to the main Council.

Membership of the Working Groups may come from the organisations represented on the Council and/or more widely according to need.

Working Groups:

- Hydrogen Production
- Hydrogen Transport & Storage Infrastructure
- Demand & End Uses
- Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard & Certification
- Jobs, Skills & Supply Chains

- Regulators' Forum

Membership

Membership of the Council and its Working Groups will be reviewed periodically to ensure that the Council is able to respond to and support government in meeting its strategic objectives for hydrogen. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero values diversity and inclusion and promotes equality of opportunity to enable us to reflect the communities that we serve. The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero is committed to ensuring that its Councils are diverse and inclusive. When membership is reviewed, we will consider not only the individual strengths of members, but equality of representation, including regional representation.

Chairmanship

The Council is co-chaired by a Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Minister and an industry representative selected from the Council membership. The term of an industry co-chair will be time limited to 2 years to ensure the opportunity for other members to take up the role, and diversity of opinion.

The Ministerial co-chair will:

- Provide strategic guidance on priorities to best deliver the workstreams and wider government priorities;
- Consider corporate, budgetary or political risks and impacts on the workstreams; and
- Delegate the role of co-chair to another Minister or senior official by exception.

The industry co-chair will:

- Sit independently of their company interests and priorities;
- Represent industry's interests and priorities;
- Provide strategic guidance and support on priorities to best deliver the workstreams; and
- Delegate the role of co-chair to another Council member by exception, to be organised by the co-chair and agreed with the Council Secretariat.

Quorum

As a minimum, the Group will constitute a quorum if a Chair (ministerial and/or industry co-chair), ten Council members and a Senior Official from the department's Hydrogen & Industrial Carbon Capture Directorate team is present.

Handling

Discussions within the Council will be treated as official sensitive. A summary of each meeting will be made publicly available on GOV.UK.

Process

The Hydrogen Delivery Council will meet three times a year and will be co-chaired by a Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Minister and an industry representative, reflecting the importance of joint working between government and industry.

The Council will align activity with the DESNZ hydrogen portfolio to guide the delivery of ambitions in the UK Hydrogen Strategy and subsequent government publications. We will review the processes and logistics of the Council periodically. The Council will be supported by Officials from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

The priorities of the Council will be reviewed periodically, with adjustments to membership where necessary.

The Council will be mindful of the work of other relevant Government-industry Councils and look to build links between Councils as appropriate to ensure that complementary interests and workstreams are acknowledged and accounted for. In particular, the Council will work with the CCUS Council, the Offshore Wind Industry Council, and the Jet Zero Council.

Note: Council members have the right to delegate attendance to those of a sufficient level of seniority from their respective organisations by exception. This will need to be agreed in advance with the Council Secretariat.