

Combining the official statistics publication “Emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland” with the full country level inventory.

Proposal

It is proposed to incorporate the separate country level statistics currently published on LULUCF greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals in mid-April into the full country level inventories of GHG emissions and removals published in early June. Much of the information on LULUCF emissions and removals is already included in the full inventories but this would be an opportunity to include all the relevant information.

Background

For the last four years, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology have published the LULUCF report on behalf of DECC, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment. The report is published in mid-April to coincide with the publication of similar information in the UK’s common reporting format (CRF) tables provided to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The CEH report is published on the National Atmospheric Emission Inventory and the latest version of the report can be found here: http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=788.

Reasons for change

In future, constituent country level data on LULUCF emissions will not be included in the UK’s CRF tables supplied to UNFCCC in April. As such there is no longer a requirement to publish separate country level official statistics at this time. (UK Greenhouse Gas statistics are published by DECC in February.)

It is considered that the benefit of publishing full country level inventories from all sectors at the same time outweighs any disadvantage caused by the slight delay in ceasing publication of the separate LULUCF statistics. With each LULUCF release the full historic time series is updated. This can cause confusion where users combine the latest LULUCF statistics with the full country level emissions inventories published the previous June and provide “revised” estimates for earlier years. Since there are also changes to historic emissions reported for other sectors, any “revised” estimates will differ from the revised historic emissions figures published two months later.

Comments

Before making any final decision, we would welcome any comments on the proposal to cease the separate official statistics publication of country level LULUCF greenhouse gas emissions and removals in mid-April and to incorporate the information into the full Devolved Administration (DA) level GHG inventory published in June.

Comments should be sent by January 31 to:

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John will liaise with the relevant statisticians in DECC, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment.

Details regarding future DA LULUCF publications will be published on the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory website www.naei.gov.uk in February.

The full inventories “Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland” are available at:

http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=799