



House of Commons
Environmental Audit
Committee

**Work of the Committee
in 2007–08**

First Report of Session 2008–09

Report, together with formal minutes

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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*)
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Dr Desmond Turner, MP (*Labour, Brighton, Kempton*)
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.

Publication

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/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee.cfm.

A list of Reports of the Committee from the current Parliament is at the back of this volume.

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 (Senior Committee Assistant); Jennifer Steele (Committee Assistant); and Charlotte Towerton (Sandwich Student)

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1 Overview of 2007–08

1. The Standing Order under which the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) is appointed¹ requires it to consider the extent to which the policies and programmes of government departments and non-departmental public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development. It audits the performance of government departments and non-departmental public bodies against targets that are set for them by Ministers. The thirteen reports of the Committee in Session 2007–08 reflect the wide scope of our remit; their subject matter ranges from personal carbon trading to the sustainability of biofuels, and from vehicle excise duty to international agreements on climate change.

2. In 2005 we decided that climate change should be the priority of the Committee for the life of the current Parliament, in recognition of the growing urgency of the threat posed by climate change and the cross-departmental nature of most of the issues that relate to it. In this Session we continued to develop our work in this area by revisiting a number of recommendations made in previous reports; our inquiries into vehicle excise duty and greener homes, for example, both built on earlier work of the Committee. We have also conducted inquiries into a number of topics we had not previously considered, such as the sustainability of biofuels and personal carbon trading. The following paragraphs give an overview of the Committee's working practices and an outline of our key recommendations and the responses we have received from Government.

3. The Liaison Committee has set out core tasks for departmental select committees.² Not all of these core tasks are appropriate to the remit of a cross-departmental committee such as ours. We are nevertheless committed to applying the overall objectives of these tasks in examining sustainable development across Government. We have therefore decided to return to our policy of issuing an Annual Report.³

2 Work of the Committee in 2007–08

4. In the last Session we held 40 Committee meetings, at 31 of which oral evidence was taken; we published 13 substantive reports. In addition to evidence sessions relating to particular inquiries, we held two separate oral evidence sessions. The Sub-Committee on Environmental Protection met 6 times, and took oral evidence on 4 occasions. Further details of the activities and costs of the Committee and the Sub-Committee during this Session can be found in their entries in the Sessional Return, reproduced as an Annex to this report.

5. Statistics for attendance of members at Committee meetings can also be found in the Sessional Return. The Committee's attendance figures belie the hard work and dedication demonstrated by a core group of Committee members. We have a number of other

1 Standing Order No. 152A (Environmental Audit Committee)

2 CJ (2001–02) 553

3 The Committee agreed an Annual Report in both 2002 and 2003. From 2004 until 2007, a letter from the Chairman was published as an Appendix to the Liaison Committee's annual Report on the work of committees.

members who for various reasons wish to leave the Committee. One of our members was made a minister in 2007 and has still not been replaced by the Committee of Selection. Given that we have a core of knowledgeable and assiduous members, it would be entirely possible to reduce the size of the EAC with no detrimental effect on the quality of our scrutiny work.

Liaison with other select committees

6. The Committee's cross-departmental remit inevitably means that from time to time our inquiries overlap with the work of departmental select committees. Contact with the Communities and Local Government Committee was particularly useful during our inquiries into the environmental impact of Government housing policy⁴ and the work of sub-national government on climate change,⁵ while our Report on Vehicle Excise Duty⁶ benefited from liaison with both the Treasury Committee and the Transport Committee. We were also grateful for the support of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee during our inquiry into the sustainability of biofuels⁷ and in preparation for an evidence session examining the scientific basis for carbon reduction targets. We also maintained our long-standing productive relationship with the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

7. Following the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in October 2008, a new Select Committee will be established in January 2009 to scrutinise the work of the Department. We look forward to co-operating productively with the new Committee.

Relationship with the National Audit Office

8. In this Session, we continued to build on our valuable relationship with the National Audit Office (NAO). Briefings and reviews from the NAO informed a number of our inquiries, most notably those into the Export Credits Guarantee Department and sustainability; climate change and local, regional and devolved government; the Climate Change Levy and the sustainability of government operations. Our work was also supported more generally by a review of the measurement and reporting of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Briefings from the NAO on options for scrutiny in the fields of Transport and the Environment and Renewable Energy have helped to shape our plans for future inquiries. Informal briefings and support from a dedicated Environmental Audit and Sustainable Development team continue to be invaluable to our work. We also benefit greatly from the presence of a secondee from the NAO as a Committee Specialist.

4 Environmental Audit Committee, Twelfth Report of Session 2007–08, *Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government's house-building plans*, HC 566

5 Environmental Audit Committee, Eighth Report of Session 2007–08, *Climate change and local, regional and devolved government*, HC 225

6 Environmental Audit Committee, Tenth Report of Session 2007–08, *Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax*, HC 907

7 Environmental Audit Committee, First Report of Session 2007–08, *Are biofuels sustainable?*, HC 76-I

Relationship with Government departments

9. We were generally satisfied with both the quality and timeliness of memoranda submitted by government departments, and with their responses to correspondence. On the whole, the timeliness of government responses to our reports was also satisfactory; only the Government's response to our Report on Vehicle Excise Duty⁸ was significantly delayed. Informal meetings with government officials continue to be particularly useful to us in our work.

Visits

10. We made two visits within the UK during this Session.⁹ In May, four members of the Committee visited the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales. We were given a tour of the centre and received a number of presentations on the work that takes place there. While our discussions covered a wide range of topics relating to climate change, the visit was particularly concerned with personal carbon trading. Later that month, six members of the Committee visited Barking Riverside in connection with two inquiries: greener homes and biodiversity. Situated on former industrial land and landfill sites, Barking Riverside is the biggest strategic housing project in the Thames Gateway. Speaking to the onsite project team (and observing first-hand the skylarks that fed in the area), we were able to gain insights into the practical issues regarding building on brownfield sites, including impacts on biodiversity and approaches to mitigating them.

11. As part of our inquiry into international climate change negotiations, seven members of the Committee visited China and Australia.¹⁰ We discussed international climate change negotiations with a number of representatives including Ambassador Yu Qingtai, China's Special Representative for Climate Change Talks, and senior officials in Australia's Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

12. We also visited the European Commission in Brussels twice during the Session, first in connection with our inquiry into reaching an international agreement on climate change, and second in connection with our inquiries into reducing emissions from shipping and avoiding deforestation.¹¹ On each occasion the Committee took the opportunity of gaining an update on latest developments in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Members were impressed on both trips by the expertise, co-operation, and openness shown by European Commission officials. We are also grateful to the officials in the office of the UK's Permanent Representative in Brussels who helped to arrange and facilitate both visits.

8 See below, para 36.

9 See Annex for costs.

10 See Annex for costs.

11 See Annex for costs.

Travel in a representative capacity

13. Members of the Committee attended a number of international events in a representative capacity. The Chairman participated in a panel at the 11th Annual Milken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles. The Chairman and Dr Desmond Turner travelled to São Paulo in order to attend the International Conference on Biofuels, a subject that had been the focus of an inquiry earlier in the Session.

14. Colin Challen attended the thirteenth session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Bali, Indonesia, in a representative capacity. Members of the Committee will also attend the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Conference in the coming year. Attendance at these events reflects the Committee's ongoing focus on international climate change negotiations.

3 Key Themes of the Session 2007–08

Tackling Climate Change

Biofuels

15. In our report on biofuels,¹² we found that they can reduce greenhouse gas emissions if they are used as a substitute for fossil fuels, but only in specific circumstances. If inappropriate production processes are used, or if they are produced on land converted from forests, biofuels can in fact give rise to more emissions than they save.

16. Our report also drew attention to evidence that indicated that biofuels are generally an expensive and less effective means of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions from road transport can be cut cost-effectively, and with lower environmental risk, by implementing a range of other policies. We argued that the Government should concentrate on the use of sustainable biofuels and the development of more efficient biofuel technologies. We advocated a moratorium on policies aimed at increasing the use of biofuels at this stage.

17. Although in its response the Government rejected our call for a moratorium, it nevertheless commissioned Professor Ed Gallagher to investigate the impacts of biofuels policy four weeks after the publication of our report. European Commissioners also took the unusual move of responding to our report, albeit in order to reject some of our conclusions.

18. The Committee agreed a further report¹³ commenting on the Government's response, in which we expressed significant concerns at the Government's rejection of a moratorium and urged the Government to resist attempts to increase EU biofuels targets. We also secured a debate on biofuels in Westminster Hall. During this debate, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Jim Fitzpatrick, undertook not to agree any

12 Environmental Audit Committee, First Report of Session 2007–08, *Are biofuels sustainable?*, HC 76-I

13 Environmental Audit Committee, Fourth Report of Session 2007–08, *Are biofuels sustainable? The Government Response*, HC 528

increase above existing targets until concerns about sustainability were addressed. On completion of his review, Professor Gallagher expressed concerns about the sustainability of biofuels but recommended that “the Government should amend but not abandon its biofuel policy.” In October 2008 the Government announced a consultation on whether to reduce biofuel targets.¹⁴ We intend to keep a watching brief on this area.

Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements

19. The Climate Change Levy (CCL), a tax designed to curb carbon emissions from industry, commerce and public sector, represents the second biggest potential source of carbon savings in the UK Climate Change Programme. In our report,¹⁵ we commended this bold and innovative suite of policies, but noted a number of shortcomings. While carbon savings resulting from the CCL package appear to have been significant, we noted that most of the carbon savings came about during the two year consultation process prior to its introduction. The rest of the savings had mainly come from Climate Change Agreements (CCAs), established alongside the Levy, which offer industrial firms a tax discount in return for meeting energy efficiency targets.

20. The wider lesson we noted was that if even large industrial firms require extra assistance to become more energy efficient, then it is certain that small businesses, public bodies, and private households will do so as well. The Government should not rely simply on ‘sticks’ by adding a tax to the activities it wants to discourage, but must also motivate people to act by raising their awareness and offering ‘carrots’ in the form of positive financial incentives. Additionally, we made a number of technical recommendations about the workings of the CCL package—for instance, that Climate Change Agreement targets should be in the form of absolute rather than relative reductions in emissions. We expressed concern that not enough was being done to encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to reduce emissions, and recommended that the Government increase funding for low-carbon investment and advice to businesses.

21. In its response to our report,¹⁶ the Government relied on estimates of the impacts of the CCL package, without fully engaging with the Committee’s points on the origins of the CCL’s estimated savings. It said it would undertake careful analysis of the issues around putting Climate Change Agreement targets in the form of absolute carbon reductions, in consultation with industry, before reviewing options in the context of the new CCA scheme. It also acknowledged that further support for SMEs is needed and confirmed that it is taking action in this area.

14 Department for Transport, *Consultation on the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009*, October 2008, <http://www.dft.gov.uk/>

15 Environmental Audit Committee, *Second Report of Session 2007–08, Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: The role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements*, HC 354

16 Environmental Audit Committee, *Third Special Report of Session 2007–08, 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*, HC 590

Personal Carbon Trading

22. If the Government is to have any chance of meeting its 2050 target for reducing emissions it cannot afford to neglect the domestic and personal sector. We felt that personal carbon trading (PCT) was the kind of radical policy needed to achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions. In our report on PCT,¹⁷ we expressed a belief that it had a greater potential than green taxes to provoke the behavioural changes necessary to reduce emissions, and argued that personal carbon trading could be essential in helping to reduce our national carbon footprint.

23. Whilst our report acknowledged the numerous obstacles to implementing a working system of personal carbon trading, we felt that these could be overcome. In support of our conclusions, we noted a recent DEFRA preliminary study on carbon trading that confirmed there are no insurmountable technical obstacles to personal carbon trading. We concluded that the viability of personal carbon trading rests on its public and political acceptability and urged the Government to be courageous and to move beyond merely engaging in academic debate.

24. In its response, the Government signalled its intention not to take PCT forward, even to the extent that it will not undertake any further research in this area. We were particularly surprised by the Government's claim that personal carbon trading was an 'idea ahead of its time',¹⁸ especially as carbon trading for companies is a central part of the UK's climate change policy. We believe that the Government should reconsider the role it is prepared to play in advancing research in this field and urge it to take a strong lead in shaping activity and debate on PCT.

Reaching an international agreement on climate change

25. Our report on international climate change negotiations¹⁹ recommended that the international community aspire to steep emission reductions in order to avoid dangerous climate change. We found that emission reductions by developed countries of 25–40% by 2020 and 80–95% by 2050 are the minimum that the UK and EU should aim for in negotiations. Developing countries will need to commit to actions that will limit the growth of, and eventually stabilise, their emissions.

26. We were pleased to note that the UK has a credible voice in international negotiations on climate change. But we were concerned that the Government risks undermining its credibility by supporting domestic policies, such as airport expansion plans, that run counter to climate change objectives. We also criticised the Government's failure to meet its own greenhouse gas emission targets.

17 Environmental Audit Committee, Fifth Report of Session 2007–08, *Personal Carbon Trading*, HC 565

18 Environmental Audit Committee, Seventh Special Report of Session 2007–08, *Personal carbon trading: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08*, HC 1125

19 Environmental Audit Committee, Sixth Report of Session 2007–08, *Reaching an international agreement on climate change*, HC 355

27. In its response,²⁰ the Government agreed that a global climate change deal should aim to keep global temperatures within a 2 degree increase. It also accepted that targets need to be based upon the best scientific evidence and recognised that therefore the UK's 2050 target might need to be increased to at least 80% from 60%. On 7 October the Committee on Climate Change recommended reductions of at least 80% by 2050, which the Government accepted.²¹

28. The Government rejected our criticism that aviation policy might undermine its international leadership role by arguing that aviation's inclusion within the EU ETS from 2012 removed this risk. It also rejected criticism that not enough had been done to reduce emissions, saying that it was on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 23% by 2010.

Carbon Capture and Storage

29. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is the removal, capture and storage of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels either before or after they are burnt. CCS has the potential to reduce emissions from fossil fuel burning power stations by 90%. In our report,²² we expressed disappointment at the lack of progress on CCS and urged the Government to demonstrate a clearer and more urgent strategy for its development. Given that there is no guarantee that the tradeable price of carbon within carbon trading schemes will ever reach a sufficient level to make the deployment of CCS profitable, we identified a need for the Government to adopt measures to mandate the installation of CCS technologies.

30. We argued that the Government cannot allow the prolonged operation of coal-fired power stations which do not have the ability to capture and store the CO₂ they would otherwise release into the atmosphere, and noted that to do so would make it very unlikely that the Government would meet its own carbon reduction targets. Even with the promise of CCS, coal-fired electricity generation should, in our view, be seen as a last resort. We insisted that the Government should make clear to industry that it will not permit the operation of unabated coal-fired power stations in the longer-term.

Climate Change and Sub-national Government

31. It is vital that every level of government—local, regional and devolved—has a clear understanding of its role in tackling climate change. In our report,²³ we called for a more joined-up approach and argued that it is the role of central government to ensure that efforts by local, regional and devolved government are coordinated. We recommended that inconsistencies between policies at different levels of government should be minimised: the Government must ensure that departments across Whitehall have a joined up approach to climate change. Moreover, economic and environmental policies must be integrated if we are to move successfully to a low-carbon economy.

20 Environmental Audit Committee, Sixth Special Report of Session 2007–08, *Reaching an international agreement on climate change: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2007-08*, HC 1055

21 Letter from Lord Turner of Ecchinswell to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, *Interim advice of the Committee on Climate Change*, 7 October 2008

22 Environmental Audit Committee, Ninth Report of Session 2007–08, *Carbon capture and storage*, HC 654

23 Environmental Audit Committee, Eighth Report of Session 2007–08, *Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government*, HC 225

32. We also expressed concern that a great deal of attention is being paid to efforts to reduce emissions while much less is paid to adaptation. We noted that the Government will bring forward a national framework on adaptation and advised that it will need to ensure that greater attention is paid to adaptation at all levels of government in the UK.

33. In its response,²⁴ the Government accepted the important role that sub-national government has to play in mitigating emissions and adapting to climate change. It described a number of actions to ensure co-ordination of policy across government.

Green Taxation

Pre-Budget Report

34. Since the inception of the Environmental Audit Committee in 1997, it has carried out annual inquiries into the Treasury's Pre-Budget Reports (PBRs). Our inquiry into the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review was the eleventh in this series. We focused on the support offered by the Treasury for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), concluding that both the size and urgency of this funding were seriously inadequate. Overall, we recorded our disappointment that the Treasury was not taking on board the recommendations made in the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*²⁵ in its approach to the environment. Green taxes had continued to decline, while increases in spending on the environment had fallen far short of the step-change in investment required. On aviation tax, we recommended that the Treasury should introduce more bands of charges, to achieve a closer correlation of the amount charged with the distance travelled and carbon emitted. Our conclusion on the new set of Public Service Agreements (PSAs) announced in the PBR was that environmental issues appeared to be ghettoised, with no clear departmental targets for reducing emissions.

35. In its response,²⁶ the Government drew attention to the funding it was committing to Carbon Capture and Storage, while disagreeing that this was too little, and too late. It responded to criticisms of the extent of environmental spending by drawing attention to the size of the £400m domestic Environmental Transformation Fund announced by the PBR, while ignoring our point that only £140m of this was new money. In defending its record on mainstreaming the environment throughout the PSA regime, it ignored our specific point that the PSA target on productivity should be reformed to reflect efficient use of natural resources. The Treasury did, however, welcome the Committee's points about aviation tax, and said it would take them into account as part of its consultation on reform of Air Passenger Duty; in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report the Treasury announced that extra distance-related bands would be added to the tax.

24 Environmental Audit Committee, Ninth Special Report of Session 2007–08, *Climate change and local, regional and devolved government: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2007–08*, HC 1189

25 Nicholas Stern, *The Economics of Climate Change* (Cambridge, 2007)

26 Environmental Audit Committee, Fourth Special Report of Session 2007–08, *The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2007–08*, HC 591

Vehicle Excise Duty

36. Our report²⁷ on the changes to vehicle excise duty (VED) announced in the 2008 Budget built on our analysis and recommendations on VED as an environmental tax that have featured in a number of our reports on HM Treasury and the Department for Transport.²⁸ In this report, we welcomed the introduction of first-year rates of VED for new cars as a form of ‘showroom tax’ that could be used to influence buyers of new cars to choose the most efficient model in each class. We noted that raising the rates on high emissions cars already on the road could encourage sales of more efficient models in the second-hand market, but acknowledged concerns about the financial effects of raising car tax on existing vehicles owned by lower income households. We urged the Treasury to consider the introduction of a ‘car scrappage’ scheme, to pay motorists to trade in their cars for more efficient models, and returned to an earlier recommendation of ours to put forward the possibility of a ‘feebate’ scheme, in which taxes on high carbon cars would pay for rebates on low carbon cars.

37. The Government’s response was delayed until after publication of the 2008 Pre-Budget Report on 24 November 2008. That heralded a major change to the policy on VED announced at the Budget, with rises in VED rates for existing cars purchased between 2001 and 2006 reduced considerably; this dealt with the points about impacts in the second hand car market, relating to both emissions and motorists’ finances. On the subject of a possible ‘feebate’ scheme, the Treasury said it was closely monitoring the success of a similar scheme in France.

Sustainable Development

Greener homes for the future

38. In 2005 we published a report²⁹ on housing and the environment; we were so disappointed with the evidence we received—notably over the standards to which new housing was being built—that we issued a follow-up report³⁰ in 2006. We returned to this theme in 2008, to monitor progress and to examine the major policies announced since then, such as a target for all new homes to be ‘zero carbon’ by 2016. In this report,³¹ we found that one of our previous concerns—that new developments were being built without sufficient infrastructure to make them ‘sustainable communities’—had received a significant amount of attention from Government in the two preceding years. At the same time, we had concerns that the economic downturn would lead to a shortfall of investment for infrastructure. On the issue of building standards, we again heard that there were major problems, both with the mandatory standards not being ambitious enough, and with what standards there are not being complied with in practice. We recommended that national building regulations be strengthened and expanded, and the building control system

27 Environmental Audit Committee, Tenth Report of Session 2007–08, *Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax*, HC 907

28 For instance, Environmental Audit Committee, Ninth Report of Session 2005–06, *Reducing Carbon Emissions from Transport*, HC 981-I

29 Environmental Audit Committee, First Report of Session 2004–05, *Housing: Building a Sustainable Future*, HC 135-I

30 Environmental Audit Committee, Fifth Report of Session 2005–06, *Sustainable Housing: A follow-up Report*, HC 779

31 Environmental Audit Committee, Twelfth Report of Session 2007–08, *Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government’s house-building plans*, HC 566

reformed. We also recommended that the Government urgently review the basis of its target for building 3 million new homes by 2020, and urged that planning policy be reformed to protect existing green belt boundaries. The Government is due to respond to this report in January 2009.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department

39. In July 2008 we conducted a short inquiry to look at the progress the ECGD had made on sustainable development since 2003, when we last reported on the matter.³² In our report³³ we found that progress had been made, but that there was still room for improvement in the way sustainable development was incorporated into the agency's decision-making processes. We called on the ECGD to build on its existing sustainable development policies to improve the standards of the projects it supports and to further its commitment to sustainable development.

40. Our report called for more rigorous environmental standards to be applied across the ECGD's portfolio, especially in heavily polluting industries such as defence and aviation. It is also crucial, we recommend, that the ECGD works to diversify its portfolio by attracting projects from sustainable and environmental industries.

41. Our report emphasised the fact that the ECGD has a unique capacity to influence Export Credit Agencies worldwide. We sought to remind the ECGD that it has the power to improve standards across the globe by taking a bold and ambitious stance on sustainable development and transparency. We expect a response from the Government in January 2009.

Greening Government

Making Government operations more sustainable

42. This was the seventh inquiry we had devoted to the environmental record of government bodies. It had been the EAC which coined the term 'Greening Government', and it was the EAC whose annual survey of departments formed the basis for the Government's data collection exercise for the now annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report. In its last report on this issue, published in November 2005,³⁴ the Committee primarily expressed concern about the poor progress by departments against their carbon reduction goals, and patchiness of data provided by departments, in terms both of what was reported and how accurate it was.

32 Environmental Audit Committee, Seventh Report of Session 2002–03, *Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development*, HC 689

33 Environmental Audit Committee, Eleventh Report of Session 2007–08, *The Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development*, HC 929

34 Environmental Audit Committee, First Report of Session 2005–06, *Greening Government: the 2004 Sustainable Development in Government Report*, HC 698

43. In our most recent report,³⁵ we concluded that the Government's overall performance in tackling carbon emissions remains extremely poor. We noted that the Government was not on course to meet its own target of a 12.5% reduction in carbon emissions by government offices by 2010–11, expressed concern that it might rely too heavily on offsetting instead of reducing its own emissions, and advised the Government to put a cap on the use of offsets. We again expressed concern about the reliability of emission figures, noting that the Ministry of Defence had claimed a big cut in emissions after it sold the defence agency QinetiQ—when in reality, it had simply moved these emissions to the private sector. We recommended that steps be taken to ensure that all bodies were reporting their environmental performance on a consistent basis, highlighting the fact that privately-run prisons were not reflected in the performance reported by the Ministry of Justice, unlike state-run prisons. We also recommended that the Government review the targets it sets for purchase of 'green' electricity and for energy efficiency, and improved compliance by departments and agencies with mandatory sustainability targets.

44. The Government response was detailed and constructive, referring to a major recent programme of internal reforms designed to improve performance against Government targets. In particular, the Government accepted our recommendation that all departments set out a credible set of actions for delivering the 12.5% carbon reduction target as soon as possible. It also stated that action had been taken to ensure there would not be further cases such that of QinetiQ. Its response on capping the use of offsets was equivocal, simply repeating that it was policy that these be used as a last resort. The Government pointed to steps that were being taken to make environmental reporting more consistent, and said that the Ministry of Justice was working to overcome contractual problems so that the environmental performance of private prisons would be reported. It was in the process of reviewing its targets for 'green' electricity and energy efficiency, and accepted that there should be improvement in compliance with mandatory targets. It believed that the new structures, which should be in place in 2008, would bring tangible results. We may return to these issues when we next examine what progress has been made.

Environmental Protection

Halting biodiversity loss

45. Our inquiry on biodiversity loss found that the Government will fail to meet its 2010 target to halt the decline in biodiversity, although we acknowledged that the target might have been unrealistic. In our report,³⁶ we recommended that the Government should adopt a new target for halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2020, and urged the Government to ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced by all departments. We found that there continue to be failures by a number of departments to recognise the importance of biodiversity in their policies.

35 Environmental Audit Committee, Seventh Report of Session 2007–08, *Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report*, HC 529

36 Environmental Audit Committee, Thirteenth Report of Session 2007–08, *Halting biodiversity loss*, HC 743

46. We concluded that one of the more important contributions that the government could make to halting biodiversity loss would be to provide more support for environmental protection programmes in the UK Overseas Territories. Although England has a number of internationally important species and habitats, the biodiversity found in the UK Overseas Territories is equally valuable and at a greater risk of loss. We underscored the urgency of immediate government action to protect these areas and expressed disappointment that the Government appeared not to have responded to similar conclusions we made in two reports last Session.³⁷ The Government is due to respond to this report in January 2009.

4 Looking ahead to 2008–09

47. During 2007–08, we began work on two inquiries which will be completed in Session 2008–09. Four oral evidence sessions have been held on reducing CO₂ and other emissions from shipping, and we expect to publish a report on this subject early in the new year. We will also begin to take oral evidence early in the new Session for an inquiry into climate change and deforestation. We expect that the Sub-Committee on Environmental Protection will complete its work on environmental labelling.

48. Looking further ahead, we intend to undertake an inquiry into emissions trading, with a particular focus on the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. We will also maintain our historic focus on green taxation and fiscal issues, and will once again publish a report on the Pre-Budget Report. In addition to our work on climate change, we hope to devote some of our time to examining questions of air quality. The Government has indicated its intention to publish a bill on Antarctica in draft form. Once the draft Antarctica Bill has been published we will consider what part our Committee might play in the process of pre-legislative scrutiny.

49. Over the course of the coming Session it is likely that the Climate Change Act will have a significant impact on our work. While it is too early to think about a formal process of post-legislative scrutiny, the Act should have a significant impact on government policy and we will be looking closely at how the Act drives a change in the scale and urgency of the response to climate change. The Act establishes an independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) and we are likely to devote some of our time to looking at the new targets for emissions reductions and carbon budgets recommended by that committee. The CCC is expected to publish its first report on progress made by Government in meeting carbon budgets in September 2009. In addition to our work on emissions, adaptation to a changing climate is likely to be an important topic. We look forward to co-operating fruitfully with the new Energy and Climate Change Committee.

37 Environmental Audit Committee, First Report of Session 2006–07, *The UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, HC 77 and Environmental Audit Committee, Fifth Report of Session 2006–07, *Trade, Development and Environment: The role of the FCO*, HC289

5 Conclusions

50. Over the past session climate change has once again dominated our agenda. New developments in climate science are making ever clearer the need for urgent action to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. While the Government has made some progress we remain concerned that emissions are not falling fast enough to avoid dangerous climate change. We have scrutinised the adequacy of existing policies, as we did in our inquiries into Climate Change Levy and biofuels, as well as focusing on areas where policy does not exist or is emerging, such as personal carbon trading. While there are some examples of good work being done by the Government we remain concerned that there are many areas where too little is being done too late or where there are tensions or contradictions within government policy. A number of our reports have found that ambitious targets have been set but that either the policy response has been inadequate or conflicting, or the measure put in place to track and measure progress have been insufficient. It is our job to hold ministers to account for these failures. Many of the Public Service Agreements relating to climate change and sustainable development are shared by several departments and lend themselves to cross-departmental scrutiny by our committee. Climate change can only successfully be tackled by government departments working together and recognising that there are often difficult balances to be struck between some departmental objectives and the need to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate. This is an area where we believe that we, as a cross-departmental committee, can really add value to the work of the departmental committees. We have, on the whole, examined specific policy areas rather than the operations of a particular department or non-departmental body. However, we did follow up the work of our predecessors by returning to the work they did on the Export Credits Guarantee Department and evaluating the progress it had made on issues of sustainable development. While we have not focused on individual departments, our cross-departmental scrutiny of operations on the government estate is beginning to drive change and there are signs that this is being taken increasingly seriously by senior civil servants across government.

51. The urgency with which we need to act on emissions if we are to have any hope of avoiding dangerous climate change is becoming clearer all the time. Less clear is whether the policy response will be sufficient to drive the kind of economic and social transformation that needs to take place if we are to move to a low-carbon economy. The Government has set itself ambitious targets and put in place a legislative framework that will ensure progress towards those targets can be tracked against carbon budgets. We believe that the Environmental Audit Committee should be at the heart of the parliamentary scrutiny of these budgets and targets and we fully expect that climate change will remain our number one priority.

Annex

Sessional Return for the Environmental Audit Committee

Access to the Committee's website is via www.parliament.uk/eacom

The Committee was nominated by the House of Commons on 13 July 2005.

Members	Meetings attended
Yeo, Mr Tim (Chairman)	33 out of 40
Barker, Gregory (added 8.11.07)	1 out of 40
Caton, Mr Martin	21 out of 40
Challen, Colin	28 out of 40
Chaytor, Mr David	33 out of 40
Horwood, Martin	21 out of 40
Hurd, Mr Nick	19 out of 40
Lazarowicz, Mark	24 out of 40
Liddell-Grainger, Mr Ian (added 18.12.07)	10 out of 33
Malik, Mr Shahid	1 out of 40
Pearson, Ian (discharged 14.1.08)	0 out of 8
Pritchard, Mark (discharged 18.12.07)	2 out of 7
Riordan, Mrs Linda	1 out of 40
Stuart, Mr Graham	20 out of 40
Swinson, Jo	30 out of 40
Turner, Dr Desmond	31 out of 40
Vaizey, Mr Edward (discharged 8.11.07)	0 out of 0
Walley, Joan	27 out of 40
Woolas, Mr Phil (added 14.1.08)	0 out of 40

Overall Attendance: 47.3 %

Total number of meetings: 40

Of which:

Number of meetings at which oral evidence was taken	31
Number of times oral evidence was taken partly or wholly in private	0
Number of wholly private meetings	9
Number of concurrent meetings with other committees	0

Other activities

Informal meetings (including overseas visitors)	0
Conferences/Seminars hosted	0

Staff

Details of the permanent staff of the Committee during the Session can be found in the Committee's publications.

Specialist Advisers during the Session

None.

Witnesses

Oral Evidence was given during the Session by the following categories of witnesses:

Number of appearances by:	
Cabinet Ministers	1
Ministers other than Cabinet Ministers	13
Number of appearances by officials from, or representatives of:	
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	1
Department for Communities and Local Government	2
Department of Energy and Climate Change	1
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	7
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	1
Department for Transport	2
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1
HM Treasury	2
Ministry of Defence	1
Number of appearances by officials from or representatives of public bodies and non-Ministerial departments comprising:	
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	1
English Partnerships	1
Environment Agency	2
Export Credits Guarantee Department	1
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	1
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1
Natural England	2
Office of Government Commerce	1
Sustainable Development Commission	1
Appearances by other witnesses	83

Overseas Visits

Date	Destination	Members	Staff	Purpose	Cost
3-7.12.07	Bali, Indonesia ^A	Challen	0	UN Climate Change Conference 2007	£7,490.37
28.1-7.2.08	Australia and China	Yeo, Challen, Chaytor, Stuart, Swinson, Turner, Walley	2	Building on Kyoto: Engaging all nations in a post-2012 agreement.	£57,773.56
18-21.3.08	Los Angeles ^A	Yeo	0	11th Milken Annual Institute Global Conference	£4,493.70
15-20.11.08	Sao Paulo, Brazil ^A	Yeo, Turner	0	International Conference on Biofuels	£11,824.00

^A Travel in a representative capacity

Visits to European Institutions

Date	Destination	Members	Staff	Purpose	Cost
17-18.3.08	Brussels	Yeo, Caton, Challen, Lazarowicz, Swinson, Turner, Walley	2	Inquiry into: Post Kyoto: The international context for progress on climate change	£6,066.70
4.11.08	Brussels	Yeo, Caton, Challen, Chaytor, Lazarowicz, Turner, Walley	2	Inquiry into: Reducing CO ₂ and other emissions from shipping	£6,146.00

UK Visits

Date	Destination	Members	Staff	Purpose	Cost
14.5.08	Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales	Caton, Challen, Horwood, Swinson	2	Tour of Centre for Alternative Technology	£2,024.45
21.5.08	Barking Riverside	Yeo, Challen, Chaytor, Horwood, Swinson, Walley	2	Inquiries into: Greener Homes for the Future and Halting Biodiversity Loss	£86.00

Reports and Oral and Written Evidence

Title	HC No. (2007-08)	Date of publication	Government reply
First Report: <i>Are biofuels sustainable?</i>	76-I	21.1.08	Fourth Report: Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response ³⁸
First Report: <i>Are biofuels sustainable?</i>	76-II	21.1.08	Fourth Report: Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response
Second Report: <i>Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: The role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements</i>	354	10.3.08	HM Treasury Response, received 10.03.08: published as Third Special Report, Session 2007-08

³⁸ The Committee made substantive comments on the Government response to its First Report: Are biofuels sustainable?. It published these as its Fourth Report: Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response.

Title	HC No. (2007–08)	Date of publication	Government reply
Third Report: <i>The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis</i>	149-I	5.3.08	HM Treasury Response, received 5.3.08: published as Fourth Special Report, Session 2007-08
Third Report: <i>The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis</i>	149-II	5.3.08	
Fourth Report: <i>Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response</i>	528	2.5.08	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Department for Transport Response, received 2.5.08: published as Fifth Special Report, Session 2007-08
Fifth Report: <i>Personal Carbon Trading</i>	565	26.5.08	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Response, received 26.5.08: published as Seventh Special Report, Session 2007-08
Sixth Report: <i>Reaching an international agreement on climate change</i>	355	8.7.08	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Response, received 8.7.08: published as Sixth Special Report, Session 2007-08
Seventh Report: <i>Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report</i>	529	14.7.08	Office of Government Commerce Response, received 14.07.08: published as Eighth Special Report 2007-08
Eighth Report: <i>Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government</i>	225	28.7.08	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Response, received 28.7.08: published as Ninth Special Report, Session 2007-08
Ninth Report: <i>Carbon capture and storage</i>	654	22.7.08	Awaited
Tenth Report: <i>Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax</i>	907	4.8.08	Awaited
Eleventh Report: <i>The Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development</i>	929	20.10.08	Awaited
Twelfth Report: <i>Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government's house-building plans</i>	566	3.11.08	Awaited
Thirteenth Report: <i>Halting biodiversity loss</i>	743	10.11.08	Awaited

Title	HC No. (2007–08)	Date of publication	Government reply
First Special Report: <i>Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2006–07: The structure of Government and the challenge of climate change</i>	276	3.3.08	Not applicable
Second Special Report: <i>Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2006–07: Voluntary Carbon Offset Market</i>	418	17.3.08	Not applicable
Third Special Report: <i>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</i>	590	22.5.08	Not applicable
Fourth Special Report: <i>The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2007–08</i>	591	22.5.08	Not applicable
Fifth Special Report: <i>Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2007–08</i>	644	4.6.08	Not applicable
Sixth Special Report: <i>Reaching an international agreement on climate change: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2007–08</i>	1055	23.10.08	Not applicable
Seventh Special Report: <i>Personal carbon trading: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007–08</i>	1125	5.11.08	Not applicable
Eighth Special Report: <i>Making Government Operations More Sustainable: A Progress Report: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2007–08</i>	1126	18.11.08	Not applicable
Ninth Special Report: <i>Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2007–08</i>	1189	19.11.08	Not applicable
Tenth Special Report: <i>Environmental Crime: Wildlife Crime: Government response to the Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2003-04</i>	1213	28.11.08	Not applicable

Title	HC No. (2007–08)	Date of publication	Government reply
Oral and Written Evidence: <i>The Challenge of Climate Change</i>	155-i	11.4.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Reducing CO2 and other emissions from shipping</i>	1117-i	21.10.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Reducing CO2 and other emissions from shipping</i>	1117-ii	28.10.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Reducing CO2 and other emissions from shipping</i>	1117-iii	18.10.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Reducing CO2 and other emissions from shipping</i>	1117-iv	25.11.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: The scientific basis for carbon reduction targets	1214	26.11.08	Not applicable

Government replies to Reports for Session 2003–04

Reply to the Committee's Twelfth Report: *Environmental Crime: Wildlife Crime*, received 11 November 2008 and published as the Committee's Tenth Special Report, Session 2007–08, HC 1213 (28.11.08).

Government replies to Reports for Session 2006–07

Reply to the Committee's Ninth Report: *The structure of Government and the challenge of climate change*, received 19 December 2007 and published as the Committee's First Special Report, Session 2007–08, HC 276 (3.3.08).

Reply to the Committee's Sixth Report: *Voluntary Carbon Offset Market*, received 21 February 2008 and published as the Committee's Second Special Report, Session 2007–08, HC 418 (17.3.08).

Formal Minutes

The Formal Minutes of the Committee were published electronically after each meeting of the Committee. They are available on the Committee's website at <http://www.parliament.uk/eacom>.

Divisions

Date	Subject
13.05.08	One, on a Reasoned Amendment to the Question that the Chairman's draft Report on Personal Carbon Trading be read a second time
22.07.08	Two, one on an Amendment to the Question, and one on the Question, that the Chairman's draft Report on Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax be read a second time

Debates

Committee reports were debated on one occasion in the House of Commons in Westminster Hall. Committee Reports were tagged on the Order Paper as being relevant to debates in the House of Commons on one occasion. Further details can be found in the Committee's Annual Report.

Number of oral evidence sessions for each inquiry during the Session

Inquiry	Number of oral evidence sessions
2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: an environmental analysis	3
Are biofuels sustainable?	3
Carbon Capture and Storage and Kingsnorth power station	1
Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government	3
Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development	2
Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government's house-building plans	3
Halting biodiversity loss	3
Making Government operations more sustainable: A Progress Report	1
Post-Kyoto: The international context for progress on climate change	4
Reducing CO ₂ and other emissions from shipping	4
The Challenge of Climate Change	1
The scientific basis for carbon reduction targets	1
Vehicle Excise Duty	2
Total	31

Sessional Return for the Sub-committee on Environmental Information

Access to the Committee's website is via www.parliament.uk/eacom

The Committee was nominated by the House of Commons on 24 July 2007.

Members	Meetings attended
Challen, Colin (Chairman)	4 out of 6
Horwood, Martin	3 out of 6
Hurd, Mr Nick	1 out of 6
Pritchard, Mark (discharged 18.12.07)	1 out of 6
Swinson, Jo	5 out of 6
Walley, Joan	4 out of 6

Overall Attendance: 50.0 %

Total number of meetings: 6

Of which:

Number of meetings at which oral evidence was taken	4
Number of times oral evidence was taken partly or wholly in private	0
Number of wholly private meetings	2
Number of concurrent meetings with other committees	0

Other activities

Informal meetings (including overseas visitors)	0
Conferences/Seminars hosted	0

Staff

Details of the permanent staff of the Committee during the Session can be found in the Committee's publications.

Specialist Advisers during the Session

None.

Witnesses

Oral evidence was given during the Session by the following categories of witnesses

Number of appearances by:	
Ministers other than Cabinet Ministers	1
Number of appearances by officials from, or representatives of:	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1
Number of appearances by officials from or representatives of public bodies and non-Ministerial departments comprising:	
Sustainable Development Commission	1
Appearances by other witnesses	15

Overseas Visits

None.

Visits to European Institutions

None.

UK Visits

None

Reports and Oral and Written Evidence

Title	HC No. (2007–08)	Date of publication	Government reply
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Environmental Information: Environmental Labelling</i>	83-i	14.11.07	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Environmental Information: Environmental Labelling</i>	83-ii	12.12.07	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Environmental Information: Environmental Labelling</i>	83-iii	9.1.08	Not applicable
Uncorrected evidence published on the internet: <i>Environmental Information: Environmental Labelling</i>	83-iv	23.1.08	Not applicable

Government replies to Reports for Session 2006–07

Not applicable.

Formal Minutes

The Formal Minutes of the Committee were published electronically after each meeting of the Committee. They are available on the Committee's website at <http://www.parliament.uk/eacom>.

Divisions

None.

Debates

None.

Number of oral evidence sessions for each inquiry during the Session

Inquiry	Number of oral evidence sessions
Environmental Information: Environmental Labelling	4
Total	4

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 16 December 2008

Members present

Mr Tim Yeo, in the Chair

Mr Martin Caton
Colin Challen
Martin Horwood

Mark Lazarowicz
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger
Dr Desmond Turner

Work of the Committee in 2007–08

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Work of the Committee in 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 to 51 read and agreed to.

Annex agreed to.

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

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

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 January at 09.45 am

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

The reference number of the Government's response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

Session 2007–08

First Report	Are biofuels sustainable?	HC 76-I & -II (HC 528)
Second Report	Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK Business: The Role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements	HC 354 (HC 590)
Third Report	The 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review: An environmental analysis	HC 149-I & -II (HC 591)
Fourth Report	Are Biofuels Sustainable? The Government Response	HC 528 (HC 644)
Fifth Report	Personal Carbon Trading	HC 565 (HC 1125)
Sixth Report	Reaching an international agreement on climate change	HC 355 (HC 1055)
Seventh Report	Making Government operations more sustainable: A progress report	HC 529 (HC 1126)
Eighth Report	Climate change and local, regional and devolved government	HC 225 (HC 1189)
Ninth Report	Carbon capture and storage	HC 654
Tenth Report	Vehicle Excise Duty	HC 907 (HC 72)
Eleventh Report	The Exports Credit Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development	HC 929
Twelfth Report	Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government's house-building plans	HC 566
Thirteenth Report	Halting biodiversity loss	HC 743

Session 2006–07

First Report	The UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	HC 77 (HC 848)
Second Report	The EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Lessons for the Future	HC 70 (HC 1072)
Third Report	Regulatory Impact Assessments and Policy Appraisal	HC 353 (HC 849)
Fourth Report	Pre-Budget 2006 and the Stern Review	HC 227 (HC 739)
Fifth Report	Trade, Development and Environment: The Role of FCO	HC 289 (HC 1046)
Sixth Report	Voluntary Carbon Offset Market	HC 331 (HC 418)
Seventh Report	Beyond Stern: From the Climate Change Programme Review to the Draft Climate Change Bill	HC 460 (HC 1110)
Eighth Report	Emissions Trading: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2006–07 on the EU ETS	HC 1072
Ninth Report	The Structure of Government and the challenge of climate change	HC 740 (HC 276)

Session 2005–06

First Report	Greening Government: the 2004 Sustainable Development in Government Report	HC 698
Second Report	Sustainable Timber	HC 607 (HC 1078)
Third Report	Sustainable Procurement: the Way Forward	HC 740
Fourth Report	Pre-Budget 2005: Tax, economic analysis, and climate change	HC 882 (HC 195)
Fifth Report	Sustainable Housing: A follow-up report	HC 779
Sixth Report	Keeping the lights on: Nuclear, Renewables, and Climate Change	HC 584 (HC 196)
Seventh Report	Sustainable Development Reporting by Government Departments	HC 1322 (HC 1681)
Eighth Report	Proposals for a draft Marine Bill	HC 1323 (HC 1682)
Ninth Report	Reducing Carbon Emissions from Transport	HC 981
Tenth Report	Trade, Development and Environment: The Role of DFID	HC 1014 (HC 197)
Eleventh Report	Outflanked: The World Trade Organisation, International Trade and Sustainable Development	HC 1455 (HC 354)
Twelfth Report	Transport Emissions: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2005–06 on Reducing Carbon Emissions from Transport	HC 1718