



# Sustainable Energy Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 30

An Act to make provision about the development and promotion of a sustainable energy policy; to amend the Utilities Act 2000; and for connected purposes. [30th October 2003]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### 1 Annual reports on progress towards sustainable energy aims

- (1) The Secretary of State must [<sup>F1</sup>, for each reporting period, ] publish a report (“a sustainable energy report”) on the progress made in the reporting period towards—
- (a) cutting the United Kingdom's carbon emissions;
  - (b) maintaining the reliability of the United Kingdom's energy supplies;
  - (c) promoting competitive energy markets in the United Kingdom; <sup>F2</sup>...
  - (d) reducing the number of people living in fuel poverty in the United Kingdom
  - <sup>F3</sup>(e) .....

[<sup>F4</sup>(1A) The report must include, in particular, all such information as the Secretary of State considers appropriate about—

- <sup>F5</sup>(a) .....
- <sup>F5</sup>(b) .....

[ <sup>F6</sup>(ba) things done during that period pursuant to section 19 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 for the purpose of promoting community energy projects;]

- <sup>F7</sup>(bb) .....
- <sup>F5</sup>(c) .....

[ <sup>F8</sup>(d) things done during that period for the purpose of implementing the strategy for the promotion of microgeneration in Great Britain published under section 82 of the Energy Act 2004.]]

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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>F9</sup>(1AA) .....
- <sup>F10</sup>(1B) .....
- <sup>F10</sup>(1C) .....
- [<sup>F11</sup>(2) “ Reporting period ”, for the purposes of subsections (1) to (1AA), means—
- (a) the period beginning with 24 February 2008 and ending with 31 December 2008, and
  - (b) each successive calendar year.
- (3) A sustainable energy report must be published during the period beginning with 1 January and ending with 31 October following the reporting period to which it relates (“the publication period”).]
- (4) A sustainable energy report may either be published as a single report or published in a number of parts during the publication period, and any such report or part may be contained in a document containing other material.
- [<sup>F12</sup>(4A) A report or part of a report published under this section must specify the period to which it relates.]
- (5) A sustainable energy report must be based on such information as is available to the Secretary of State when the report is completed (except that if it is published in parts, each of those parts must be based on such information as is so available when that part is completed).
- (6) For the purposes of this section a person is to be regarded as living in fuel poverty if he is a member of a household living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at a reasonable cost.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(1) substituted (26.1.2009) by [Energy Act 2008 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 87(1)(a)**, 110(2); S.I. 2009/45, art. 2(d)(ii)
- F2** Word in s. 1(1)(c) omitted (1.1.2007) by virtue of [Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 12(2)(a)**, 28(2)
- F3** S. 1(1)(e) ceased to have effect (21.3.2012) by virtue of [Energy Act 2011 \(c. 16\)](#), **ss. 118(3)(a)**, 121(1); S.I. 2012/873, art. 2(c)
- F4** S. 1(1A)-(1C) inserted (5.10.2004) by [Energy Act 2004 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 81(2)**, 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(1), Sch. 1
- F5** S. 1(1A)(a)(b)(c) repealed (26.1.2009) by [Energy Act 2008 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 87(1)(b)**, 110(2), **Sch. 6**; S.I. 2009/45, art. 2(d)(e)(vi)(ff)(ii)
- F6** S. 1(1A)(ba)(bb) inserted (1.1.2007) by [Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 22(a)**, 28(2)
- F7** S. 1(1A)(bb) omitted (26.5.2015) by virtue of [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), **ss. 57(4)(a)**, 115(3)(e)
- F8** S. 1(1A)(d) and preceding word inserted (1.1.2007) by [Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 6(b)**, 28(2)
- F9** S. 1(1AA) ceased to have effect (21.3.2012) by virtue of [Energy Act 2011 \(c. 16\)](#), **ss. 118(3)(b)**, 121(1); S.I. 2012/873, art. 2(c)
- F10** S. 1(1B)(1C) repealed (26.1.2009) by [Energy Act 2008 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 87(1)(c)**, 110(2), **Sch. 6**; S.I. 2009/45, art. 2(d)(e)(vi)(ff)(ii)
- F11** S. 1(2)(3) substituted (26.1.2009) by [Energy Act 2008 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 87(1)(d)**, 110(2); S.I. 2009/45, art. 2(d)(ii)

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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*

**F12** S. 1(4A) inserted (26.1.2009) by [Energy Act 2008 \(c. 32\)](#), **ss. 87(1)(e)**, 110(2); S.I. 2009/45, art. 2(d)(ii)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** S. 1 applied (with modifications) (E.W.S.) (21.8.2006) by [Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 \(c. 19\)](#), **ss. 5(2)**, 28(1)

## 2 Energy efficiency of residential accommodation: Secretary of State

- (1) The Secretary of State must within one week beginning with the coming into force of this section designate under this subsection at least one energy efficiency aim.
- (2) For the purposes of this section an “energy efficiency aim” is an aim which—
  - (a) is contained in a published document;
  - (b) relates to the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in England; and
  - (c) is compatible with [F13EU] obligations and any other international obligations of the United Kingdom.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, at any time after designation under subsection (1), designate under this subsection a further energy efficiency aim or aims.
- (4) Where an energy efficiency aim is for the time being designated under this section, the Secretary of State must take reasonable steps to achieve the aim.
- (5) In deciding which steps to take for the purposes of subsection (4), the Secretary of State must consider steps relating to the heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and insulation of residential accommodation.
- (6) A designation under this section may be withdrawn, but not if its withdrawal would result in there being no energy efficiency aim designated under this section.
- (7) If an energy efficiency aim designated under this section ceases to meet the condition in subsection (2)(c) it ceases to be designated under this section, but if this results in there being no energy efficiency aim so designated the Secretary of State must without delay designate a new energy efficiency aim.
- (8) A designation of an aim under this section, or a withdrawal or cessation of such a designation, must be published in such way as the Secretary of State considers appropriate: a designation may be contained in the same published document as the aim itself.
- (9) In this section “residential accommodation” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (c. 10).

**Textual Amendments**

**F13** Words in Act substituted (22.4.2011) by [The Treaty of Lisbon \(Changes in Terminology\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/1043\)](#), **arts. 3**, 6 (with art. 3(2)(3), 4(2), 6(4)(5))

**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 2 in force at 25.4.2004 by S.I. 2004/1203, **art. 2**

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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*

PROSPECTIVE

### 3 Energy efficiency of residential accommodation: National Assembly for Wales

- (1) The National Assembly for Wales (“the Assembly”) must within one week beginning with the coming into force of this section designate under this subsection at least one energy efficiency aim.
- (2) For the purposes of this section an “energy efficiency aim” is an aim which—
  - (a) is contained in a published document;
  - (b) relates to the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in Wales; and
  - (c) is compatible with [F13EU] obligations and any other international obligations of the United Kingdom.
- (3) The Assembly may, at any time after designation under subsection (1), designate under this subsection a further energy efficiency aim or aims.
- (4) Where an energy efficiency aim is for the time being designated under this section, the Assembly must (using the powers it has apart from this section) take reasonable steps to achieve the aim.
- (5) In deciding which steps to take for the purposes of subsection (4), the Assembly must consider steps relating to the heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and insulation of residential accommodation.
- (6) A designation under this section may be withdrawn, but not if its withdrawal would result in there being no energy efficiency aim designated under this section.
- (7) If an energy efficiency aim designated under this section ceases to meet the condition in subsection (2)(c) it ceases to be designated under this section, but if this results in there being no energy efficiency aim so designated the Assembly must without delay designate a new energy efficiency aim.
- (8) A designation of an aim under this section, or a withdrawal or cessation of such a designation, must be published in such way as the Assembly considers appropriate: a designation may be contained in the same published document as the aim itself.
- (9) In this section “residential accommodation” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (c. 10).

#### Textual Amendments

- F13** Words in Act substituted (22.4.2011) by [The Treaty of Lisbon \(Changes in Terminology\) Order 2011](#) (S.I. 2011/1043), **arts. 3, 6** (with **art. 3(2)(3), 4(2), 6(4)(5)**)

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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*

PROSPECTIVE

#### **4 Energy efficiency of residential accommodation: energy conservation authorities**

- (1) In this section an “energy efficiency direction” means a direction requiring each energy conservation authority to which it applies to take such energy conservation measures as that authority considers to be—
  - (a) likely to result in achieving, by a date specified in the direction, an improvement so specified (which may be expressed as a percentage) in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in that authority’s area; and
  - (b) practicable and cost-effective.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “the energy efficiency” of residential accommodation in an energy conservation authority’s area has such meaning as may be specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, after consulting the Local Government Association, give an energy efficiency direction which applies—
  - (a) to one or more named energy conservation authorities in England;
  - (b) to all energy conservation authorities in England; or
  - (c) to a particular description of energy conservation authority in England.
- (4) The National Assembly for Wales (“the Assembly”) may, after consulting the Welsh Local Government Association, give an energy efficiency direction which applies—
  - (a) to one or more named energy conservation authorities in Wales;
  - (b) to all energy conservation authorities in Wales; or
  - (c) to a particular description of energy conservation authority in Wales.
- (5) With effect from the giving of an energy efficiency direction—
  - (a) each energy conservation authority to which the direction applies must comply with the direction, using the powers it has apart from this section; and
  - (b) the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (c. 10) (“HECA”) shall cease to apply in relation to each such authority.
- (6) In deciding which measures to take for the purposes of complying with an energy efficiency direction, an authority must give preference to measures which it considers would also contribute to—
  - (a) achieving the objective mentioned in paragraph (d) of section 2(2) of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 (c. 31) by the target date for the time being specified under that paragraph;
  - (b) achieving any interim objectives for the time being specified under paragraph (c) of section 2(2) of that Act by the target date so specified.
- (7) Different energy efficiency directions may be given in relation to different energy conservation authorities or different descriptions of such authority.
- (8) The Secretary of State may after consulting the Local Government Association, and the Assembly may after consulting the Welsh Local Government Association, alter the date or the improvement (or both) for the time being specified in an energy efficiency direction given by the Secretary of State or (as the case may be) by the Assembly.

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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*

- (9) An energy efficiency direction may be revoked, but only if each authority to which it applies either—
- (a) is subject to a new energy efficiency direction taking effect immediately on the revocation; or
  - (b) no longer exists at the time of the revocation.
- (10) The Secretary of State may give to energy conservation authorities in England, and the Assembly may give to energy conservation authorities in Wales, such guidance as he or it considers appropriate in relation to the exercise of an energy conservation authority's functions under this section.
- (11) An energy conservation authority must have regard to any such guidance.
- (12) The Secretary of State may by order—
- (a) amend this section so as to alter the body which must be consulted by him;
  - (b) make transitional provision in relation to HECA's ceasing to apply in relation to an energy conservation authority in England.
- (13) The Assembly may by order—
- (a) amend this section so as to alter the body which must be consulted by it;
  - <sup>F14</sup>(b) .....
- (14) Any power to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument which, in the case of an order made by the Secretary of State, shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (15) In this section the following expressions have the meaning given by section 1 of HECA—
- “energy conservation authority”;
  - “residential accommodation”;
  - “area”, in relation to an energy conservation authority;
  - “energy conservation measures”.

#### Textual Amendments

**F14** S. 4(13)(b) ceased to have effect (21.3.2012) by virtue of [Energy Act 2011 \(c. 16\)](#), ss. **118(4)**, 121(1); S.I. 2012/873, art. 2(c)

## 5 CHP targets

- (1) Before the end of 2003, the Secretary of State must make a statement—
- (a) specifying one or more CHP targets; and
  - (b) specifying the period that each CHP target is for.
- (2) At any time after making the statement mentioned in subsection (1), the Secretary of State may make a further statement doing either or both of the following—
- (a) specifying as mentioned in that subsection;
  - (b) revoking a CHP target contained in an earlier statement under this section.

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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*

- (3) A CHP target is the percentage of the amount of electricity for government use in the period the target is for that the Secretary of State considers will be capable, at a reasonable cost to the government, of being supplied from CHP electricity.
- (4) For the purposes of this section—
- “amount of electricity for government use in the period the target is for” means the amount of electricity that the Secretary of State estimates that the government will use in that period;
- “CHP electricity” means electricity that—
- (a) is generated by a generating station which is operated for the purposes of producing heat, or a cooling effect, in association with electricity; and
- (b) satisfies any other requirements specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by order—
- (a) specify the departments and other bodies which (taken together) are to constitute “the government” for the purposes of this section;
- (b) provide for the exclusion from any estimation of the amount of electricity that the government will use in a period of—
- (i) the use of electricity for purposes specified in the order or in circumstances so specified;
- (ii) the use of electricity by any part of the government specified in the order.
- (6) One of the periods specified under subsection (1)(b) must—
- (a) begin with 1 January 2010; and
- (b) end with 31 December 2010.
- (7) The Secretary of State must lay any statement made under this section before Parliament.
- (8) Any power to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (9) No proceedings may be brought to enforce any CHP target contained in a statement made under this section or otherwise to review any act done, or any failure to act, in relation to any such CHP target.

#### Commencement Information

I2 S. 5 in force at 28.11.2003 by S.I. 2003/2986, art. 2

## 6 Duty of Gas and Electricity Markets Authority to carry out impact assessments

After section 5 of the Utilities Act 2000 (c. 27) insert—

### “5A Duty of Authority to carry out impact assessment

- (1) This section applies where—

---

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

**Changes to legislation:** *Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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) the Authority is proposing to do anything for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of any function exercisable by it under or by virtue of Part 1 of the 1986 Act or Part 1 of the 1989 Act; and
  - (b) it appears to it that the proposal is important;
- but this section does not apply if it appears to the Authority that the urgency of the matter makes it impracticable or inappropriate for the Authority to comply with the requirements of this section.
- (2) A proposal is important for the purposes of this section only if its implementation would be likely to do one or more of the following—
- (a) involve a major change in the activities carried on by the Authority;
  - (b) have a significant impact on persons engaged in the shipping, transportation or supply of gas conveyed through pipes or in the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity;
  - (c) have a significant impact on persons engaged in commercial activities connected with the shipping, transportation or supply of gas conveyed through pipes or with the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity;
  - (d) have a significant impact on the general public in Great Britain or in a part of Great Britain; or
  - (e) have significant effects on the environment.
- (3) Before implementing its proposal, the Authority must either—
- (a) carry out and publish an assessment of the likely impact of implementing the proposal; or
  - (b) publish a statement setting out its reasons for thinking that it is unnecessary for it to carry out an assessment.
- (4) An assessment carried out under this section must—
- (a) include an assessment of the likely effects on the environment of implementing the proposal; and
  - (b) relate to such other matters as the Authority considers appropriate.
- (5) In determining the matters to which an assessment under this section should relate, the Authority must have regard to such general guidance relating to the carrying out of impact assessments as it considers appropriate.
- (6) An assessment carried out under this section may take such form as the Authority considers appropriate.
- (7) Where the Authority publishes an assessment under this section—
- (a) it must provide an opportunity of making representations to the Authority about its proposal to members of the public and other persons who, in the Authority's opinion, are likely to be affected to a significant extent by the proposal's implementation;
  - (b) the published assessment must be accompanied by a statement setting out how representations may be made; and
  - (c) the Authority must not implement its proposal unless the period for making representations about the proposal has expired and it has considered all the representations that were made in that period.
- (8) Where the Authority is required (apart from this section)—



*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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) to consult about a proposal to which this section applies, or
  - (b) to give a person an opportunity of making representations about it,
- the requirements of this section are in addition to, but may be performed contemporaneously with, the other requirements.
- (9) Every report under section 5(1) must set out—
- (a) a list of the assessments under this section carried out during the financial year to which the report relates; and
  - (b) a summary of the decisions taken during that year in relation to proposals to which assessments carried out in that year or previous financial years relate.
- (10) The publication of anything under this section must be in such manner as the Authority considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of the persons who, in the Authority’s opinion, are likely to be affected if its proposal is implemented.
- (11) References in sections 4AA, 4AB and 4A of the 1986 Act to functions of the Authority under Part 1 of that Act include references to any functions of the Authority under this section that are exercisable in relation to a proposal to do anything for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of any function of the Authority under Part 1 of the 1986 Act.
- (12) References in sections 3A, 3B and 3C of the 1989 Act to functions of the Authority under Part 1 of that Act include references to any functions of the Authority under this section that are exercisable in relation to a proposal to do anything for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of any function of the Authority under Part 1 of the 1989 Act.”

**F157 Use of certain money held by Gas and Electricity Markets Authority**

**Textual Amendments**

**F15** S. 7 omitted (26.5.2015) by virtue of [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), s. 115(3)(r), [Sch. 23 para. 19](#)

**8 Financial provision**

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament—

- (a) any expenditure of the Secretary of State under this Act; and
- (b) any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which under any other Act are payable out of money so provided.

**9 Citation, extent and commencement**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Sustainable Energy Act 2003.
- (2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), this Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (3) Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 extend to England and Wales only.

---

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.*

*Changes to legislation: Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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](#)*

---

- (4) Section 6 extends to England and Wales and to Scotland.
- (5) Sections 2, 4 (so far as it relates to England) and 5 shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (6) Sections 3 and 4 (so far as it relates to Wales) shall come into force on such day as the National Assembly for Wales may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (7) The other provisions of this Act shall come into force at the end of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (8) An order under subsection (5) or (6) may appoint different days for different purposes.

**Status:**

This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

**Changes to legislation:**

Sustainable Energy Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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 :**

- s. 2 ceases to have effect by [2011 c. 16 s. 110\(3\)](#)
- s. 9(3) word omitted by [2011 c. 16 s. 110\(4\)](#)
- s. 9(5) word omitted by [2011 c. 16 s. 110\(4\)](#)