Challenges in Energy Transition – UK approach and Role of Evaluation

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The UK economy has grown while decarbonising

- Updated figures now show that UK emissions have fallen 44% between 1990 and 2019
- Energy supply has delivered the largest reductions in UK GHG emissions since 1990, falling by two thirds.
Net zero means deeper, faster decarbonisation in all sectors

- While we have made strong progress to date, UK emissions are currently projected to exceed our legal emissions caps for Carbon Budgets 4 and 5.

- The UK has announced a new Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030 on 1990 levels.

Vertical bars show likely uncertainty in the projections based on the 95% confidence intervals vs the reference scenario of EEP 2018.
Delivering the Prime Minister’s 10 Point Plan

Point 1: Advancing Offshore Wind
Point 2: Driving the Growth of Low Carbon Hydrogen
Point 3: Delivering New and Advanced Nuclear Power
Point 4: Accelerating the Shift to Zero Emission Vehicles
Point 5: Green Public Transport, Cycling and Walking

Point 6: Jet Zero and Green Ships
Point 7: Greener Buildings
Point 8: Investing in Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage
Point 9: Protecting Our Natural Environment
Point 10: Green Finance and Innovation
The Energy White Paper sets out a strategy for the wider energy system as it transforms into a holistic single integrated system of systems, driven by the use of electricity for heat and transport and enabled by the increasing decentralisation of energy and increased use of data. It:

1. **Transforms energy**, building a cleaner, greener future for our country, our people and our planet

2. **Supports a green recovery**, growing our economy, supporting thousands of green jobs across the country in new green industries and leveraging new green export opportunities

3. **Creates a fair deal for consumers**, protecting the fuel poor, providing opportunities to save money on bills, giving us warmer, more comfortable homes and balancing investment against bill impacts
Where next? The year ahead to COP26

- Heat & Buildings Strategy
- Transport Decarbonisation Plan
- HM Treasury Net Zero Review
- England Tree Strategy
- Hydrogen Strategy
- Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy
- Nature Strategy
- Net Zero Strategy
Role of Evaluation in Meeting Net Zero Challenges

Evaluation seen as increasingly vital to:

- Understanding how to design policy and target it effectively;
- Win the case for public investment and understand impact / likelihood of attracting private investment;
- Accountability for decisions taken and public investment.

Challenges for policy-makers are mounting but also reinforcing the value of evaluation:

- Complexity – increasing need to take a ‘systems approach’ across sectors and take into account more factors and consider more evidence in design;
- Meeting net zero alongside wider demands on Government resourcing;
- Demonstrating benefits to wider stakeholders – Net zero touches on whole economy.
- Growing interest in multiple objectives of net zero projects – levelling up, jobs, investment.
Embedding Evaluation

Formal Guidance and Rules

- BEIS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Post-Implementation Reviews
- Project Investment Appraisals also role of Spending Review
- Scrutiny by National Audit Office

Less Formal Support and Incentives

- Integrated / close working between policy makers and analysts
- Growing emphasis on monitoring cross-government approach to delivering net zero
- Close working with partner organisations, sharing modelling and data transparency