The Environmental Audit Committee

The Environmental Audit Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to consider to what extent the policies and programmes of government departments and non-departmental public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development; to audit their performance against such targets as may be set for them by Her Majesty’s Ministers; and to report thereon to the House.

Current membership
Mr Tim Yeo, MP (Conservative, South Suffolk) (Chairman)
Gregory Barker, MP (Conservative, Bexhill and Battle)
Mr Martin Caton, MP (Labour, Gower)
Mr Colin Challen, MP (Labour, Morley and Rothwell)
Mr David Chaytor, MP (Labour, Bury North)
Martin Horwood, MP (Liberal Democrat, Cheltenham)
Mr Nick Hurd, MP (Conservative, Ruislip Northwood)
Mark Lazarowicz, MP (Labour/Co-operative, Edinburgh North and Leith)
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP (Conservative, Bridgewater)
Mr Shahid Malik, MP (Labour, Dewsbury)
Mrs Linda Riordan, MP (Labour, Halifax)
Mr Graham Stuart, MP (Conservative, Beverley & Holderness)
Jo Swinson, MP (Liberal Democrat, East Dunbartonshire)
Dr Desmond Turner, MP (Labour, Brighton, Kemptown)
Joan Walley, MP (Labour, Stoke-on-Trent North)
Mr Phil Woolas, MP (Labour, Oldham and Saddleworth) [ex-officio]

Powers
The constitution and powers are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally Standing Order No. 152A. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications
The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at: www.parliament.uk/parliamentarycommittees/environmentalauditcommittee.cfm.

Committee staff
The current staff of the Committee are: Gordon Clarke (Clerk); Anne-Marie Griffiths (Second Clerk); Richard Douglas (Committee Specialist); Oliver Bennett (Committee Specialist); Susan Monaghan (Committee Assistant); Stella Kin (Secretary); and Charlotte Towerton (Sandwich Student)

Contacts
All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk, Environmental Audit Committee, Committee Office, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general inquiries is: 020 7219 6150; the Committee’s e-mail address is: eacom@parliament.uk
Proceedings of the Committee

Tuesday 13 November 2007

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Martin Horwood
Mr Nick Hurd

Mr Graham Stuart
Jo Swinson
Dr Desmond Turner

Are biofuels sustainable?

The Committee considered this matter.

Sean Sutcliffe (Chief Executive), Biofuels Corporation, Chris Carter (Corporate Affairs Director), British Sugar plc, Clare Wenner (Head of Transport Biofuels), Renewable Energy Association, Merlin Hyman (Director), and Graham Hilton, Environmental Industries Commission; and Hannah Griffiths (Biofuels Campaigner), Friends of the Earth, and Adam Harrison (Food & Agriculture Policy Officer), WWF Scotland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 November 2007 at 10.00am

Tuesday 20 November 2007

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton
Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Martin Horwood

Mr Nick Hurd
Mark Lazarowicz
Mr Graham Stuart
Dr Desmond Turner

Are biofuels sustainable?

The Committee considered this matter.

Julie Foley (Head of Sustainable Development) and Amanda Barratt (Industry Regulation Policy Advisor), Environment Agency and Marcus Yeo (Director of Resources & External Affairs) and Jessica Magnus (EU Policy Advisor), Joint Nature Conservation Committee; Peter Kendall (President) and Guy Gagen (Head of Combineable Crops), The National Farmers’ Union and Greg Archer (Director) and Jessica Chalmers (Programme Manager),
Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership; Professor Richard Bateman (Head of Policy) and Professor Roland Clift, Biosciences Federation and Dr Dominick Spracklen, Institute for Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 November 2007 at 10.00am

Tuesday 27 November 2007

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton Mr Graham Stuart
Mr David Chaytor Jo Swinson
Mark Lazarowicz Dr Desmond Turner
Mark Pritchard Joan Walley

Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into climate change and local, regional and devolved government.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly, in connection with its inquiry into climate change and local, regional and devolved government.

Are biofuels sustainable?

The Committee considered this matter.

Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State), Malcolm Fendick (Head of Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles Division and Chief Mechanical Engineer) and Rupert Furness (Head of Biofuels Branch), Department for Transport, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 December 2007 at 10.00am

3–7 December 2007

Colin Challen visited Bali, Indonesia to attend the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 in a representative capacity, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 22 May 2007.
Tuesday 4 December 2007

Morning Sitting

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton
Mr David Chaytor
Martin Horwood
Mark Pritchard

Mr Graham Stuart
Jo Swinson
Dr Desmond Turner

2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review

The Committee considered this matter.

Stephen Hale (Director) and Russell Marsh (Head of Policy), Green Alliance; Simon Bullock (Economy Campaigner), Friends of the Earth, and Lies Craeynest (International Development Policy Advisor) and Peter Lockley (Head of Transport Policy), WWF, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 December 2007 at 2.15pm

Tuesday 4 December 2007

Afternoon Sitting

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton
Mr David Chaytor
Mr Nick Hurd
Mark Lazarowicz

Mr Graham Stuart
Jo Swinson
Dr Desmond Turner

The Challenge of Climate Change

The Committee considered this matter.

Rt. Hon Hilary Benn MP (Secretary of State), Anne Sharp (Director, Domestic Climate Change and Energy), Marie Pender (Head of Climate Change Agreements and Carbon Reduction Commitment), and Martin Nesbit (Deputy Director, Emissions Trading), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 December 2007 at 10.00am
Tuesday 11 December 2007

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen
Mr Graham Stuart
Mr David Chaytor
Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood
Dr Desmond Turner
Mark Lazarowicz
Joan Walley

Post Kyoto: the international context for progress on climate change

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Brussels in the New Year, in connection with its inquiry into the international context for progress on climate change.

2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr Jeff Chapman (Chief Executive), Carbon Capture & Storage Association, Sarwit Sambhi (Director of Power and Renewables), Centrica, and Rupert Steele (Director, Regulation), Scottish Power; Jeff Gazzard (Board Member) and Cait Weston (Policy and Communications Officer), Aviation Environment Federation, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 December 2007 at 10.00am

Wednesday 12 December 2007

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Jo Swinson
Dr Desmond Turner
Joan Walley

2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review

The Committee considered this matter.

Angela Eagle MP (Exchequer Secretary), Rebecca Lawrence (Head of Energy, Environment and Agriculture Team), Lindsey Whyte (Head of Environment & Transport Tax Team), HM Treasury, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 January 2008 at 10.00am
Tuesday 8 January 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Mr Graham Stuart
Colin Challen  Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor  Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Nick Hurd  Joan Walley
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger

Declaration of Interests

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992, as follows:

Overseas visits

4–8 June 2007, to USA, in my capacity as Chairman of the All Party Taxation Group, to discuss differences between the US and UK systems of taxation. My flights and accommodation were paid for by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), Washington DC. (Registered 15 June 2007)

Land and Property

Farm building, Scotland.

Climate change and local, regional and devolved government

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 10.00am]

Tuesday 15 January 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Mark Lazarowicz
Colin Challen  Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger
Mr David Chaytor  Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood  Joan Walley

Climate change and local, regional and devolved government

The Committee considered this matter.
Professor John Chesshire OBE (Chair of the Climate Change Commission), and Councillor Paul Bettison (Chairman of LGA Environment Board) and Philip Mind (Senior Policy Consultant on Climate Change), Local Government Association, gave oral evidence.

**Are biofuels sustainable?**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Are biofuels sustainable?), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 76.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 January 2008 at 10.00am]

**Tuesday 22 January 2008**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger
Colin Challen  Mr Graham Stuart
Mr David Chaytor  Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood  Dr Desmond Turner
Mark Lazarowicz

**Structure of Government and the challenge of climate change**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (Structure of Government and the challenge of climate change: Government Response to the Committee’s Ninth Report of Session 2006–07), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Ninth Report from the Committee in Session 2006–07 from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

**Climate change and local, regional and devolved government**

The Committee considered this matter.
Christine Seaward (Environment Futures Manager), Hampshire County Council, Hilary Knox, Deputy Director, Association of North East Councils, Bob Fiddik, Sustainability Manager, Southwark Council, gave oral evidence.

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Mr David Chaytor was called to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Lewis Morrison (Head of Community Advice), Energy Saving Trust, Steve Waller (Sustainability Advisor), Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government and Dr Chris West (Director), UK Climate Impacts Programme gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 February 2008 at 10.00am

28 January–7 February 2008

Colin Challen, Mr David Chaytor, Mr Graham Stuart, Jo Swinson, Dr Desmond Turner, Joan Walley and Mr Tim Yeo, accompanied by the Clerk and Committee Specialist, visited Australia and China, in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Building on Kyoto: Engaging all nations in a post-2012 agreement, in accordance with the decision of the Committee of 1 May 2007.

Tuesday 19 February 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Nick Hurd Joan Walley
Mark Lazarowicz

Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: the role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: the role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 354.

Post Kyoto: the international context for progress on climate change

The Committee considered this matter.
Charlie Kronick (Senior Climate Advisor), Greenpeace, Cédric Philibert (Principal Administrator, Energy Efficiency and Environment Division), International Energy Agency, and Saleemul Huq (Head, Climate Change Division), International Institute for Environment and Development; Craig Bennett (Development Director, University of Cambridge Programme for Industry) and David Hone, (Group Climate Change Adviser, Shell International), Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 February 2008 at 10.00am]

Tuesday 26 February 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Mr Graham Stuart
Mr David Chaytor  Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Nick Hurd  Joan Walley
Mark Lazarowicz

Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into biodiversity.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into housing and planning.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Barking Riverside, in connection with its inquiries into biodiversity and housing and planning.

The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: an environmental analysis), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, HC 149.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 March 2008 at 10.00am]
Tuesday 4 March 2008

Members present

Mr Martin Caton
Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Mr Nick Hurd

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger
Mr Graham Stuart
Jo Swinson

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Mr David Chaytor was called to the Chair for the meeting.

Are biofuels sustainable?

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to biofuels submitted by McDonald’s Restaurants UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Post Kyoto: the international context for progress on climate change

The Committee considered this matter.

Jennifer Morgan (Director, Climate and Energy Security Programme) and Professor Tom Burke (Founding Director), E3G, and Dr Benito Müller, Oxford Institute of Energy Studies, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 March 2008 at 10.00am

Tuesday 11 March 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr David Chaytor
Mr Nick Hurd
Mark Lazarowicz

Dr Desmond Turner
Joan Walley

The Voluntary Carbon Offset Market

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (The Voluntary Carbon Offset Market: Government Response to the Committee’s Sixth Report of Session 2006–07), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.
Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Sixth Report from the Committee in Session 2006–07 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

**Making Government operations more sustainable**

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the sustainability of government operations.

**Travel in a representative capacity**

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chairman have leave to visit Los Angeles in April to attend the Eleventh Annual Milken Institute Global Conference in a representative capacity.

**Post Kyoto: the international context for progress on climate change**

The Committee considered this matter.

Eric Bettelheim (Founder and Executive Chairman), Sustainable Forestry Management Ltd, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 25 March 2008 at 10.00am]

17–18 March 2008

*Mr Martin Caton, Colin Challen, Mark Lazarowicz, Jo Swinson, Dr Desmond Turner, Joan Walley and Mr Tim Yeo, accompanied by the Second Clerk and Committee Specialist, visited Brussels in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Post Kyoto: The international context for progress on climate change, in accordance with the decision of the Committee of 11 December 2007.*

18–21 March 2008

*Mr Tim Yeo visited Los Angeles to attend the 11th Milken Annual Institute Global Conference in a representative capacity, in accordance with the decision of the Committee of 11 March 2008.*
Tuesday 25 March 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen
Martin Horwood
Mr Nick Hurd

Mr Graham Stuart
Jo Swinson
Joan Walley

The Challenge of Climate Change

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the letter received from Rt. Hon Hilary Benn, Secretary of State, Defra, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Post Kyoto: the international context for progress on climate change

The Committee considered this matter.

Phil Woolas MP (Minister of State for the Environment), Jan Thompson (Head of Negotiations of International Climate Change), and Chris Dodwell (Head of International and EU Policy on Climate Change), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Scott Wightman (Director of Global and Economic Issues), Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 April 2008 at 2.40pm]

Wednesday 2 April 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton
Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Mr Martin Horwood

Mr Graham Stuart
Dr Desmond Turner
Joan Walley

Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That Mr Martin Caton, Colin Challen, Martin Horwood and Jo Swinson have leave to visit the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, Wales.
Climate change and local, regional and devolved government

The Committee considered this matter.

Phil Woolas MP (Minister of State for the Environment) and James Hughes (Head of Climate and Energy), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Iain Wright MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State) and Andrew Campbell (Director of Local Strategic Partnerships and Performance), Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Tuesday 22 April 2008]

Are biofuels sustainable?

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman of the Committee write to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the Government’s response to the Committee’s Report.

Ordered, That the Chairman of the Committee write to the Leader of the House to request a topical debate on biofuels under Standing Order No. 24A.

Ordered, That the Chairman of the Committee write to the European Commission to request that a representative from the Commission give oral evidence to the Committee on EU biofuels policy.

Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into carbon capture and storage policy and Kingsnorth power station.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 April 2008 at 10.00am]
Tuesday 29 April 2008

Members present

Colin Challen  Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor  Dr Desmond Turner
Martin Horwood  Joan Walley
Mr Graham Stuart

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Joan Walley was called to the Chair for the meeting.

Are Biofuels Sustainable?

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 528.

Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Making Government operations more sustainable: a progress check

The Committee considered this matter.

Sara Eppell (Director of Policy) and Farooq Ullah (Policy Analyst—Watchdog), Sustainable Development Commission; Sir Ian Andrews (Chairman, Sustainable Procurement Operations Board and Second Permanent Secretary), Ministry of Defence, Helen Ghosh (Permanent Secretary), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Nigel Smith (Chief Executive), Office of Government Commerce, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 May 2008 at 10.00am]
Tuesday 13 May 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Mr Nick Hurd
Colin Challen     Mark Lazarowicz
Mr David Chaytor  Mr Graham Stuart
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger  Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood    Dr Desmond Turner

Personal Carbon Trading

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Personal Carbon Trading), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 565.

Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Vehicle Excise Duty.


The Committee considered this matter.

James Marsden (Director of Policy) and David Brooke (Head of Spatial Planning), Natural England, Tony Grayling (Head of Environmental Policy) and Richard Howell (Head of Sustainable Development), the Environment Agency; Paul King (Chief Executive) and John Alker (Public Affairs Manager), UK Green Building Council, and Richard Simmons (Chief Executive), Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), gave oral evidence.

The Chairman’s attention having been called to the fact that four Members were not present, he suspended the proceedings; and another Member having come into the room, and four Members being present, the proceedings were resumed.

Jane Forshaw (Head of Environmental Policy), English Partnerships, and David Orr (Chief Executive), National Housing Federation, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 May 2008 at 10.00am]
14 May 2008

Mr Martin Caton, Colin Challen, Martin Horwood and Jo Swinson, accompanied by the Second Clerk and Senior Office Clerk, visited the Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 2 April 2007.

Tuesday 20 May 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Martin Horwood

Mr Nick Hurd
Dr Desmond Turner
Joan Walley

Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: The Role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: The Role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements: Government Response to the Committee’s Second Report of Session 2007–08) proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.


Resolved, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: The Role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis: Government Response to the Committee’s Third Report of Session 2007–08) proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Fourth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

**Greener Homes for the Future? An environmental analysis of the Government’s house-building plans**

The Committee considered this matter.

John Slaughter (Director of External Affairs) and Dave Mitchell (Technical Director), Home Builders’ Federation, Neil Jefferson (General Manager, External Relations) and Lewis Sidnick (Public and External Affairs Manager), National House-Building Council; Neil Sinden (Director of Policy) and Kate Gordon (Senior Planning Officer), Campaign for the Protection of Rural England; Councillor Paul Bettison (Chair, LGA Environment Board, and Leader, Bracknell Forest Borough Council) and Martin Wheatley (Programme Director), Local Government Association, Gideon Amos (Chief Executive) and Julie Cowans (Trustee), Town and Country Planning Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 June 2008 at 10.15am

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**21 May 2008**

*Colin Challen, Mr David Chaytor, Martin Horwood, Jo Swinson, Joan Walley and Mr Tim Yeo*, accompanied by the Committee Specialists and the Senior Committee Assistant, visited Barking Riverside in connection with the Committee’s inquiries into Greener Homes for the Future and Halting UK Biodiversity Loss, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 26 February 2008.

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**Tuesday 3 June 2008**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colin Challen</th>
<th>Mr Graham Stuart</th>
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<td>Martin Horwood</td>
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<td>Mark Lazarowicz</td>
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**Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response**

The Committee considered this matter.
Draft Special Report (Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response: Government Response to the Committee’s Fourth Report of Session 2007–08) proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Fourth Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08, Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response, was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

**Greener Homes for the Future? An environmental analysis of the Government’s house-building plans**

The Committee considered this matter.

Phil Woolas MP, Minister for the Environment, and Daryl Brown, Head of Growth Points Team, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and The Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP, Minister for Housing and Bob Ledsome, Deputy Director, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 June 2008 at 2.00pm]

**Wednesday 4 June 2008**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Martin Horwood
Mr Nick Hurd

Mark Lazarowicz
Dr Desmond Turner
Jo Swinson
Joan Walley

**Carbon Capture and Storage**

Bob Taylor, Managing Director (Generation) and Sara Vaughan, Director of Regulation and Energy Policy, E.ON UK; Malcolm Wicks MP, Minister of State for Energy, Martin Deutz, Head of Cleaner Fossil Fuels Unit, and Bronwen Northmore, Policy Director, Cleaner Fossil Fuels Unit, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17 June 2008 at 9.45am]
Tuesday 17 June 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen  Jo Swinson
Mr Nick Hurd  Dr Desmond Turner
Mark Lazarowicz  Joan Walley

Halting UK biodiversity loss

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr Tom Tew, Chief Scientist, and Dr Peter Brotherton, Head of Biodiversity, Natural England; Paul Temple, Vice-President, and Andrew Clark, Head of Policy, National Farmers’ Union, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 June 2008 at 10.00am

Tuesday 24 June 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Dr Desmond Turner
Colin Challen

Halting UK biodiversity loss

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr Mark Avery (Director of Conservation) and Simon Marsh (Head of Planning Policy), RSPB, Matthew Jackson (Head of Policy and Planning, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust), The Wildlife Trusts, and Matt Shardlow (Director), Buglife, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 July 2008 at 10.00am
Tuesday 1 July 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor  Dr Desmond Turner
Mark Lazarowicz  Joan Walley

Reaching an international agreement on climate change

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Reaching an international agreement on climate change), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 355.

Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Seventh Report of the Committee, HC 529.

Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 July 2008 at 2.20pm]
**Wednesday 2 July 2008**

**Members present**

Colin Challen  
Mr David Chaytor  
Mark Lazarowicz  
Jo Swinson  
Joan Walley

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Joan Walley was called to the Chair for the meeting.

**Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax**

Professor Stephen Glaister CBE, Director, RAC Foundation and Paul Everitt, Chief Executive Officer, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 July 2008 at 10.00am]

**Tuesday 8 July 2008**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  
Colin Challen  
Mr David Chaytor  
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger  
Mr Graham Stuart  
Jo Swinson  
Dr Desmond Turner

**Climate change and local, regional and devolved government**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Climate change and local, regional and devolved government*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Eighth Report of the Committee, HC 225.*

**Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report**

The Committee considered this matter.

**The Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development**

The Committee considered this matter.
James Leaton, Senior Policy Advisor, and Daisy Streatfeild, Researcher, WWF, and Nick Hildyard, The Corner House, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 July 2008 at 3.15pm]

Wednesday 9 July 2008

Members present

Colin Challen  Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor  Dr Desmond Turner
Martin Horwood  Joan Walley
Mr Nick Hurd

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Joan Walley was called to the Chair for the meeting.

Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax

The Committee considered this matter.

Angela Eagle MP, Exchequer Secretary, and Lucy Makinson, Head of Environment and Transport Tax, HM Treasury, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 July 2008 at 9.45am]

Tuesday 15 July 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Mark Lazarowicz
Colin Challen  Mr Graham Stuart
Mr David Chaytor  Jo Swinson
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger  Dr Desmond Turner
Martin Horwood  Joan Walley

Carbon capture and storage

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Carbon capture and storage), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.
The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Ninth Report of the Committee, HC 654.

**Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax**

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft Report.

**Emissions from shipping**

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into emissions from shipping.

**Deforestation**

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into deforestation.

**Halting UK biodiversity loss**

The Committee considered this matter.

Joan Ruddock MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Climate Change, Biodiversity and Waste) and Martin Brasher, Head of Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity Division, Defra, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 July 2008 at 2.20pm]

**Wednesday 16 July 2008**

**Members present**

Mr Martin Caton  
Mr David Chaytor  
Martin Horwood  
Mr Nick Hurd  
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger  
Dr Desmond Turner  
Joan Walley

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Mr David Chaytor was called to the Chair for the meeting.

**Export Credits Guarantee Department and sustainable development**

The Committee considered this matter.

Malcolm Wicks MP, Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, Patrick Crawford, Chief Executive, and Steve Dodgson, Business Director, Export Credits Guarantee Department, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 July 2008 at 10.00am]
Tuesday 22 July 2008

Members present
Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr David Chaytor          Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood            Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Graham Stuart          Joan Walley

**Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Tenth Report of the Committee, HC 907.*

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 October at 10.00am]

Tuesday 7 October 2008

Members present
Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton          Mr Nick Hurd
Mr Colin Challen         Mr Graham Stuart
Mr David Chaytor          Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood            Dr Desmond Turner

**Unauthorised disclosure of Committee proceedings**

*Ordered*, That the Clerk investigate the circumstances of the breach of the embargo on the Committee’s Tenth Report of Session 2007–08, *Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax*.

**International Conference on Biofuels: biofuels—drive towards sustainable development, São Paulo**

*Resolved*, That the Chairman and Dr Desmond Turner have leave to visit São Paulo, Brazil, to attend the International Conference on Biofuels.

**The Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development**

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft Report.
Tuesday 14 October 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mark Lazarowicz  
Dr Desmond Turner  
Joan Walley

Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Eleventh Report of the Committee, HC 929.

Scientific basis for carbon reduction targets

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence on the scientific basis for carbon reduction targets.

The Chairman’s attention having been called to the fact that four Members were not present, he adjourned the Committee till Tuesday 21 October at 9.45am.

Tuesday 21 October 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  
Mr Nick Hurd  
Colin Challen  
Jo Swinson  
Mr David Chaytor  
Joan Walley  
Martin Horwood


The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft Report.
**Reaching an international agreement on climate change**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Government Response to the Sixth Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08, Reaching an international agreement on climate change*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Sixth Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Sixth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

**Reducing emissions from shipping**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to maritime emissions be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Department for Transport
- The Chamber of Shipping
- Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
- Martek Marine Ltd
- Lloyds Registers’
- SEAat
- International Maritime Organization

Peter Lockley, Head of Transport Policy, WWF-UK and Dr Andre Stochniol, Founder, International Maritime emissions Reduction Scheme, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 28 October at 9.45am]
Tuesday 28 October 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen  Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor  Dr Desmond Turner
Martin Horwood  Joan Walley
Mark Lazarowicz

**Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government’s house-building plans.**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government’s house-building plans), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Twelfth Report of the Committee, HC 566.*

**Halting biodiversity loss**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Halting biodiversity loss), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee, HC 743.*

**Personal Carbon Trading**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (Government Response to the Fifth Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08, Personal Carbon Trading), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.*

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Seventh Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

*Resolved, That the Report be the Seventh Special Report of the Committee to the House.*

*Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.*
Carbon capture and storage

The Committee considered this matter.

United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznań

Resolved, That Colin Challen and Joan Walley have leave to visit Poznań in Poland in December 2008 to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in a representative capacity.

Reducing emissions from shipping

Miguel Palomares (Director, Marine Environment Division) and Eivind S. Vagslid, (Head, Chemical and Air Pollution Prevention Section, Marine Environment Division) of the International Maritime Organization, and Robert Ashdown (Head of Technical Division), David Asprey (Head of Shipping Policy), Edmund Brookes (Deputy Director-General), Jesper Kjaedegaard (Vice-President) and Philip Naylor (General Manager, Carnival UK) of the Chamber of Shipping gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 November at 9.45am

4 November 2008

Mr Martin Caton, Colin Challen, Mr David Chaytor, Mark Lazarowicz, Dr Desmond Turner, Joan Walley and Mr Tim Yeo, accompanied by the Committee Specialist and the Senior Committee Assistant, visited Brussels in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Reducing emissions from shipping, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 7 October 2008.

Tuesday 11 November 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  Jo Swinson
Colin Challen  Dr Desmond Turner
Mr David Chaytor  Joan Walley
Martin Horwood

Deforestation

Resolved, That the Committee visit Cameroon in connection with its inquiry into deforestation.
Making Government operations more sustainable

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (Government Response to the Seventh Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08, Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Special Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Seventh Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

The response from the Sustainable Development Commission was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Eighth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (Government Response to the Eighth Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08, Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Special Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Eighth Report from the Committee in Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Ninth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 November at 10.00am

15–20 November 2008

Dr Desmond Turner and Mr Tim Yeo visited Sao Paulo, Brazil to attend the International Conference on Biofuels, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 7 October 2008.
Tuesday 18 November 2008

Members present

Mr David Chaytor  Jo Swinson
Mr Nick Hurd  Joan Walley
Mark Lazarowicz

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Joan Walley was called to the Chair for the meeting.


The Committee considered this matter.

Emissions trading

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into emissions trading.

Reducing emissions from shipping

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to maritime emissions be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

    Cascade Technologies Ltd

Dr Alice Bows, Tyndall Senior Research Fellow and Dr Terry Barker, Programme Leader, Integrating Frameworks, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research; Gillian Reynolds, Principal Environment and Sustainability Adviser, Lloyd’s Register and Member of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology; Peter Barham, Sustainable Development Manager, Associated British Ports; Alan Cartwright, Marine Engineer, Port of London Authority and advisor to UK Major Ports Group; Howard Holt, Head of Corporate Affairs, Dover Harbour Board and representative of the British Ports Association gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 25 November at 10.00am]
Tuesday 25 November 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton
Colin Challen
Mr David Chaytor
Martin Horwood

Mark Lazarowicz
Dr Desmond Turner
Joan Walley


The Committee considered this matter.


Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

The updated Government response to the Twelfth Report from the Committee in Session 2003–04 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Tenth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Scientific basis for carbon reduction targets

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to carbon reduction targets be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

The Scientific basis for carbon reduction targets: Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC)

Reducing emissions from shipping

Joan Ruddock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Philip Andrews, Head of Transport Emissions, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Jim Fitzpatrick, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport, Simon Cockburn, Head of the UK’s delegation to the IMO, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Godfrey Souter, Head of Branch, Shipping and the Marine Environment, Department for Transport, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 November at 2.20pm]
Wednesday 26 November 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton        Mark Lazarowicz
Colin Challen          Jo Swinson
Mr David Chaytor       Joan Walley
Martin Horwood

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Joan Walley was called to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Scientific basis for carbon reduction targets

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr James Hansen, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Tim Helweg-Larsen, Director, Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC); and Professor John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Head of the Government Office of Science, and Professor Robert Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 December at 10.00am]
Proceedings of the Environmental Information Sub-Committee

Wednesday 14 November 2007

Members present

Colin Challen, in the Chair

Martin Horwood Jo Swinson

Environmental Labelling

The Committee considered this matter.

Peter Kendall, President, and Robin Tapper, Senior Food Chain Advisor, the National Farmers’ Union of England and Wales; Mike Barry, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Marks and Spencer; Tom Delay, Chief Executive, and Euan Murray, General Manager, Carbon Footprinting, the Carbon Trust, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 December 2007 at 2.20pm

Wednesday 12 December 2007

Members present

Mark Pritchard Joan Walley
Jo Swinson

In the absence of the Chairman, Joan Walley was called to the Chair.

Environmental Labelling

The Committee considered this matter.

Alan Knight, Commissioner on Sustainable Consumption, and Sue Dibb, Team Leader, Sustainable Consumption and Business, Sustainable Development Commission; David North, Community and Government Director, Tesco; Brian Samuel, Head of Policy Research, and Matthew Wright, Director of Customer Insight, Energy Saving Trust, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 January 2008 at 2.20pm
Wednesday 9 January 2008

Members present

Colin Challen, in the Chair

Mr Nick Hurd
Joan Walley
Jo Swinson

Environmental Labelling

The Committee considered this matter.

Steve Smith, Managing Director—Networks, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets; Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive, and Jeremy Boxall, Commercial Manager, Linking Environment and Farming, and Mary Bosley, Agricultural Manager—Fruit, Vegetables and Horticulture Buying, Waitrose; Greg Archer, Director, and Jonathon Murray, Deputy Director, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, and Simon Barnes, Technical Manager, Environment Team, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23 January 2008 at 2.20pm

Wednesday 23 January 2008

Members present

Colin Challen, in the Chair

Martin Horwood
Joan Walley
Jo Swinson

Environmental Labelling

The Committee considered this matter.

Joan Ruddock MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr Bob Ryder, Deputy Head, Sustainable Products and Materials, and Mr Dominic Pattinson, Project Leader, Food Chain Programme, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 24 November 2008 at 3.00pm
Monday 24 November 2008

Members present

Colin Challen, in the Chair

Martin Horwood           Joan Walley
Jo Swinson

Environmental Labelling

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft Report.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 February 2009 at 3.00pm]