

Objective

In 2013, DECC and BIS launched a project to assess how the 8 most energy intensive industries sectors in the UK can decarbonise and increase their energy efficiency while remaining competitive. They commissioned a consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff to produce sectoral 2050 roadmap reports with the aim of;

- improving the understanding of the greenhouse gas emissions abatement potential of individual industrial sectors, the relative costs of alternative abatement options and the related business environment including investment decisions, barriers and issues of competitiveness;
- establishing a shared evidence base to inform future policy, and identify strategic conclusions and potential next steps to help deliver cost effective decarbonisation in the medium to long term (over the period from 2020 to 2050).

The Government is currently working with trade associations from and companies in these sectors following up these 2050 roadmap reports to inform future policies. The aim is to agree sectoral action plans. One of the themes they identified is value chain collaboration or circular economy.

The objective of the mini-conference is to define what and where aspects of the circular economy or value chain collaboration are relevant for the 2050 roadmap programme in general, and to discuss potential actions – working collaboratively with industry and academia – that could feed in to the individual sectoral action plans.

The focus will be on circular economy aspects of the products and services these industries provide and how companies, trade associations and Government can work with their up- and downstream supply chain to reduce embodied greenhouse gas emissions and energy, while remaining or even increasing productivity and competitiveness. Key issues to discuss are **life-cycle analysis, product design, recycling**, working with (global) **up- and downstream supply chains** and **leadership and organisation** to increase added value.

Context

All the sectors involved are part of value chains that link raw materials through production to customers and ultimately consumers. Through value chain collaboration, opportunities to decarbonise, improve energy efficiency and add more value can be realised. Within these sectors, lifetime extension strategies offers one of the biggest opportunities for emissions reduction. Furthermore, as the Manufacturing Commission has pointed out; *“In areas such as clean technologies, eco-design and new business models, the UK is well placed to be a world leader, and to take advantage of the growing global markets for more sustainable goods and ideas. While also serving environmental objectives, a sector-wide focus on productivity gains through energy and resource efficiency should equally be regarded as an economic priority”*.