



House of Commons  
Environmental Audit  
Committee

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# **Formal Minutes of the Committee**

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**Session 2009–10**

## **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*) (Chair)  
Gregory Barker MP (*Conservative, Bexhill & Battle*)  
Mr Martin Caton MP (*Labour, Gower*)  
Colin Challen MP (*Labour, Morley & Rothwell*)  
Mr David Chaytor MP (*Labour, Bury North*)  
Martin Horwood MP (*Liberal Democrat, Cheltenham*)  
Mr Nick Hurd MP (*Conservative, Ruislip-Northwood*)  
Rt Hon Jane Kennedy MP (*Labour, Liverpool, Wavertree*)  
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, Kempton*)  
Joan Walley MP (*Labour, Stoke-on-Trent North*)

### **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](http://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/eacom/](http://www.parliament.uk/eacom/)

### **Committee staff**

The current staff of the Committee are: Gordon Clarke (Clerk), Simon Fiander (Second Clerk), Tim Bryant (Committee Specialist), Edward White (Committee Specialist), James Bowman (Senior Committee Assistant), Susan Ramsay (Committee Assistant) and Steven Everett (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](mailto:eacom@parliament.uk)

# Formal Minutes of the Environmental Audit Committee, Session 2009–10

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Tuesday 24 November 2009

## Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen

Dr Desmond Turner

Mr David Chaytor

Joan Walley

Jo Swinson

## 1. *Work of the Committee in Session 2008–09*

Draft Report (*The work of the Committee in 2008–09*), 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 with the First Report of the Committee, HC 58.*

## 2. *Adapting to climate change*

*Ordered*, That the written evidence from the following, relating to adapting to climate change, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Historic Houses Association

Consumer Focus

Town and Country Planning Association

Local Government Information Unit

Groundwork UK

Waterwise

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management

Water UK

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Landscape Institute

EDF Energy

Natural England

East of England Development Agency

The Wildlife Trusts

The Woodland Trust

Ofwat

Local Government Association

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Environment Agency

British Geological Survey

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
 National Farmers' Union  
 Association of British Insurers  
 Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research  
 Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment  
 Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College London  
 The Met Office  
 The UK Climate Impacts Programme

### **3. Carbon budgets**

*Ordered*, That the written evidence from the following, relating to carbon budgets, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Friends of the Earth  
 The Global Commons Institute

### **4. UN Climate change conference, Copenhagen**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 December at 10 a.m.]

**Tuesday 1 December 2009**

#### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  
 Colin Challen

Dr Desmond Turner  
 Joan Walley

### **1. Air quality**

*Ordered*, That Professor M J Pilling be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into air quality.

### **2. Adapting to climate change**

*Ordered*, That the written evidence from the following, relating to adapting to climate change, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Mayor of London, Greater London Authority  
 South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership

### **3. Ministerial responsibilities**

The Committee considered this matter.

#### **4. Adapting to climate change**

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr Helen Phillips, Chief Executive and Dr Tom Tew, Chief Scientist, Natural England, gave oral evidence.

Pamela Taylor OBE, Chief Executive and Bruce Horton, Environmental Policy Adviser, Water UK, and Andy Brown, Climate Change and Environmental Performance Manager, Anglian Water, gave oral evidence.

Dr Chris West, Director, UK Climate Impacts Programme, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 December at 10 a.m.]

### **Tuesday 8 December 2009**

#### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen  
Martin Horwood

Mark Lazarowicz  
Jo Swinson

#### **1. Green jobs and skills**

Mark Lazarowicz declared an interest as an unpaid board member of Edinburgh Community Energy Cooperative.

Draft Report (*Green jobs and skills*), 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 with the Second Report of the Committee, HC 159-I.*

#### **2. Air quality**

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the written evidence from the following, relating to air quality, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Calor Gas Ltd  
Institute of Air Quality Management

#### **3. UN climate change conference, Copenhagen**

The Committee considered this matter.

#### **4. UK Financial Investments**

The Committee considered this matter.

*Resolved*, That the Committee inquire into UK Financial Investments and environmental issues.

## **5. Adapting to climate change**

The Committee considered this matter.

Dr Andy Johnston, Head of the Centre for Local Sustainability, Local Government Information Unit, gave oral evidence.

Gideon Amos OBE, Chief Executive, and Dr Hugh Ellis, Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 January at 4.30 p.m.]

*Monday 7 December—Monday 14 December 2009*

*The Chairman, Des Turner and Joan Walley visited Copenhagen to attend the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in a representative capacity, in accordance with the Committee's decisions of 2 and 23 June 2009.*

*Tuesday 15 December 2009*

*The Chairman, David Chaytor and Ian Liddell-Grainger visited the Thames Barrier in connection with the Committee's inquiry into adapting to climate change, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 20 October 2009.*

**Tuesday 5 January 2010**

### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Nick Hurd

Jo Swinson

Mark Lazarowicz

Dr Desmond Turner

## **1. Carbon budgets**

Draft Report (*Carbon budgets*), 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 with the Third Report of the Committee, HC 228-I.*

## **2. Air quality**

*Ordered*, That the written evidence from the following, relating to air quality, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Greater London Authority  
 Ms Joanna Guske  
 Environmental Protection UK  
 The Woodland Trust  
 Air Quality Management Resource Centre, Faculty of Environment and  
 Technology  
 Allan Norman  
 Natural Environment Research Council  
 Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management  
 Low Emission Strategies Partnership Board  
 Peter Wilson  
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
 Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services  
 King's College London—Environmental Research Group  
 Enviros Consulting Ltd  
 Campaign for Clean Air in London  
 Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea  
 Johnson Matthey Plc  
 ClientEarth  
 Transport research Laboratory  
 Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth  
 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
 Environment Agency  
 Environmental Industries Commission

### **3. *UN climate change conference, Copenhagen***

The Committee considered this matter.

### **4. *Adapting to climate change***

The Committee considered this matter.

Isabel Dedring, Mayoral Adviser on the Environment, and Alex Nickson, Climate Change Manager (Adaptation), Greater London Authority, gave oral evidence.

### **5. *Air quality***

The Committee considered this matter.

Isabel Dedring, Mayoral Adviser on the Environment, and Simon Cousins, Environment Programme Officer, Greater London Authority, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January at 10 a.m.]

**Tuesday 19 January 2010**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

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

**1. *The role of carbon markets in preventing dangerous climate change***

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

**2. *Adapting to climate change***

Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chairman, and Dr Paul Leinster CBE, Chief Executive, Environment Agency, gave oral evidence.

Professor Neil Adger and Dr Tim Rayner, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 January at 2.30 p.m.]

*Tuesday 12 January—Wednesday 13 January 2010*

*The Chairman, David Chaytor and Joan Walley visited the European Commission, Brussels in connection with the Committee's inquiry into air quality, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 20 October 2009.*

**Tuesday 26 January 2010**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen	Mark Lazarowicz
Mr David Chaytor	Jo Swinson
Martin Horwood	

**1. *The role of carbon markets in preventing dangerous climate change***

Draft Report (*The role of carbon markets in preventing dangerous 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 with the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 290.*

## **2. *Adapting to climate change***

*Ordered*, That written evidence from the Department for Energy and Climate Change on adapting to climate change be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

## **3. *Air quality***

*Ordered*, That written evidence from Leicester City Council relating to air quality be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

## **4. *Adapting to climate change***

The Committee considered this matter.

Professor Lord John Krebs, Chairman, Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change, and Neil Golborne, Team Leader Adaptation, Committee on Climate Change, gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Professor Robert Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser, and Robin Mortimer, Director, Adapting to Climate Change Programme, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2 February at 10 a.m.]

### **Tuesday 2 February 2010**

#### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  
Colin Challen  
Mr David Chaytor

Mark Lazarowicz  
Dr Desmond Turner

## **1. *UK Financial Investments***

The Committee considered this matter.

## **2. *Adapting to climate change***

*Ordered*, That written evidence from Ofwat on adapting to climate change be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

## **3. *Air quality***

The Committee considered this matter.

Professor M J Pilling, Specialist Adviser for the Committee's inquiry into air quality, declared an interest in that his son works with the Low Emissions Strategies Partnership, who submitted written evidence to the Committee.

*Ordered*, That written evidence from Friends of the Earth relating to air quality be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

#### **4. Carbon capture and storage**

The Committee considered this matter.

#### **5. UN climate change conference, Copenhagen**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 February at 10 a.m.]

### **Tuesday 9 February 2010**

#### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton  
Martin Horwood  
Mark Lazarowicz

Dr Desmond Turner  
Joan Walley

#### ***Air quality***

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That written evidence from Calor Gas Ltd relating to air quality be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Dr Ian S McCrae, Senior Technical Manager, Energy, Emissions and Air Pollution Group, Transport Research Laboratory, gave oral evidence.

Professor Frank Kelly and Dr Gary Fuller, Environmental Research Group, King's College London, gave oral evidence.

Graham Pendlebury, Director, Environment and International Directorate, Iain Forbes, Head of Air Quality Branch, and Chris Parkin, Head of Engineering Standards Branch, Department for Transport, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 February at 10 a.m.]

**Tuesday 23 February 2010**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Martin Horwood	Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger	Joan Walley
Jo Swinson	

**1. *Air quality***

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the written evidence from the following, relating to air quality, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Asthma UK  
Environment Agency  
Department of Health

**2. *Future programme***

The Committee considered this matter.

**3. *Air quality***

Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Minister for Food, Farming and Environment, Daniel Instone, Deputy Director Air, Noise and Local Environmental Quality, Atmosphere and Local Environment Programme, Tim Williamson, Air Quality Science and Evidence Team, and Robert Vaughan, National and Local Air Quality Strategy, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2 March at 10 a.m.]

**Tuesday 2 March 2010**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

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

## 1. **Air quality**

*Resolved*, That written evidence from the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services on air quality, previously reported to the House and published on the internet, be amended.

## 2. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 March at 10 a.m.]

**Tuesday 9 March 2010**

### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton

Colin Challen

Martin Horwood

Mark Lazarowicz

Dr Desmond Turner

Joan Walley

## 1. **Green jobs and skills**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Green jobs and skills: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2009–10*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Committee's Second Report was appended to the Report.

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

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

## 2. **UK Financial Investments**

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That written evidence from the following, relating to UK Financial Investments, be reported to the House for printing:

Green Alliance, People and Planet, Platform and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Green Alliance and Greenpeace-UK

Oxfam and FairPensions

UK Financial Investments

Royal Bank of Scotland

World Development Movement  
 Source Asia Ltd  
 UK Sustainable Investment and Finance (UKSIF)  
 Green New Deal Group  
 Lloyds Banking Group  
 HM Treasury

Robin Budenberg, Chief Executive, and Mr Sam Woods, Chief Operating Officer, UK Financial Investments, gave oral evidence.

Lowri Khan, Director Financial Stability, Chris Martin, Director Public Services and Environment, and David Lunn, Head of Financial Stability (Coordination and Resolution), HM Treasury, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 March at 12.50 p.m.]

### **Wednesday 10 March 2010**

#### **Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen  
 Martin Horwood  
 Mark Lazarowicz

Dr Desmond Turner  
 Joan Walley

#### **1. *UK Financial Investments***

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman write to Lord Myners, Financial Services Secretary and Minister for the City, about the evidence taken before the Committee on 9 March on UK Financial Investments.

#### **2. *WWF Earth Hour, 27 March***

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman write to the House of Commons Commission about participation in the WWF Earth Hour on 27 March.

#### **3. *International climate change negotiations***

Rt Hon Edward Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Peter Betts, Director of International Climate Change, and Jan Thompson, Head of Negotiations, Department of Energy and Climate Change, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 March at 10 a.m.]

**Tuesday 16 March 2010**

**Members present**

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Colin Challen

Dr Desmond Turner

Mr David Chaytor

Joan Walley

Jo Swinson

**1. Air quality**

Draft Report (*Air Quality*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 229-I.*

**2. Adapting to climate change**

Draft Report (*Adapting to Climate Change*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 113.*

**3. Carbon budgets**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Carbon budgets: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2009–10*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Third Report from the Committee and a letter to the Chairman from Sir Michael Pitt, chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, were appended to the Report.

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

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

[The Committee adjourned.]