

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

29 April 2026

RE: Prioritising Industrial Decarbonisation to protect UK industry and jobs

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to urge the Government to prioritise national resilience and energy security for the UK's critical industries and to urgently progress the forthcoming Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy and complementary policies.

Safeguarding the longstanding future of our vital industries is essential for the long-term prosperity of the UK's economy and security of supply. In an increasingly volatile international landscape, reliance on global supplies vulnerable to disruption may leave the UK exposed to increased product prices for consumers and subject the UK to resource shortages in times of need.

Investment in decarbonisation through the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (IDS) represents a key opportunity to secure the home-grown industries our country relies on. Heavy industry, from cement and chemicals to manufacturing and fuels, provide essential products to our country's infrastructure, construction, pharmaceutical, health and education sectors and more. However, they are held back by insufficient policy certainty from Government and, crucially, continued high electricity prices depressing opportunities to reinvest in site modernisation. Already, we have seen one third of the UK's refineries close in the past year, 25 chemical industries site closures since 2020, and multiple steel producers have required Government investment to remain open.

The IDS should serve as a signal of Government ambition to build back UK capacity and capability, working together with industry to catalyse investment in a range of modern technologies for the future, develop resilient supply chains, and secure employment for thousands of people across the nation. This is becoming increasingly urgent as projects across technologies including electrification, hydrogen and CCUS find it harder to justify ongoing capital and development expenditure without clear routes to market. Providing this clarity is now critical to the Government's efforts to build strong foundations and deliver on its manifesto. Industry views decarbonisation as an essential step and can work in lockstep with Government to achieve its aims with the right certainty in place.


To realise this opportunity, we urge the Government within the IDS to:

- Ensure timely delivery of the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme across industry and continue to reduce electricity bills alongside support for households in light of recent international energy market disruptions
- Accelerate the electrification, hydrogen and CCUS programmes and key policies that support the development of those sectors
- Streamline and accelerate regulatory and planning decisions to enable rapid deployment
- Provide long-term policy and funding certainty for capital-intensive, complex decarbonisation pathways
- Deliver a credible pipeline of industrial decarbonisation projects to unlock UK investment
- Expand skills and reskilling support through the Clean Jobs Plan for low-carbon industrial infrastructure
- Deliver a robust carbon border adjustment mechanism that recognises the full carbon intensity of imported goods

We therefore recommend the Government treats industrial decarbonisation as a national security matter, ensuring that British industries such as cement, chemicals, manufacturing and fuels can continue to operate, decarbonise, and provide for our country.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials in the coming weeks to discuss how the Government and industry can deliver industrial decarbonisation, support jobs and secure the UK's security together through the IDS.

Yours sincerely,



Olivia Powis
CEO, The Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA)



Clare Jackson,
Chief Executive, Hydrogen UK



Daniel Paterson
Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Sector Specialisms