

**For immediate release**

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## Sandbag welcomes laying of Government's 5th carbon budget in Parliament

Today, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the Government has presented the UK's 5th carbon budget for the period 2028-32. Sandbag welcomes that [the budget](#) has been set in line with the Commission on Climate Change's recommendation for a 57% emissions reductions by 2032 on 1990 levels. The target is higher than it was expected the UK would have to deliver under the EU of 40% reductions by 2030.

For the UK to stay in global leadership on tackling climate change this is the absolute minimum that is needed. In February 2016 [Sandbag called for the budget to be revised](#) in line with the Paris Agreement.

The Climate Change Act requires that the 5th carbon budget were adopted by Parliament today. Until it is law there can be no certainty about its final shape.

### **Debbie Stockwell, Managing Director of Sandbag Climate Campaign, commented:**

*"This is an important signal on the Government's intent on climate change coming one week after the referendum vote to leave the EU. It gives a clear signal to the world and investors that the Government continues to take its climate change commitments seriously and that more needs to be done to deliver emissions reductions in the UK.*

*It's disappointing, however, that the budget has not been formally adopted by Parliament today, as is required by the Climate Change Act, and Sandbag calls for this to happen as soon as possible."*

In February Sandbag also called for the Government to take more responsibility for the accounting of emissions from the EU Emissions Trading System sectors in the UK. Actual emissions from these sectors in the UK don't affect the calculation of whether the budget has been met - the situation which needs to change now that the UK has voted to leave the EU.

### **Notes to editors**

1. The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below the 1990 baseline by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions by at least 34% by 2020. The Act also introduced "carbon budgets", which set the trajectory to ensure the targets in the Act are met. These budgets represent legally-binding limits on the total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted in the UK for a given five-year period.
2. The first budgetary period is from 2008 to 2012 (3,018 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e), and the next two budgets cover the periods 2013-2017(2,782 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e), and 2018-2022 (2,544 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). The levels of these budgets, which took account of the advice of the independent Committee on Climate Change, were announced in April 2009 and subsequently approved by Parliament and entered into force in May 2009. The level of the fourth carbon budget was set in law, following approval by Parliament, at the end of June 2011 as required under the Act. The level was set at 1,950 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, in line with the Committee on Climate Change's recommendation.
3. The Climate Change Act requires that the fifth carbon budget is adopted by Parliament by the end of June 2016. The Committee on Climate Change recommended that the budget be set to deliver a 57% reduction

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in emissions from 1990 to 2030. In [date] Sandbag called for the budget to deliver at least a 60% reduction in emissions, which we consider is needed to put the UK on the most effective pathway to delivering emission reductions.

**4. Sandbag is a London and Brussels-based not-for-profit think tank conducting research and campaigning for environmentally effective climate policies. Our research focus includes reforming the EU Emissions Trading System and the EU Effort Sharing Decision; accelerating the phase-out of old coal in Europe and deep decarbonisation of industry through technologies including carbon capture, utilisation and storage. For more information, visit [sandbag.org.uk](http://sandbag.org.uk) or email [info@sandbag.org.uk](mailto:info@sandbag.org.uk).**