

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros New
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA HIDCC 0721 26

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23 March 2026

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform you that the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) Authority (comprising of the Welsh Government, the UK Government, the Scottish Government, and the Northern Ireland Executive) has today published the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS): Treatment of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Consultation.

The UK Government SAF Mandate came into force on 1 January 2025. It places a requirement for fuel suppliers to blend increasing amounts of SAF into their jet fuel supply. It also sets out the sustainability criteria for fuel to be considered SAF under the mandate.

The UK ETS currently incentivises the use of SAF by requiring airlines to purchase fewer carbon allowances when they reduce emissions, which SAF helps achieve. The sustainability criteria for fuel to be considered as SAF under the UK ETS is different from the UK Government SAF Mandate. The UK ETS uses the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation which in the UK has been succeeded by the SAF Mandate.

The consultation asks stakeholders for their views on changing the sustainability criteria for a fuel to be considered as SAF under the UK ETS and how it should be rewarded.

The Authority, including officials across the Welsh Government, will engage extensively with affected stakeholders to gather views to support final decisions on how the UK ETS will be expanded. This consultation will be followed by an Authority Response, which will be published prior to legislation being laid that will enact any changes resulting from the consultation. The Senedd, along with other UK Parliaments, will have the opportunity to scrutinise plans once they are finalised.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Through the UK ETS, we must encourage technologies that will help Wales on its journey to Net Zero. This consultation is key to understand how the UK ETS can support the uptake of SAF by rewarding its use.

I am also copying this letter to the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw', written in black ink on a white background.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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