

News story: Coal Authority publishes Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18

It's been an inspiring year for the Coal Authority as we've continued to grow and transform into an organisation that's increasingly sustainable to enable us to deliver our next 5 year plan.

Our next plan is an evolution of the strategy we've followed over the last 5 years. It balances a strong focus on core operational delivery to keep people safe and improve environments impacted by the UK's mining legacy with a continued clear focus on innovation and continuous improvement. This enables us reduce costs to the taxpayer, support and develop our people and ensure we sustain the specialist skills we need to deliver for the future.

Over the past year we've worked to:

- grow our customer base, diversify our income and make significant progress in saving costs through innovation
- adapt and respond to major events, including flooding, and significant subsidence events
- enable a mining reports market, and seen competition develop in line with our business plan
- respond to our customers' needs, launching a new report for consultants and conveyancers
- develop our mine related services to enable those in government, infrastructure and development sectors to manage risk and cost
- support the development of ochre, a by-product of our mine water treatment, as a fine art product
- engage with water industry partners to examine various opportunities for water including co-treatment, supply and drought alleviation

We've contributed to the delivery of the UK's Industrial Strategy by adopting solar power at some of our mine water treatment schemes and by evaluating the clean energy potential stored in our mine workings.

We're proud of the progress we've made this last year. We are more relevant now than at any other time in our 24 year history, managing more social,

economic and environmental impacts across an even broader range of customers. Discover more about us, our work and our plans for the future.

[Coal Authority annual report and accounts 2017-18](#)

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Press release: Government leads energy charge across public sector, saving up to £320 million

At a speech celebrating the Northern Powerhouse in Newcastle today (Thursday 5 July), the Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark announced a range of measures to place the UK at the forefront of the global shift towards clean growth as part of our [Industrial Strategy](#).

Following a speech by the Prime Minister last month, Greg Clark outlined how the government will deliver the Clean Growth Grand Challenge's first 'mission' to halve the energy use of new buildings by 2030, saving families money.

Building on the momentum of ambitious energy efficiency measures within the public sector, the Secretary of State announced that central government will work towards a more stretching target with a reduction of 43% greenhouse gas emissions by 2019 to 2020 compared to 2009 to 2010 levels, potentially delivering £340 million in savings. We will also be publishing guidance on targets for the wider public and higher education sectors.

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said:

Our new, ambitious target for reducing emission across our central estate shows how this government is continuing to lead the world and rise to the challenge of tackling climate change. We have made significant progress so far, meeting our previous target 3 years early and saving just over £100 million last financial year as a result.

The potential savings from this can make a big difference across the wider public sector, with the NHS saving £2 billion over the last decade; money that can be put straight back into frontline services where it's needed most.

Industry energy efficiency

We need to revolutionise the way we heat our homes and businesses, to support this, the Business Secretary announced that government will be launching the £18 million Industrial Heat Recovery Support programme with applications invited in the autumn. This is intended to encourage industry to invest in heat recovery technologies, harnessing the power of heat which would otherwise go to waste to help improve the efficiency of industry and reduce costs.

Speaking today, Greg Clark said:

Of the more than £11 trillion investment expected in global power in the next three decades, 86% – is expected to be in low carbon. And by 2040, electric vehicles could make up over half of global car sales, compared to 1% today.

We will be working with businesses to highlight these opportunities during the first ever annual Green GB Week starting on the 15 October.

The Business Secretary also launched the [Construction Sector Deal](#) will bring together the construction, manufacturing, energy and digital sectors to deliver innovative approaches that improve productivity in construction and accelerate a shift to building safer, healthier and more affordable places to live and learn that use less energy.

Notes to editors

1. The [Greening Government Commitments](#) require central government departments to adopt sustainable practices, including greenhouse gas emissions.
2. We have announced a new target to reduce emissions by 43% by 2020, compared with 2009/2010 levels. This has the potential to deliver savings of £340 million in 2020 compared to a 2009/2010 baseline.
3. The previous target for government, as a whole, was to reduce emissions by 32% by 2019/2020, compared with 2009/2010 levels. This was exceeded 3 years early with a 33% reduction by the end of 2016/2017, resulting in a saving of £104 million in 2016/2017 compared to the 2009/2010 baseline.

4. We are also publishing guidance for wider public and higher education sectors to report against a voluntary target of more than 30% reduction in emissions by 2020/2021: [Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020: emissions reporting in public and higher education sectors](#)
5. The [Industrial Heat Recovery Programme](#) will open for applications in Autumn 2018.
6. The [successful applicants from the two £10 million innovation competitions](#) include northern companies such as Free Running Buildings in Leeds who are pioneering low energy ventilation technology, and Hull University who will develop a high efficiency, low carbon heating system for public buildings in Yorkshire.

Guidance: Emissions reduction pledge 2020: emissions reporting in public and higher education sectors

In the [Clean Growth Strategy](#) the government introduced a voluntary target for the wider public and higher education sectors in England. This target would aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across these sectors by 30% by 2020 to 2021, compared to a 2009 to 2010 baseline.

Some parts of the wider public and higher education sectors already have carbon targets in place or are subject to mandatory or voluntary reporting schemes. It is also recognised that some sectors and local areas have already set ambitious 2020 targets which aim to deliver more than a 30% reduction in emissions, however we are keen to establish a common approach as the first reporting period up to 2020 is short.

We welcome further ambition and would encourage any organisation to exceed the 30% reduction target, if possible.

This guidance is for public and higher education sector organisations in England that want to support and report against a voluntary emissions reduction target.

Press release: Attacker who attempted to burn Milton Keynes mum to death is jailed for life

A man who set a young mother alight and watched her burn has today been jailed for life after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, personally argued at the Court of Appeal that his original sentence was too low.

The victim Kirsten Ashby, 27, had known the offender Raymond Bowen, 24, for about a week through her friendship with Mr Bowen's girlfriend. On the night of the offence, Ms Ashby had wanted to check on her friend, who she was concerned was having a diabetic fit.

When Ms Ashby suggested calling an ambulance, Mr Bowen attacked her, pouring petrol over her before throwing a lighter at her. He then stood back and watched as she tried to put out the fire.

Ms Ashby sustained such severe burns to her face, arms, and torso that doctors were unsure she would survive the night. She faces many years of surgery and permanent disfigurement, as well as suffering serious psychological trauma.

Mr Bowen was originally sentenced at Luton Crown Court in April, where he was given a sentence of 19 years' imprisonment with a licence extension of 5 years. Today, after the Solicitor General argued at the Court of Appeal, he was given a life sentence with a minimum term of 12 years.

Commenting on the sentence increase, the Solicitor General said:

This was an appalling, unprovoked attack which nearly led to the death of a young woman. The victim will live with the physical and psychological impact of Bowen's actions for years to come. I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has today decided to increase Bowen's sentence, and hope it goes some way to righting this atrocious wrong.