



GREENHOUSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEW GOVERNMENT ANALYSIS

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GREENHOUSE

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A NEW GOVERNMENT AND A TIME TO DRIVE CHANGE

Following the recent Cabinet reshuffle, we have a new team of ministers responsible for delivering our net zero commitments.

Those pivotal in progressing the ambitions for decarbonisation will be led by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Ministers responsible for energy, the environment and transport. Appointments across these departments provide a genuine opportunity to engage with policy developments focused on the climate change agenda.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR COP26

2020 presents an exciting opportunity to influence government to drive faster progress on climate action, from energy and innovative clean technology, to developing EV transport infrastructure, through to farming, land and biodiversity.

The importance of COP26 cannot be underestimated as a platform to drive decarbonisation targets globally. Awarding the Chair to Alok Sharma, the new BEIS Secretary, is an indication that the responsibility to deliver COP26 will be held closely by the Prime Minister and across the Cabinet – which could be viewed positively.

Now is the time for proactive engagement to support the government to keep a laser focus on COP26 and the broader climate agenda.

A NEW ERA FOR DOMESTIC POLICY

The government has a 5-year window to establish and deliver a roadmap for UK policy, the first time since 2016 that this length of time has been available to really drive change and achieve lasting impact.

The doors are open to shape policy and there are a number of clear commitments from the Conservatives on which to engage. Notably the Agriculture and Environment Bills will require full and robust dialogue to ensure the best and most informed outcomes are achieved, alongside ensuring we see scaling and investments in renewables, energy efficiency, transport innovation and that tree planting is pursued and ambitions extended.

The new Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, will be announcing the forthcoming ‘green’ budget, and delivering against these commitments will be essential for the UK to demonstrate true leadership in climate change through financial investment.

In this overview we provide ministerial profiles, and indicate priorities for the new political leaders responsible for achieving net zero.

If you would like to discuss our analysis or would like advice on engagement and public affairs, please do email us at public.affairs@greenhousepr.co.uk.

WHAT PEOPLE THINK



With a rejuvenated ministerial team, it is crucial that the government turns its attention to the environmental, climate and clean growth agenda.

With COP26 only nine months away, the UK can host the summit in a position of strength by putting forward a clear policy plan for delivering its net zero emissions target, progressing its Environment Bill and developing a trade policy that is consistent with its climate and environmental ambitions. Having a minister in charge of COP26 will hopefully focus minds and enable rapid progress in organising the conference.

UK climate diplomacy now needs to double down on the key issues that will be most contentious at the summit, including developing a viable mechanism to support countries that are already vulnerable to climate impacts and reaching agreement on a rulebook for international co-operation and carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

**SIGNE
NORBERG**

**ALDERSGATE
GROUP**



Alok Sharma's appointment looks quite a savvy, if surprising, move. He was long tipped as one to watch for a big job and while he has not been at DFID long it has given him some international experience. Plus net zero responsibility and COP26 are intimately entwined. That said, he's going to need a brilliant team and impressive number 2 to manage what are two epically big jobs.

It is worth noting Sajid Javid was a major convert to the net zero cause. He was eloquent and committed on the climate crisis in the leadership debates last year and said to be prepping a very green budget. Does Rishi Sunak have the same priorities?

**JAMES
MURRAY**

**EDITOR OF
BUSINESSGREEN**



Mr Sharma, as president of COP26, will now be right at the centre of some very difficult international negotiations. The countries of the world are meant to bring forward improved plans for cutting emissions of the gases heating the planet and very few have done this so far. Back in May 2019 Mr Sharma wrote that there was "an unstoppable momentum" towards more ambitious global action – the coming months will reveal whether he can help deliver that.

**DAVID
SHUKMAN**

**SCIENCE EDITOR
AT BBC NEWS**

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

THE RT HON
RISHI SUNAK MP



AT A GLANCE:

- Member for Richmond (Yorkshire) since 2015.
- Meteoric rise for the new Chancellor with just 2 years of ministerial experience.
- Sunak has 4 weeks to put his mark on the Budget.
- Previously a member of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee.
- Environment interests are constituency-driven – dominated by farms and rural businesses.
- Oxbridge-educated and married to a billionaire family.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Rishi Sunak replaces Sajid Javid as Chancellor just weeks before the Budget, which is expected to feature a host of green tax and spending announcements.

As such, the Chancellor will play a critical role in the government's net zero and environmental strategy. The Treasury is set to undertake a major review of the potential costs for transitioning the UK economy to net zero by 2050. Sunak will now oversee this.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Sunak's attention will immediately be focused on the first Budget since the 2050 net-zero target announcement.
- Following the Budget a review of investments, funds or any financial incentives will indicate business development and engagement opportunities.
- Sunak has previously shown interest in investment and innovation for the green economy, which presents opportunities for new clean technologies to shape and influence future Treasury spending considerations for 2050 target planning.



For the government, the most important thing for us to do is to invest in innovation. Ultimately, it will be cheaper car batteries, new forms of renewable offshore wind, and green infrastructure, which solves this problem of climate change.

Rishi Sunak
29th November 2019,
BBC election debate

EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

KEMI BADENOCH MP



AT A GLANCE:

- Member for Saffron Walden since 2017 snap election.
- Former member of the GLA and Conservative spokesperson on the economy.
- Support on social media for Government investment in renewable energy projects.
- Asked for reassurance in the House of Commons on the costs of achieving net zero by 2050.
- As Education Minister Badenoch welcomed apprenticeships in green energy infrastructure jobs to tackle climate change.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION:

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Kemi Badenoch, takes on a large remit across UK growth, productivity and indirect taxation policy. Of specific interest is the focus on energy infrastructure, environment and climate policy development. Badenoch will lead on the department's review into the costs of delivering net zero by 2050. Developing taxation relating to plastics, carbon, energy, transport, vehicles and air passenger duty also under her remit.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- New into a Treasury post, Badenoch will be looking at briefs across her broad remit including a focus on how net zero targets can be delivered cost effectively.
- With an engineering background, there is an opportunity to engage on innovative technology solutions for clean energy.



While some politicians prefer to protest, Boris Johnson and the Conservatives are taking action in leading the way in the fight against climate change.

Kemi Badenoch
12th Feb 2020,
Commons Chamber

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

PRESIDENT, COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT

THE RT HON
ALOK SHARMA MP



AT A GLANCE:

- Member for Reading West since 2010.
- Former Secretary of State for International Development.
- Assisted developing countries to improve resilience to climate change through funding commitments.
- Asked World Bank to increase funds to the climate crisis.
- Previously highlighted climate justice particularly for the global south.
- Now challenged to create a credible roadmap for net zero up to COP26.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The Secretary of State has overall responsibility for ensuring the country has secure energy supplies that are reliable, affordable and clean, and ensuring the UK remains at the leading edge of science, research and innovation.

BEIS leads the fight against climate change, specifically by delivering net zero emissions by 2050. Sharma will oversee the implementation of this target, which requires the UK to grow the number of “green collar jobs” to 2 million and the value of exports from the low-carbon economy to £170 billion a year by 2030.

The COP Presidency will also be absorbed into this role, with Sharma responsible for delivering the COP26 Summit. He is tasked with a large-scale international diplomatic effort, aimed at driving countries towards a climate agreement at the notoriously fractious UN climate negotiations.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- COP26 and delivering this global summit will be top of his agenda – Sharma and his team will be looking to industry and organisations to develop the roadmap needed and showcase the UK's leading role in decarbonisation.
- Sharma has previously advocated the role of the private sector in climate change mitigation, presenting an opportunity for innovative and disruptive organisations to engage and influence future policy, investments and funding.



Climate change is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing. I have just announced a new UK Aid package to help protect one billion people in the developing world from extreme weather and natural disasters.

Alok Sharma,
22nd September 2019

MINISTER OF STATE FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND CLEAN GROWTH

THE RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP

(REMAINS IN POST)



AT A GLANCE:

- Member for Spelthorne since 2010.
- Previously a minister in the Department for Exiting the European Union.
- Served on the Transport, Finance and Public Accounts Select Committees.
- Indicated that the success of COP26 is the government's number one priority.
- Responsible for delivering the long anticipated energy white paper.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION:

Working within BEIS, Kwasi Kwarteng will play a crucial role in delivering a net zero emissions energy system by 2050. Within the overarching industrial strategy, the Energy Minister is responsible for setting carbon budgets and coordinating an international response to climate change (including via the International Climate Fund). Beyond innovation, renewables and energy efficiency, he will also lead on the development of a smart and flexible grid, most notably the roll-out of smart meters.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- As the principal Minister for Energy, Kwarteng will continue to engage widely across the sector to demonstrate expertise in this critical role.
- Kwarteng is expected to deliver an energy white paper within weeks; this presents a strong opportunity to respond to the government's preferred routes to energy infrastructure and generation.



For the first time, we're looking at pathways to net zero, how we can actually get there. It's an easy thing to say 'right this is the target' but it is a more difficult thing to say how we get there. We are looking at that all the time and we have plans.

Kwasi Kwarteng
Speaking in October 2019
about the upcoming Energy
White Paper

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

GEORGE EUSTICE MP



AT A GLANCE:

- Member for Camborne and Redruth since 2010.
- DEFRA's longest-serving farming minister, joining the department in 2013.
- Served on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee.
- Eustice has supported marine renewables innovation, notably the Wave Hub.
- First Cornish MP to become a Cabinet Minister.
- He also has a farming background – fruit farm, cattle and rare breed pigs.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

With overall responsibility for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Eustice will face the challenge of developing a post-EU policy programme, encompassing environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities.

Another key challenge will be to navigate future US trade negotiations where environmental and food standards are expected to play a pivotal role.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Eustice will be a central figure in future trade deals and over the Common Agricultural Policy. This represents an opportunity to engage with this department in the future direction of the UK's post-Brexit agricultural policy.
- He's recently expressed strong concerns around ignoring environmental standards, and will be engaging on future international trade deals.
- Eustice will also oversee the new Environment Bill and this will be an ongoing process of engagement, debate and amendments to the legislation.



Researchers in the UK are at the forefront of innovative solutions to tackle climate change and help us meet our world-leading target of net zero emissions by 2050.

George Eustice,
22nd January 2020

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

THE RT HON LORD GOLDSMITH

(REMAINS IN POST)



AT A GLANCE:

- Given a life peerage following nearly a decade as MP for Richmond Park.
- Goldsmith served on the Environmental Audit Committee for almost his whole time in the Commons.
- Prominent climate change campaigner in Westminster and former editor of The Ecologist.
- Has continuously opposed the Heathrow expansion scheme.
- As a Government Spokesperson in the Lords he intends to pursue a climate mitigation agenda.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Lord Goldsmith has remained in his ministerial post, now as spokesperson in the House of Lords. His brief covers the broad scope of the department and includes climate change, biodiversity and conservation, oceans, marine litter, marine species, all animal welfare and forestry policy – both domestic and international.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Goldsmith will work closely with the Secretary of State on future trade deals to protect animal welfare and environmental standards, engaging across industry and stakeholder organisations.
- Steering the legislative detail of the Environment and Agricultural Bills as they are debated in the House of Lords will require ongoing dialogue with interested and affected parties.
- Goldsmith is likely to be centrally involved in the delivery of COP26 and an important point for engagement across environment and climate issues.



It is hard to exaggerate the challenge we face, and yet our collective response doesn't come close to matching the scale of the crisis. The UK intervention at the UN was fantastic, but there is much more to do.

Lord Goldsmith
Speech to the UN on
Climate and Environment
September 2019

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

THE RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP

(REMAINS IN POST)



AT A GLANCE:

- Member for Welwyn Hatfield since 2005 – one of a few cabinet members to serve in an opposition cabinet.
- A shadow minister and government minister for 10 years but on the backbenches until 2019.
- Previously as Housing Minister advocated for home energy efficiency measures for carbon emissions reduction.
- Shapps must deliver on the delayed transport decarbonisation plan.
- Recently indicated that phasing out of petrol and diesel vehicles could be as early as 2032, bringing forward the 2040 and then 2035 target.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION:

Grant Shapps, who remains in his role as Secretary of State, has overall responsibility for the policies of the Department for Transport. He will maintain oversight of all areas, including Brexit planning, roads, rail, aviation, innovation and large infrastructure projects such as HS2. Shapps will lead on the delivery of a 2035 ban on new petrol and diesel cars. He will also oversee a consultation on the deadline, which may be brought forward to 2032.

PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- The future of transport and specifically EV charging networks will remain a high priority, with good routes for continued engagement to help achieve vehicle emissions reduction targets.
- Shapps plans to introduce the transport decarbonisation plan following sector strategies; this significant task will require collaboration between government, industry and innovators.



The number of public electric car charging locations has grown by 312% since 2015. However, I'm keen to accelerate electric car take-up by expanding the rapid charging system even faster.

Grant Shapps
18th December 2019

OUR EXPERTISE

GREENHOUSE PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, AND ADVICE ACROSS GOVERNMENT AGENDAS.

We identify where there are threats and opportunities to businesses and organisations, that inform impactful engagement strategies. Our service offer covers:

1

AUDITING POLICY

Policy audit to provide detailed reviews of government commitments and priorities – identifying opportunities to engage and supporting campaign development that considers existing agendas.

2

COMMUNICATING WITH POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Drafting bespoke messaging and briefing materials with your developed policy asks – positioning you to support ministers, officials and advisors with positive narratives and a problem-solving approach.

3

ENGAGING WITH POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Mapping and securing meetings with targeted stakeholders across Westminster and Whitehall – building awareness to influence policy and legislative development that impacts your organisational objectives.

4

SUPPORTING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & BUILDING INFLUENCE

Identifying forums and platforms to influence – maximising your profile through keynote addresses, hosting events, responding to parliamentary inquiries and government consultations.

5

INTELLIGENCE AND INSIGHTS

Providing monitoring services that inform and advise – updates from government and across departments and influencers with clear recommendations for action that underpins your public affairs activity.

This is a crucial time for action on environment, with new ministers entering government, we have a responsibility and an opportunity to help ensure that they are well briefed, understand the issues, and see the potential to drive green growth. Working with pioneers, our clients are often at the forefront of the news, driving progress on climate change, with the potential to help government with creative frameworks and incentives to drive scale.

MEET THE TEAM



HELEN MUNRO
Head of Public Affairs



PHIL ARMSTRONG
Head of Energy & Clean Tech



ANNA GUYER
MD & Strategy



WILL SPRAGG
EVs & Energy



MAX BOON
Energy & Storage



TOBY DYE
EV Charging & Infrastructure



DAVID MASON
Finance and Policy



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NGOs, Finance and Policy



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