

NPL submission to the Future Inquiries consultation from the Environmental Audit Committee

In line with the recommendations of the Liaison Committee in the 2017 Parliament, the environmental Audit Committee is keen to have input from stakeholders on [proposed future inquiries](#).

The Committee has identified several topics which it may choose to focus on during the first year of this Parliament:

- Energy efficiency of existing homes
- Nature based solutions to climate change
- Local authorities and net zero
- Follow up on progress since 2018 Green Finance inquiry
- Community energy
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Sustainability of crop management
- Carbon labelling

As the UK's National Measurement Institute (NMI), The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) is submitting a proposal for an inquiry into the goal of achieving net-zero ambitions.

NPL's inquiry proposal

NPL proposes that the committee consider an inquiry into the capacity of the National Atmospheric Emission Inventory (NAEI). The NAEI is the UK's principal source for greenhouse gas emissions. It was designed to support our UNFCCC and CCC reporting obligations. This is a remit that the NAEI fulfils well, and it is considered one of the leading inventories in the world.

However, the UK will need significant investment of taxpayers money to achieve our net-zero ambitions. This creates the need for:

1. The understanding the current UK emissions with sufficient specificity and quality, to be able to target the right climate actions.
2. The ongoing operational monitoring of emissions to provide the feedback loop on which climate actions are actually delivering net emissions reductions. The closer to net-zero we get, the harder it will be to reduce the remaining emissions.

This remit is far beyond the original design of the NAEI. Consequently, the committee should prioritise an inquiry into this to explore the opportunities for a significant upgrade and to minimise the risk of an unproductive or potentially counter-productive climate action.

About NPL

The National Physical Laboratory ([NPL](#)) is the UK's National Measurement Institute. At its core, NPL maintains the UK's units of measurement. It works to ensure that measurement in the UK is consistent with the global common system of measurement units. Alongside this core role, NPL conducts research into fundamental metrology and develops primary standards, as well as new instrumentation.

NPL is helping to meet the Government's Grand Challenge targets and support world-leading innovation in the UK and internationally. Our work in [energy and the environment](#) is driving down the cost of renewables and low-carbon technology, and increasing our understanding of emissions and pollution. We apply the latest advances in measurement to make every stage of energy generation and transport more efficient, safe and affordable, and to improve the quality of data available on climate change and environmental pollution.

Further information

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