

Evidence from the University of Leeds

Dear Ambassador Corrêa do Lago,

We would like submit evidence for the TAFF roadmap under theme (c) What country, regional or sector roadmap experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared?

Summary

We make the case for developing standardised fossil fuel phase out roadmaps at a national scale produced by a network of national climate councils. These should focus on the country-specific economic and societal wellbeing case for phase out. Such a set of roadmaps will enable governments to plan and execute near term fossil fuel phase out based on the best available science with local knowledge of country-specific challenges and opportunities.

UK learnings:

The UK has more than halved its emissions since 1990 and grown its economy over the same period. It closed its last coal fired power station in 2025 and gas use is declining. The UK is seen as a climate leader through its governance framework of setting 5-year carbon budgets and setting up the Climate Change Committee (CCC) as an independent advisor. This framework has been in place since the Climate Change Act was passed in 2008, and the rate of decarbonisation since 2008 has doubled. Over 70 other countries now have similar climate councils and/or mitigation legislation supported by the International Climate Councils Network (ICCN).

To support the UK decision making on Carbon Budget targets, the UK CCC produces roadmaps to show that its recommended targets and Net Zero can be achieved in a feasible economic way. Seven such roadmaps have been produced by the UK CCC and they make a strong economic case for rapid fossil fuel phase out. The CCC also tracks policy progress of their delivery.

This 20 years of experience by the CCC of producing roadmaps can benefit other countries. Making the economic case is key. By focussing the transition on renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification, a strong economic case for phase out can be made. The latest advice in the [Seventh Carbon Budget Report](#) and its

[supplementary material](#) shows how phaseout can benefit household budgets with the right policy design.

The [CCC's latest advice](#) showed that for every dollar spent on achieving Net Zero, the benefits are estimated to be 2.2 to 4.1 times greater. The largest gains come from avoiding climate-related damages, with projected savings of many billion by 2050. Energy efficiency also improves significantly, with system losses halved. Alongside these economic benefits, the transition brings substantial improvements in health and wellbeing from cleaner air, more comfortable homes, more active travel, and healthier diets.

In terms of energy and economic security, the entire net cost of the Net Zero transition over 2026-2050 in the UK is estimated to be less than just one 2022 fossil fuel price shock.

There is an urgent need for standardised fossil fuel phase out roadmaps at national scale, to deliver roadmaps that allow governments to plan and execute near term fossil fuel phase out. These roadmaps need to be country-specific. They could be modelled on the UK government's Climate Change Committee's roadmap approach and developed by national climate councils, supported by the International Climate Council Network and other bodies. These roadmaps would be country-specific but also comparable across different countries. They could detail milestones for sector decarbonisation, expected costs and savings and finance sources. They could also examine and plan for the needed just transition of fossil fuel production and loss of potential export revenues.

Actors: governments, International Climate Council Network, national climate councils

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