



# Climate Change Act 2008

## 2008 CHAPTER 27

### PART 6

#### GENERAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

##### *Interpretation*

#### **92 Meaning of “greenhouse gas”**

- (1) In this Act “greenhouse gas” means any of the following—
  - (a) carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>),
  - (b) methane (CH<sub>4</sub>),
  - (c) nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O),
  - (d) hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs),
  - (e) perfluorocarbons (PFCs),
  - (f) sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>),
  - [<sup>F1</sup>(g) nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>).]
- (2) The Secretary of State may by order amend the definition of “greenhouse gas” in subsection (1) to add to the gases listed in that definition.
- (3) That power may only be exercised if it appears to the Secretary of State that an agreement or arrangement at European or international level recognises that the gas to be added contributes to climate change.
- (4) An order under this section is subject to negative resolution procedure.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 92(1)(g) inserted (3.2.2023) by [The Climate Change \(Targeted Greenhouse Gases\) Order 2023 \(S.I. 2023/118\)](#), arts. 1(2), **3(3)**

*Changes to legislation: Climate Change Act 2008, Cross Heading: Interpretation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

### **93 Measurement of emissions etc by reference to carbon dioxide equivalent**

- (1) For the purposes of this Act greenhouse gas emissions, reductions of such emissions and removals of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere shall be measured or calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- (2) A “tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent” means one metric tonne of carbon dioxide or an amount of any other greenhouse gas with an equivalent global warming potential (calculated consistently with international carbon reporting practice).

### **94 Meaning of “international carbon reporting practice”**

- (1) In this Act “international carbon reporting practice” means accepted practice in relation to reporting for the purposes of the protocols to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or such other agreements or arrangements at European or international level as the Secretary of State may specify by order.
- (2) An order under this section is subject to negative resolution procedure.

### **95 Meaning of “national authority”**

- (1) In this Act “national authority” means any of the following—
  - (a) the Secretary of State;
  - (b) the Scottish Ministers;
  - (c) the Welsh Ministers;
  - (d) the relevant Northern Ireland department.
- (2) Functions conferred or imposed by this Act on “the national authorities” are to be exercised by all of them jointly.

### **96 Meaning of “relevant Northern Ireland department”**

- (1) In this Act “the relevant Northern Ireland department”, in relation to a matter or provision, means the Northern Ireland department responsible for the matter or, as the case may be, for the matters to which the provision relates.
- (2) If more than one department is responsible, the reference is to all of them.
- (3) Any question as to the Northern Ireland department responsible for a matter is to be determined by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland.

### **97 Minor definitions**

In this Act—

“devolved legislature” means—

- (a) the Scottish Parliament,
- (b) the National Assembly for Wales, or
- (c) the Northern Ireland Assembly;

“emissions”, in relation to a greenhouse gas, means emissions of that gas into the atmosphere that are attributable to human activity;

“enactment” includes—

**Changes to legislation:** Climate Change Act 2008, Cross Heading: Interpretation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) an enactment contained in subordinate legislation within the meaning of the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30),
  - (b) an enactment contained in, or in an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
  - (c) an enactment contained in, or in an instrument made under, Northern Ireland legislation, and
  - (d) an enactment contained in, or in an instrument made under, a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales;
- “European law” means—
- (a) all the rights, powers, liabilities, obligations and restrictions from time to time created or arising by or under the [F2EU] Treaties, and
  - (b) all the remedies and procedures from time to time provided for by or under the [F2EU] Treaties,
- and “European policy” has a corresponding meaning;
- “modifications”, in relation to an enactment, includes additions or amendments to, or omissions from, the enactment;
- “primary legislation” means—
- (a) an Act of Parliament,
  - (b) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
  - (c) a Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales, or
  - (d) Northern Ireland legislation.

#### Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in Act substituted (22.4.2011) by The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes in Terminology) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1043), arts. 2, 3, 6 (with art. 3(2)(3)4(2)6(4)6(5))

## 98 Index of defined expressions

In this Act the following expressions are defined or otherwise explained by the provisions indicated—

“the 1990 baseline” (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 1(2)
“administrator” (in Part 3)	section 55
“administrator” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 6(1) and (4) of Schedule 6
“affirmative resolution procedure” (except in Part 3 and Schedule 6)	section 91(1)
“annual equivalent”, in relation to the carbon budget for a period (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 5(2)
“budgetary periods” (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 4(1)

*Changes to legislation: Climate Change Act 2008, Cross Heading: Interpretation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

“carbon budget” (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 4(1)
“carbon unit” (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 26(1)
“the chair” (in Schedule 1)	paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 1
[ <sup>F3</sup> “children” (in Schedule 6)]	[ <sup>F3</sup> paragraph 4B(2) of Schedule 6]
“civil sanction” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 9(3) of Schedule 6
“the Committee” (in Part 2)	section 32
“Counsel General” (in sections 61 to 70)	section 70(8)
“the deputy chair” (in Schedule 1)	paragraph 2 of Schedule 1
“devolved authority” (in sections 61 to 70)	section 70(3)
“devolved functions”, in relation to a reporting authority (in sections 61 to 69)	section 70(4) and (5)
“devolved legislature”	section 97
“devolved Welsh functions”, in relation to a reporting authority (in sections 61 to 69)	section 70(6) and (7)
“discretionary requirement” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 12(3) of Schedule 6
“electricity distributor” (in Schedule 4)	paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 4
“electricity supplier” (in Schedule 4)	paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 4
“emissions”	section 97
“enactment”	section 97
“environmental authority” (in Schedule 4)	paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 4
“European law”	section 97
“European policy”	section 97
“financial year” (in Schedule 1)	paragraph 23 of Schedule 1

---

**Changes to legislation:** Climate Change Act 2008, Cross Heading: Interpretation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

“fixed monetary penalty” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 10(3) of Schedule 6
“greenhouse gas”	section 92
“international carbon reporting practice”	section 94
“Minister of the Crown” (in sections 61 to 70)	section 70(8)
“modifications”, in relation to an enactment	section 97
“national authority”	section 95
“negative resolution procedure” (except in Part 3 and Schedule 6)	section 91(2)
“net UK carbon account” (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 27(1)
“net UK emissions” for a period, in relation to a greenhouse gas (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 29(1)
“non-monetary discretionary requirement” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 6
[ <sup>F4</sup> “nuisance” (in Schedule 6)]	[ <sup>F4</sup> paragraph 4B(6) of Schedule 6]
“participant” (in Part 3)	section 55
[ <sup>F5</sup> “pollution” (in Schedule 6)]	[ <sup>F5</sup> paragraph 4B(3) of Schedule 6]
“potential participant” (in Schedule 4)	paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 4
“primary legislation”	section 97
“the relevant national authority” (in Part 3)	section 47
“the relevant national authority” (in Schedule 6)	section 77(3)
“the relevant Northern Ireland department”	section 96
“reporting authority” (in sections 61 to 70)	section 70(1) and (2)
“seller” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 3 of Schedule 6

*Changes to legislation: Climate Change Act 2008, Cross Heading: Interpretation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

“ <sup>F6</sup> single use carrier bag <sup>F6</sup> carrier bag” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 5 of Schedule 6
“specified” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 3(4) of Schedule 6
“targeted greenhouse gas” (in Parts 1 and 2)	section 24(1)
“trading period” (in Part 3)	section 55
“trading scheme”	section 44(2)
“UK emissions”, in relation to a greenhouse gas (in Part 1)	section 29(1)
“UK removals”, in relation to a greenhouse gas (in Part 1)	section 29(1)
“variable monetary penalty” (in Schedule 6)	paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 6
“Wales” (in sections 61 to 70)	section 70(8)
F7	F7
...	...
[ <sup>F8</sup> “young people” (in Schedule 6)]	[ <sup>F8</sup> paragraph 4B(8) of Schedule 6]

#### Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 98 Table inserted (E.W.) (15.2.2011) by [Waste \(Wales\) Measure 2010 \(nawm 8\)](#), s. 21(2), [Sch. para. 2\(2\)](#)
- F4** Words in s. 98 Table inserted (E.W.) (15.2.2011) by [Waste \(Wales\) Measure 2010 \(nawm 8\)](#), s. 21(2), [Sch. para. 2\(3\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 98 Table inserted (E.W.) (15.2.2011) by [Waste \(Wales\) Measure 2010 \(nawm 8\)](#), s. 21(2), [Sch. para. 2\(4\)](#)
- F6** Words in Act substituted (N.I.) (28.4.2014) by [Carrier Bags Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014 \(c. 7\)](#), [s. 1\(a\)](#)
- F7** S. 98 entry repealed (15.1.2012) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), s. 240(1)(m), [Sch. 25 Pt. 8](#)
- F8** Words in s. 98 Table inserted (E.W.) (15.2.2011) by [Waste \(Wales\) Measure 2010 \(nawm 8\)](#), s. 21(2), [Sch. para. 2\(5\)](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

Climate Change Act 2008, Cross Heading: Interpretation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 February 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 86(1)(a) words renumbered as s. 86(1)(a) by [2016 c. 22 s. 211\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 86(1)(b) and word inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 211\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 86(7A)(7B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 211\(5\)](#)