

Helen Finney

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)

Helen Finney is a UNFCCC Negotiator at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero where she represents the UK in negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and works on carbon markets policy. Prior to working on Article 6, she worked on the UK's Greenhouse Gas Removals business model and industrial decarbonisation policy at His Majesty's Treasury. Before joining the UK Government, she worked in consulting where she focused on climate policy projects for government and private sector clients, including on carbon pricing. Helen holds a master's degree in Environmental Technology (Environmental Economics and Policy) and a bachelor of science degree in Biological Sciences, both from Imperial College London.

EXPERIENCE

DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY SECURITY & NET ZERO (DESNZ)

JAN 2023 - PRESENT

UNFCCC NEGOTIATOR

- UK technical expert and negotiator on Article 6 (A6) of the Paris Agreement
- Develops and implements the UK A6 strategy for carbon market negotiations in the UNFCCC. Involves speaking on behalf of the UK at formal negotiations and intersessional workshops, co-ordinating A6 submissions to the UNFCCC across government, working with international counterparts and external stakeholders (incl. civil society, industry and academia), as well as through harnessing other levers of influence to drive forward high integrity carbon markets (incl. through the G7 and G20)
- Provides direction and support related to domestic Article 6 policy and UK International Climate Finance programming, working closely with Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) colleagues, GHG inventory colleagues, the Environment Agency and DESNZ program managers (incl. TCAF, Ci-Dev, LEAF, AIM4Forests).

CABINET OFFICE

JUL 2022 - JAN 2023

UNFCCC NEGOTIATOR

- UK negotiator on Article 6 (A6) of the Paris Agreement at Cabinet Office (COP unit), prior to moving department at the end of the UK's COP26 Presidency.

HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY (HMT)

JUN 2021 - JUL 2022

POLICY ADVISOR

- Worked in the Climate Change Policy Team at HMT, leading workstreams on i) industrial decarbonisation policies (incl. Industrial Carbon Capture and Storage and the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund), ii) Greenhouse Gas Removal policy and iii) embedding the consideration of net zero in fiscal events.
- Collaborated with BEIS, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority and Cabinet Office on industrial decarbonisation policy (removals and carbon capture), through utilising the Treasury Approval Point process, and providing advice to Treasury Ministers on funding as well as proposed policy papers and business model publications.

RICARDO PLC

DEC 2019 - JUN 2021

ANALYST CONSULTANT

- Worked in the Policy and Evidence Business Unit advising both governmental and private sector clients on climate policy and strategy projects
- Managed multiple project deliverables and distilled large volumes of complex information and legislation to produce high quality outputs
- Relevant projects include advisory support projects on carbon pricing instruments; implementation support for the Industrial Emission Directive; assessment of Long-Term Strategies (LTS) of EU Member States; support for evaluation and impact assessment for amending fluorinated greenhouse gases regulation; assessing pathways for maritime transport to reduce emissions towards 2050.

E4TECH (ACQUIRED BY ERM CONSULTANCY)

APR - SEP 2019

CONSULTANT INTERNSHIP

- Worked on biofuels in the context of the recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of biofuels using Simapro software
- Improved the LCA approach to incorporate previously unaccounted for emissions, to better inform legally binding limits imposed by RED II.

EDUCATION

2018 - 2019

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

MSc Environmental Technology – Distinction

Environmental Economics and Policy stream - relevant modules included Market Based Instruments in Environmental Policy, Econometrics, Energy Economics & Policy, Behavioral Economics & Sustainability, Renewable Resources Economics, Climate Change & International Agreements and Environmental Law

2014 - 2018

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

BSc Biology with French for Science - First Class Honours (1:1)

MSc Engineering in Agricultural Sciences (Erasmus)

SKILLS / CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Office programs including excel
- Nominated as UK delegate to Climate Youth Negotiator Programme (2023 cohort)
- Centre for Multilateral Negotiations training (October 2022)
- Better Business Cases Foundation - APMG International (issued August 2021)
- C1-level French