
To Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change

From Submission on behalf of Ogier

Introduction

Ogier welcomes the invitation to share our views on Jersey's carbon neutrality pathway. We endeavour to play an active role in supporting Government efforts in tackling the climate emergency and commit to achieving carbon neutrality for our own operation. Key views are presented below.

Key Views

Timeline

1. Ogier is keen to see a neutrality target earlier than 2050, possibly at 2030. We recognise the complexity of policy design for an already complex subject and additional challenges added by the pandemic. We urge the Government to review the cost and benefit analysis, considering the impacts of the pandemic to ensure a socially, technologically and economically sustainable transition.

Energy

2. Despite the majority of electricity being low carbon, we are keen for more renewable energy to be available. Solar PV and battery storage can be further promoted and other renewable options such as tidal and wind should be thoroughly investigated.
3. Ogier supports electrification of heating systems supplemented by energy efficiency enhancement programme for both domestic and commercial properties.

Transport

4. While we have significantly reduced our air travel policy and will continue post-Covid, minimal off island air travel is unavoidable for service-based businesses like Ogier. Offsetting residual emissions is a viable option as recognised by the Government. We suggest the Government considers providing support to businesses, technically and/or financially, to ensure the robustness of carbon offsetting. Not only will this voluntary offsetting contribute to the global decarbonisation and sustainable development, it will also present competitive advantage by pursuing ambitious carbon neutral programmes.
5. Ogier fully supports the policy direction of promoting electric vehicles, improving the supporting infrastructure and providing tax or other incentives to encourage uptake.
6. Ogier supports the introduction of new safe cycle routes and the improvement of existing routes for access to businesses/ town and schools.

Behavioural Change

7. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to tackling the climate emergency. Ogier fully supports Government efforts in encouraging low carbon lifestyle and business operations.

Finance and Incentives

8. Ogier recommends the Government using tax incentive schemes to encourage uptake of low carbon measures and accelerate the transition to neutrality. This can capture the decarbonisation potential of climate-ready businesses and individuals.

9. Ensuring sustainable finance for an ambitious target is never easy. Jersey is home to a mature world-class financial and professional services sector. Many leading businesses within this sector have experience in sustainable finance. Ogier sees good opportunities to leverage their expertise and global reach in developing Jersey's carbon neutrality programmes.

Ogier
15 March 2021

Contacts

