

Sixth Carbon Budget

The Sixth Carbon Budget, required under the Climate Change Act, provides ministers with advice on the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit during the period 2033-2037.

The Sixth Carbon Budget report is published today (9th December 2020). The CCC's recommended pathway (the Balanced Net Zero Pathway) for meeting the Sixth Carbon Budget by 2035 assumes the following assumptions for peatland (all on UK basis):

- **Peatland restoration** increases the UK area restored from 25% currently to 58% in 2035 and 79% by 2050, with a further 35% of lowland cropland sustainably managed:
 - All upland peat is restored by 2045 (or stabilised if degradation is too severe to restore to halt carbon losses).
 - 25% of the area of lowland grassland is rewetted by 2035, rising to half by 2050.
 - 75% of lowland cropland is either rewetted or sustainably managed by 2050:
 - A quarter of the area is rewetted to near natural condition (and crop production ceases), and a further 15% is rewetted but conventional crop production switches to paludiculture crops.
 - Water-table management options are deployed to 35% of the lowland cropland area.
 - All low-productive trees of less than YC8 are removed off peatland by 2030 and all peat extraction sites are restored by 2035.
- The above measures deliver annual abatement savings of nearly 6 MtCO₂e by 2035 and around 10 MCO₂e by 2050.
- Current UK peatland emissions are put at 24.5 MtCO₂e (we are using Global Warming Potential AR5 for all our results).
- Policy recommendations from the January land use report remain valid (e.g. immediate end to rotational burning of peat, end the sale of peat for use in the horticulture sector).

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/>