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National Commitments and Targets

The **National Commitments** pathway aims to show what will happen if national commitments are met. This requires translating policy commitments into quantitative targets that can be modelled in the FABLE Calculator. Teams have reviewed key policy documents to set up these targets for the food and land use system (agricultural production and trade, climate, biodiversity, food security and dietary recommendations).

In some cases, policy commitments lack clear quantification. **FABLE teams have proposed quantitative targets that are derived or inspired from these national commitments. These are in the yellow column.**

Please provide your feedback regarding these quantitative targets using our [public consultation form](#).

CODE	Policy area	Policy ambition	FABLE team's proposed quantitative national targets	Justification	References	Assumption (A) or Official Source (OS)
1	FOOD					
1a	Food	Undernourishment	No specific quantitative target	Undernourishment reflects distribution inequalities: UK average energy intake is well above requirements, so increases not likely to be targeted at aggregate level		A
1b	Food	Overweight / obesity	2573 kcal per cap per day 2050 (output of other assumptions rather than direct target)	Not specific national target, but reduced energy intake results from dietary assumptions below	See 1d below	A
1c	Food	Diet-related disease	No specific quantitative target	No explicit target re. diet-related diseases, but policy ambitions in 1d also framed as 'healthier'	See 1d below	N/A

United Kingdom

1d	Food	Other food related targets	50% reduction in food waste by 2030, 60% by 2050 20% reduction in meat and dairy by 2030, 35% reduction in meat by 2050, replaced with plant-based foods.	Waste reduction as in the Climate Change Committee Balanced Net-Zero Pathway Dietary change not explicit policy, but these transitions expected as part of CCC balanced net-zero. Reduction also recommended in National Food Strategy (England). Similar to 30% reduction implied by EatWell healthy diet, which is the target for Wales and Scotland (not yet separately implemented in FABLE.)	Climate Change Committee 6th Carbon Budget National Food Strategy for England	Combination of OS and A
2	CLIMATE MITIGATION					
2a	Climate mitigation	Total GHG emissions reduction (by Gas or in CO ₂ e - if in CO ₂ e indicate what is the global warming potential factor used to convert non-CO ₂ emissions into CO ₂ -)	Nationwide net-zero by 2050	Nationally legislated net-zero target, 100-year global warming potentials from IPCC 5 th Assessment Report used. Some gas-specific reduction scenarios, but no explicit targets beyond overall net-zero	Climate Change Committee 6th Carbon Budget	OS
2b	Climate mitigation	Agriculture GHG emissions reduction	Agricultural emissions 39Mt CO ₂ e by 2035, 35 Mt CO ₂ e by 2050	CCC Balanced Net-Zero pathway (scenario with some anticipated flexibility in achieving overall net-zero target, no specific agricultural requirement)	Climate Change Committee 6th Carbon Budget	OS
2c	Climate mitigation	Land use and land use change GHG emissions reduction	Land-use a net sink of 19Mt CO ₂ e by 2050	CCC Balanced Net-Zero pathway (scenario with some anticipated flexibility in achieving overall net-zero target, no specific land requirement)	Climate Change Committee 6th Carbon Budget	OS
2d	Climate mitigation	Reduce or halt deforestation	Increase forest area by 31,400 ha/year by 2025 then	Sum of individual commitments by England (Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) target for 12% woodland cover and 16.5% including	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	OS & A

United Kingdom

			36,700 hectares by 2035	trees outside woodlands, HM Government 2023a); Scotland (18,000 ha/year by 2025; workshop comment); Wales (5000 ha/y 2025-2034, then 7500 ha/y as in FABLE Wales calculator) and N. Ireland (900 ha/y; Forests for Our Future, DAERA 2020). This exceeds the 30000 ha/y target of the UK Net Zero Strategy (HM Government, 2021) but falls short of the BNZ pathway.	Forest for Our Future news (incl 9,000 ha over next 10 years target)	
2e	Climate mitigation	Other climate mitigation related targets	<i>(not presently implemented) 390 petajoules domestic bioenergy supply</i>	Not explicit target or implemented in FABLE at present, but Department for Energy Security & Net Zero Biomass Strategy anticipates significant domestic biomass supply for bioenergy contributing to net-zero	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero Biomass Strategy	OS
3	BIODIVERSITY					
3a	Biodiversity	Reduce or halt loss of natural ecosystems	<i>500,000 ha wildlife-rich habitats restored or created by 2043 (modelled as increase in protected area)</i>	The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023 state “in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats are to be restored or created by 31st December 2042”: ‘wildlife-rich’ may include agricultural, forest and ‘other land’ from FABLE land categories	The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023	OS & A
3b	Biodiversity	Promote afforestation	Increase forest area by 31,400 ha/year by 2025 then 36,700 hectares by 2035	See 2d above. Broad split expected of 50:50 coniferous and broadleaf, but no explicit plan for proportion native species and/or types of management	See 2d above	OS
3c	Biodiversity	Expand protected areas or 'Other effective area-based conservation	<i>30% land protected area by 2030</i>	Specific commitment to 30 by 30 (some details as what will count as a protected area and its purposes remain unclear)	Government press release: PM commits to protect 30% of UK land in boost for biodiversity	OS

United Kingdom

		measures' (OECMs)				
3d	Biodiversity	Expand cropland area under agroecological practices	<i>60% farmland has cover crops by 2030, 25% farmland minimum tillage by 2030.</i>	England targets from Environmental Improvement Plan assumed for other nations. Other targets implied in carbon budget (“75% of farmers in England ‘to engage in low carbon practices by 2030, and 85% by 2035’”) but not specifically re. agroecological area	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	A and OS
3e	Biodiversity	Reduce or halt use of agrochemicals and other agricultural practices that harm biodiversity	<i>No specific target</i>	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 has no specific targets for agrochemicals. States that at some point in 2023 a Chemicals Strategy will be published (no date at present), and a National Action Plan on Sustainable Use of Pesticides will also be forthcoming (previously stated as due Spring 2022, no further information at present)	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 Draft National Action Plan on Sustainable Use of Pesticides consultation outcome	A
3f	Biodiversity	Other biodiversity related targets	<i>[not direct FABLE component] Species extinction risk by 2042 lower than that of 2022. And Overall relative species abundance index in 2042 higher than 2022 index + min. 10% higher than 2030</i>	Legislated for England, potentially very specific and likely not directly implementable in FABLE	The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023	OS
4	NITROGEN & PHOSPHOROUS					

United Kingdom

4a	Fertilizer use	Limit N use	<i>No specific target</i>	No national application targets – see 4c below		OS and A
4b	Fertilizer use	Limit P use	<i>No specific target</i>	No national application targets – see 4c below		OS and A
4c	Fertilizer use	Other N and P related targets	<i>No specific target</i>	The Environment Act has 3 targets (2 interim and 1 long-term:) Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by 10% by 31 January 2028; Reduce these loadings in catchments containing protected sites in unfavorable condition due to nutrient pollution by 15% by 31 January 2028; and reduce these loadings by 40% by 31 December 2038. This could be achieved through a combination of reduced applications and mitigation measures: there are no specific targets for limiting use	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	OS and A
5	WATER					
5a	Water	Limit water use	<i>No specific target</i>	UK Farmers may require individual abstraction licences, but no national limits or targets		A
5b	Water	Other water related targets	<i>No specific target</i>	UK Farmers may require individual abstraction licences, but no national limits or targets		A
6	ECONOMY					
6a	Economy	Self-sufficiency	<i>No specific target</i>	The Government Food Strategy notes that “for the foods that we can produce in the UK, we produce around 75% of what we consume” and “we commit to keep it at broadly the same level in future”, but no explicit target	Government food strategy	A

United Kingdom

6b	Economy	Farmers' income	<i>No specific target</i>			A
6c	Economy	Agricultural exports	<i>No specific target</i>			A
6d	Economy	Timber exports	<i>No specific target</i>	Expectation that limited exports, and no biomass export (biomass strategy states “We assume no export of UK produced biomass or biofuels” in their scenarios), but no explicit targets	Department for Energy Security & Net Zero Biomass Strategy	A
6e	Economy	Employment in agricultural sector	<i>No specific target</i>			A