

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**MEDIA ALERT: The EAC reacts to evidence on negative emissions technologies**

Current Government policy on technologies that remove carbon from the air could see heavy emitters dodge their responsibilities to cut emissions, the [EAC \(Environmental Audit Committee\)](#) has warned Ministers in a letter to Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng today.

At present, targets for greenhouse gas reductions and removal targets are combined, offering little incentive for industries to prioritise cutting emissions when the future option of negative emission technologies (NETs) is there. The EAC recognises the value in using NETs in industries such as steel and cement, where options to decarbonise are often more limited. However, MPs argue that the Government is failing to take swift enough action to roll out technologies, with both BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage) and DACCS (direct air carbon capture and storage) at close to zero levels of deployment in the UK.

Having [reviewed the evidence](#) it received on the issue, the EAC is concerned that Government thinking in this area has been limited and opportunities risk being missed.

**Elly Pepper, Senior Advocate for [Cut Carbon Not Forests](#) and the [NRDC \(Natural Resources Defense Council\)](#) has made the following comments:**

"That a committee of MPs undertook this enquiry shows that bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) is still a total wild card technology that is high risk for people and the planet. The committee clearly shares the fears that many environmental groups have expressed for years – that large-scale bioenergy cannot be made to work, whether it has carbon capture or not, without serious impacts. While BECCS is at the heart of the UK's plan to meet its climate targets, evidence is increasingly showing that it could actually worsen climate change and biodiversity.

"Scientists have questioned whether BECCS can provide *any* climate benefit. The Climate Change Committee and others have expressed concerns about its impact on some of the world's most special and vulnerable forests. And even the IPCC recently noted that it risks causing food and water stress throughout the world. As such, any plan by the UK Government to meet its climate targets by relying heavily on industrial-scale tree burning should come under tremendous parliamentary scrutiny."