

Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) written submission to the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee: [ECC priorities for holding Government to account](#)

1. Which DECC policy areas do you think require particular scrutiny over the next five years?

1.1 The policy decisions taken over this decade will determine whether the 2050 decarbonisation commitments can be met, and at what cost. ICE recommends the Committee examines the evidence and carries out analysis in the following areas:

1.1.1 Policy barriers to electricity storage

Storage has great potential to enable the transition to a secure, low-carbon energy system. It is technologically and economically do-able, but is constrained by policy barriers.

1.1.2 Review of Carbon Budgets

Assess the Carbon Budgets' effectiveness in reducing emissions, including carbon targets.

1.1.3 Encouraging renewable heat/cooling and transport

More energy is used in heating/cooling and transport than in electricity generation. Lack of attention to both is likely to result in the UK missing its 20:20:20 targets.

1.1.3 Review of new nuclear

Development of new nuclear has seen technical, legal and commercial setbacks. What does this mean for developing a new fleet?

1.1.4 Affordability

How demand reduction, efficiency improvements and renewables will affect affordability for consumers.

2. What should be the Committee's scrutiny priorities over the next twelve months?

2.1 In ICE's opinion, the areas of most immediate concern centre on the trilemma of affordability, low-carbon and capacity:

2.1.1 The Levy Control Framework

LCF was designed to cap costs of low-carbon but recent budgets were exceeded – should it be reformed or replaced?

2.1.2 Review of recent changes to renewables support programmes

Proposed changes to RO and FiT could affect investor confidence and make targets harder to achieve.

2.1.3 Carbon intensity

The Energy Act 2013 has provision for setting a carbon intensity target for electricity generation after the 5th carbon budget – should it be enacted?

2.1.4 Tightening capacity margins

The capacity margin for winter 2015-16 could be as low as 1.5%, requiring expensive, inefficient, and polluting reserve generation.