

Delivering Growth: A green and digital future (Delivering growth / A green and digital future / Policy Commissions / Labour Policymaking)

The UK is fortunate to have a strong and innovative STEM community and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) represents around 50,000 members in the global chemical sciences sector, including those working in large multinational companies and small to medium enterprises, researchers and students in universities, teachers, and regulators. About 75% of these are in the UK.

Together, these scientists sit at the forefront of innovations that are delivering solutions to some of the major issues of today, from continuing to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic, to contributing to a green economic recovery.

From schools to industry, research and skills, society has a key role in supporting a green and innovative future.

• It is important for the next Government to address transport infrastructure needs to support economic growth and achieving net zero.

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• A healthy and productive workforce is central to economic growth. Air pollution is associated with avoidable chronic health conditions and disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups, and government estimates suggest that achieving the recently set

living standards, which will benefit individuals and communities across the whole of the UK as well as provide the tools to address these missions.

- For the UK to be successful, international collaboration is crucial. Associating to Horizon Europe and future European Framework Programmes is therefore critical. The international networks and collaborations that European Framework Programmes facilitate are unparalleled and irreplaceable and Labour should seek association to Horizon Europe and other EU research programmes at the earliest opportunity.
- If we want policy to deliver clean power by 2030, we need to deploy renewable energy generation, energy storage systems and electrification of transport widely. This will lead to a dramatic rise in demand for the critical materials underpinning these technologies; environmental pressures created by material extraction and processing; and a downstream increase in currently difficult-to-manage waste.
- We need coherent and harmonised long-term policies that support innovation and more circular approaches in this area, including investment in domestic recycling infrastructure. This will help us move to a circular economy for critical minerals in which we work towards greater resource efficiency and use of secondary raw materials recovered from end-of-life electric vehicle batteries, solar panels, and wind turbines, as well as from waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- To prosper as a country and build a resilient future for the UK, we need sustainable supplies of materials. These include not only the critical minerals we require to achieve greater renewable energy coverage and to scale up low-carbon transport, but also the materials that form the foundations of the UK manufacturing and construction sectors (e.g., steel and cement).
- We have a unique policy opportunity to position the UK as a global champion for a more integrated approach to these materials that maximises resource efficiency while minimising environmental impacts. We need to put in place a long-term materials strategy that is coordinated across government and across the economy to ensure more resilient supply chains, help retain jobs linked to currently carbonintensive material production and develop new low-carbon jobs, many of which will be held by chemistry-using professionals.
- 6. What are the specific implications of policy proposals in this area for (a) women, (b)Black, Asian and minority ethnic people; (c) LGBT+ people, (d) disabled people and(e) all those with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?
- · In efforts to ensure that science and technology policy support growth across the UK,



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- 7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local governments in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland?
- The RSC are calling for the next Government to support local governments in their role of allocating regional development funding to research and innovation or replace any shortfall in funding levels compared to before EU exit, to ensure regions and nations don't lose out on its benefits. Evidence shows that using regional development funding for research and innovation supports sustainable growth in regional economies and it enables local businesses to harness the power of research and innovation, knowledge, and infrastructure
 https://www.rsc.org/contentassets/8122a7694dd14a4f9779cec4e9dbb0a6/workforce

(https://www.rsc.org/contentassets/8122a7694dd14a419779cec4e9dbb0a6/wd -full-report)