

# UK Government Report Card for 2021

Overall score: C

Score	We called on Boris Johnson and the UK government to lead on the world stage by...	They did...	Their outstanding homework
<b>1: Climate - Taking unprecedented action towards limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees</b>			
C	<b>1A</b> Leveraging net-zero strategies and commitments from other major emitters by presenting an <b>ambitious and detailed UK Long Term Strategy</b> . Leading by example and present a detailed and ambitious long-term strategy that sets out how to reach net-zero as quickly as possible with social and environmental integrity, including plans for green investment as well as a managed, rapid and just, phase-out of fossil fuels, and no use of international offsets.	In October the UK launched its Net Zero Strategy which aims to deliver net-zero by 2050, but in its current form it is underfunded to achieve the ambition in the strategy. It also hasn't included enough on nature-based solutions.	Funding to achieve the strategy and stronger inclusion of nature-based solutions.
B	<b>1B</b> Working with countries around the world – capitalising on the UK and Italy's joint COP26 presidency, and their respective chairing of the G7 and G20 – to increase the ambition presented in <b>enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long Term Strategies (LTS)</b> in advance of COP26, with countries taking their fair share of global action – particularly major emitters. And securing an agreement at COP26 for all Parties to dramatically accelerate action to close the remaining	The UK government, including the PM, used G7, UNGA, G20 and other opportunities to push other countries - especially large emitters - to put forward more ambitious NDCs. The NDCs submitted in the run up to and at COP26 now put us on track for 2.4C - a shift of the dial from the previous trajectory of 2.7C but falling far short of the agreed target of 1.5C.	Use the remaining UK COP Presidency in 2022 to ensure countries - particularly large emitters - follow through on their COP26 commitment to submit stronger NDCs in 2022 and they need to be 1.5C aligned.

gap to 1.5°C.

## 2: Nature - Rapidly escalating the protection and restoration of nature globally

D	<p><b>2A</b> Ensuring that, by 2030, <b>30% of UK land</b> is managed primarily for nature, and is protected in perpetuity for that purpose, and that <b>30% of UK seas</b> are fully or highly protected. Deliver an ecologically coherent Nature Recovery Network in England and comparable ecological networks across the rest of the UK to create and restore key habitats outside the protected sites network.</p>	<p>There has been little progress on 30x30 on land. While the Government promised in the recent Spending Review to improve and extend the protected site network, the detailed commitments revealed its low ambition.</p> <p>At sea, assessments show that only 10% of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in English waters have fully implemented management measures. So a maximum of 4% of our marine environment could be said to be protected for nature, far below the 40% suggested by the Government.</p>	<p>Targeted reform of existing designations and protection of new sites needed to achieve 30x30 on land. Strengthen existing MPAs and urgently deliver HPAs to meet 30x30 at sea. Ensure Local Nature Recovery Strategies that deliver a coherent national Nature Recovery Network.</p>
B	<p><b>2B</b> Supporting and driving the incorporation of ambitious and rigorous <b>ecosystem protection, restoration, and sustainable management into the enhanced NDCs, LTSs, and national adaptation plans of all countries.</b> Any ecosystem-related targets or commitments in NDCs, LTSs, and adaptation plans should prioritise biodiversity enhancement, and respect human rights. Accounting for carbon benefits should have concrete, evidence-based assessments, and be compatible with science and the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>The UK gave a prominent part of COP26 to the importance of restoring and protecting natural ecosystems to tackle climate change. The final Glasgow Climate Pact contains several references to nature, including a recommendation for the inclusion of nature in national climate plans and policies (such as NDCs, LTSs and NAPs) as well as important references to safeguards. A WWF report released at COP26 shows an increase from 82% to 92% of original vs updated NDCs that reference nature in climate change mitigation &amp; adaptation.</p>	<p>In the coming year, the UK should use its Presidency to promote greater inclusion on the revisited NDCs that countries are supposed to submit by the end of 2022.</p>

<b>3: People - Scaling up international climate finance to support poor and vulnerable communities</b>			
B	<b>3A</b> Supporting the UN Secretary General's call for all contributing countries and multilateral development banks to commit to <b>allocating at least half of their public climate finance to adaptation</b> , and build a coalition of countries and partners in advance of COP26 committed to this aim as well as increased grant-based finance and improved access to and quality of adaptation finance.	At COP26 rich countries, including the UK, agreed to double adaptation finance by 2025 which is an important step forwards but falls short of the call by developing countries and civil society for 50% of climate finance to go to adaptation.	Clarity on adaptation finance for 2020-2024, and progress on delivering the \$100billion, including any shortfalls, ahead of COP27 and sooner than the current trajectory of 2023.
C	<b>3B</b> Supporting an agreement at COP26 for a <b>new, post-2025 global public finance goal</b> specifically for adaptation – given that the US\$100bn goal has failed to address the ongoing neglect of adaptation.	No new goal was agreed at COP26, but a new working programme was established to work on this in 2022-2024. High Level Ministerials will start convening in 2022.	This work programme needs to include a goal for adaptation and for Loss and Damage.
E	<b>3C</b> Committing to providing <b>finance for loss and damage</b> that is new and additional to existing climate finance and Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, to avoid stretching money to meet different priorities.	At COP26, the G77+China - a negotiating group of over 120 countries, representing 6 out of 7 people in the world - proposed a Loss and Damage finance facility. This was blocked by wealthy high-emitting countries, whose views the UK prioritised, and so COP26 instead agreed to a set of dialogues over the next two years about funding arrangements (but with no expectation this will turn into anything concrete).	We need to see progress on finance for loss and damage by and at COP27.

Score	We called on Boris Johnson and the UK government to lead by example by...	They did...	Outstanding homework
<b>4: Climate - Stopping new fossil fuel projects at home and abroad, and make all UK finance decisions support your climate commitments</b>			
B	<b>4A:</b> Regulating to ensure all <b>UK financial institutions adopt and implement transition plans to align with the 1.5°C goal</b> in the Paris Agreement, extending	Rishi Sunak announced at COP26 that financial institutions and FTSE 100	The legislation needs to ensure high level of quality and good delivery on these plans.

E	<p>across all its global practices,</p> <p>and <b>introduce a net-zero test</b> into government spending to ensure overall UK government recovery spending is aligned with Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>companies will have to report on net-zero transition plans in 2023. The legislation for this is likely to follow in 2022.</p> <p>The suggested net zero test to government spending has not materialised and seems to be blocked at the political rather than the technical level</p>	<p>The Treasury needs to adopt and implement a net zero test to government spending.</p>
D	<p><b>4B: Setting a target for a zero-carbon power system</b> by 2035, based on sustainable renewables deployed in harmony with nature. Complementing the target for quadrupling offshore wind with a target to triple onshore wind and solar power by 2030. This also means no new fossil fuels, and downscaling the role of hydrogen, with a focus on green hydrogen where appropriate, and no support for blue hydrogen.</p>	<p>The Government committed to make electricity generation net zero by 2030. In March the UK implemented its commitment to end public finance for fossil fuels overseas, but at COP26 didn't join the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance which saw 12 other countries and subnational jurisdictions commit to turn off the taps to oil and gas. The government also still keeps the door open to the Cumbria coal mine, the Cambo oil field &amp; further new licencing rounds. The PM recently said he's personally against the idea of new coal &amp; Sturgeon has now firmly said she's opposed to Cambo, which gives hope. But with the forthcoming gas price spikes next spring, the misplaced emphasis on digging up more oil and gas at home to address the crisis and reduce costs is both incorrect and undermines progress.</p>	<p>The UK needs to match its overseas commitment to end new fossil fuels with integrity at home.</p>
B	<p><b>4C: Cutting transport emissions</b> through introducing a zero-emissions vehicle mandate on manufacturers to deliver the 2030 phase-out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans; significantly increasing investment in public transport, walking, and cycling to at least £10bn per year; redirecting funds from new road</p>	<p>The Government committed to the 2030 phase-out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans, and to support the expansion of electric vehicles but doesn't yet have the finance to back it.</p>	<p>Ensure the transport decarbonisation plan is backed by the finance to deliver.</p>

	projects; and introducing a frequent flier levy to contain demand for flying.		
B	<b>4D: Decarbonising UK homes</b> with a 10-year infrastructure programme, backed by long-term capital funding and prioritising the fuel poor. This should include investing an additional £8.2bn in energy efficiency and £5.5bn in heat-pump deployment until 2025, and replace the Green Homes Grant with a new grant scheme that works for people and businesses and uses positive financial incentives.	The UK's Net Zero Strategy and Heat and Buildings Strategy were both launched in October but fall short of the Government's own pledges and the amount of money needed to decarbonise UK homes.	More finance is needed in particular to improve energy efficiency, which is key for getting on track for net zero. More progress is also needed on grants, and the next six months are key for developing standards for new homes.
<b>5: Nature - Urgently rescuing carbon stores (stocks) like ancient peat and woodland and set strict targets in law to begin to reverse nature loss by 2030.</b>			
B	<b>5A:</b> Delivering an <b>ambitious Environment Bill</b> with binding long-term and interim targets to restore and enhance UK nature. This should include an <b>overarching State of Nature commitment</b> to halt and begin to reverse the decline of UK nature by 2030 at the very latest, and a target to reduce the UK's global environmental footprint to ensure we do not shift our impact offshore, and take responsibility for the role we play in the destruction of nature overseas.	The Environment Bill was given royal assent in early November 2021 and includes a State of Nature target to halt the decline of nature in England by 2030. The Act will also lead to a wider range of targets for nature being set within the next few years, but contains limited responsibility for nature destruction overseas.	Implementation is key. There remain significant gaps, such as a lack of legally binding interim targets and the need to strengthen the independence of the Office for Environmental Protection to oversee the Government's progress on environmental issues.
C	<b>5B:</b> Strengthening diplomatic efforts and support market shifts to achieve <b>deforestation-free supply chains</b> and deliver a package of actions and solutions at COP26, including via the UK Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade ( <b>FACT</b> ) <b>dialogue</b> . The UK should also lead by example with the implementation of <b>due diligence regulations</b> for forest-risk commodities in the Environment Bill, covering all UK businesses and financial institutions, in order to rule out all deforestation (not just illegal deforestation) and human rights abuses from supply chains.	Commitments from COP26 saw more than 140 countries promise to reverse deforestation by 2030 as well as the presentation of the FACT dialogue roadmap, a process co-chaired by the UK government. While it is important that these first ever dialogues between producer and consumer countries will continue under the UK Presidency, the initial outcomes are insufficient to achieve deforestation-free supply chains.	Implementation and stronger outcomes will be key and the UK needs to use its UNFCCC COP26 Presidency to ensure this level of ambition is translated into the Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at CBD COP15 in April in China.

<b>6: People - Replacing COVID job losses by investing to create 1.8 million green jobs in renewable energy, green homes, clean transport and nature protection in the next 3 years.</b>			
C	<b>6A:</b> Investing £100bn over the lifetime of this Parliament in green projects to create 1.8 million new, secure and good quality green jobs, stimulate the green transition and boost the UK's competitiveness. This should include creating 250,000 green apprenticeships and a pilot National Nature Service.	The Green Apprenticeships Advisory panel targets 277,000 green apprentices over ten years but much more work is needed.	Much more is needed to deliver the scale of good green jobs and stimulate a green transition.