

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF UK COMMITMENTS TO REVERSING CLIMATE CHANGE



The Kyoto Protocol

## 2005

An international treaty extending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), committing developed countries in particular to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Kyoto Protocol was effectively superseded by The Paris Agreement in 2016.



The Climate Change Act

## 2008

Legislation requiring the UK government to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. In order to deliver this, this Act requires the government to forecast and set 5-yearly 'budgets' for carbon.



The Paris Agreement

## 2016

A legally binding international treaty adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels by 2030.



The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

## 2019

Amendment to The Climate Change Act 2008, now requiring the government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050 (i.e. to achieve 'net zero').



The Sixth Carbon Budget

## 2020

The sixth in the series of carbon budgets as required by The Climate Change Act, covering the period of 2033-2037. To achieve net zero as set out in the amended Climate Change Act, this budget brought forward the UK's previous target of 80% reduction in emissions on 1990 levels by nearly 15 years.



Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

## 2020

Every country signing up to The Paris Agreement set out a target, known as a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by around 2030. This is updated every 5 years. In December 2020, the UK target was revised to a 68% reduction on 1990 levels by 2030.