Bold climate policy drives decisive business action

The transition to a net-zero economy has begun. It’s achievable and brings significant benefits. Business is already taking action. But we only have 8 years left to halve emissions so we must go all in. Policies that give clarity and certainty will encourage more companies to deliver bold climate action now, creating an Ambition Loop, towards our 2030 goals.

JUST AND RESILIENT ECONOMIES

Now is the time for all countries to commit to the 1.5°C trajectory, translate global goals to policies and deliver climate action. Ensuring a green recovery from COVID-19 will help to drive sustainable economic growth, build resilience and solidarity, and create new jobs as part of a just transition.

Business is calling on governments to help them accelerate climate action with the following steps.

1. Commit to achieving economy-wide net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest and reversing nature loss by 2030.
2. Put forward strengthened, high quality Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in line with a 1.5°C trajectory to halve global emissions by 2030.
3. Develop policies, implementation plans and laws across the economy that reach NDC and net-zero targets and are nature positive.
4. Develop policies that ensure a just transition that is fair, respects the needs of all people and countries, and builds a more inclusive economy.

CREATING A NET-ZERO WORLD
BUSINESS IS ACTING FOR NET-ZERO

- 900+ companies across 40+ sectors and countries are aligning their emission reductions with the 1.5°C target, through the Business Ambition for 1.5°C.
- This includes companies from high-emitting sectors such as cement makers LafargeHolcim and India’s Dalmia Cement, plus many of the world’s largest companies by market cap, including Microsoft, Apple, and Walmart.
- 200+ companies are aiming to reach net-zero by 2040 with The Climate Pledge, including Amazon, Colgate-Palmolive, PepsiCo and Visa.
- A growing number of leading companies are engaging their supply chain to target net-zero emissions by 2050, with 2,000+ small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) now pledged via the SME Climate Hub.

BUSINESS ADVOCATES FOR AMBITIOUS POLICY

- 600+ companies with operations across the G20 called on G20 leaders to strengthen NDCs in line with at least halving global emissions by 2030 and end new coal power development.
- In the US, a call from 400+ companies to the US government helped deliver the updated NDC of at least halving emissions by 2030, from 2005 levels.
- In the European Union, a call from 200+ CEOs in 2020 helped increase ambition in the NDC, laying the foundation for implementing the Green Deal and ambition in sectoral strategies.
- In Japan, almost 180 companies called on the government to reduce emissions by at least 50% below 2013 levels by 2030.

GREEN RECOVERY IS GOOD ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- Recent analysis by Cambridge Econometrics, shows that green recovery plans - that include renewable energy, EVs, energy efficiency and tree planting - boost income, employment and GDP better than return-to-normal stimulus measures, with the added benefit of reducing emissions.
- 2,000+ companies globally have signed a number of open letters calling on world leaders to ensure that economic stimulus packages tackle both the impacts of the coronavirus and the ongoing climate crisis.
- Clean technologies and innovation have already created millions of jobs worldwide - renewable energy alone employs over 11 million people - and with inclusive planning we can ensure that no one is left behind in the transition.

BUSINESS CALLS ON GOVERNMENT FOR A JUST TRANSITION

1. Develop just transition plans coupled with robust policies to create an enabling environment for sustainable business, based on the ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition. This may include establishing a Just Transition Commission as seen in Scotland.
2. Demonstrate global solidarity by supporting emerging economies to set up national just transition funds, similar to those being established in the US and EU.
3. Encourage businesses to join the Business Pledge for Just Transition and Decent Green Jobs. Existing leaders include Ørsted, Iberdrola, Acciona, Engie and Enel with 230,000 direct employees and millions of workers in their supply chains.
## FINANCING A NET-ZERO ECONOMY

To finance the transition, markets need full information on climate risks and opportunities, clear pricing signals and policies, and public climate finance support. Right now, it is important that money spent to help countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic goes towards a green recovery to stimulate net-zero products, services and business models.

1. Deliver on the commitment by developed countries of at least $100B per year in support of climate action by developing countries.
2. Put a meaningful price on carbon and support robust Article 6 rules that ensure environmental integrity and avoid double counting.
3. Make climate-related financial disclosures mandatory for corporations, in line with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations.
4. Lay out roadmaps by 2022 to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies and financing by 2025 at the latest.
5. Invest in energy efficiency solutions and smart grid systems that support the uptake of renewable energy.
6. Commit to public procurement and stimulate corporate procurement of renewables.
7. Implement increasingly stringent emission standards for vehicles, ships and airplanes.
8. Continue to promote fuel efficiency and the shift to low and zero-emission transport modes.
9. Commit to 100% sales of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) for new light-duty vehicles by 2035, and by 2040 for new heavy-duty vehicles, at the latest.
10. 100+ companies are transitioning their fleets to EVs by 2030, through Climate Group’s EV100, including Indian food delivery company Zomato, multinational company Siemens, Chinese internet giant Baidu and the world’s largest consumer goods group Unilever.
11. The total number of vehicles pledged to transition to EVs by 2030 through EV100 now stands at over 5 million.
12. 26 major global and US companies, including Amazon, AT&T, IKEA, the National Grid and Uber are working to accelerate the deployment of ZEVs in the US through Ceres’ CEVA by aggregating demand, advocating for strong policies at multiple levels and sharing best practices on fleet electrification.
13. Major automakers are announcing bold plans to complete phase out the internal combustion engine in the 2030s, including Daimler, Volvo Cars, and General Motors.
14. A growing number of automakers are aligning their emission reductions targets with 1.5°C science-based targets, including Ford Motor Company, Volvo Cars and Mercedes-Benz AG.

## CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Cutting emissions by more than 50% by 2030 and achieving a net-zero economy requires radical transformation across all sectors. The power sector has to lead the global transition to a net-zero economy. Despite remarkable uptake of renewable energy, divestment from fossil fuels is not happening fast enough. This underscores the need to accelerate the deployment of low-carbon fuels and technologies at scale.

1. Commit to reaching 100% decarbonized power systems by 2040, at the latest.
2. End coal financing immediately, and coal exports by 2025, and phase out the use of coal by 2030 for OECD countries, and 2040 for non-OECD countries, at the latest.
3. Put a meaningful price on carbon and support robust Article 6 rules that ensure environmental integrity and avoid double counting.
4. Lay out roadmaps by 2022 to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies and financing by 2025 at the latest.
5. Invest in energy efficiency solutions and smart grid systems that support the uptake of renewable energy.
6. Commit to public procurement and stimulate corporate procurement of renewables.
7. Implement increasingly stringent emission standards for vehicles, ships and airplanes.
8. Continue to promote fuel efficiency and the shift to low and zero-emission transport modes.
9. Commit to 100% sales of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) for new light-duty vehicles by 2035, and by 2040 for new heavy-duty vehicles, at the latest.
10. 300+ companies are switching to 100% renewable electricity through the RE100 initiative, led by the Climate Group, in partnership with CDP.
11. RE100 members are already creating 315+ TWh/yr renewable electricity demand - enough to power a medium sized country.
12. 50+ electric utilities have committed to set or have already had approved a science-based emission reduction target, including Europe’s Enel, Iberdrola and Ørsted, NRG Energy in the U.S. and The Tata Power Company in India.
13. Renewable electricity generation in 2021 is set increase by more than 8%, the fastest year-on-year expansion since the 1970’s. The share of renewables in global electricity generation is expected to reach 30% in 2021, an all-time high, according to the IEA.

## ZERO-EMISSION TRANSPORT

The transition from polluting internal combustion engines to zero-emission vehicles, ships and airplanes is accelerating, but not fast enough. More is needed to achieve zero-emission, multi-modal freight transport. A holistic approach with policies and programs that drive innovation, enable uptake of solutions, and scale infrastructure can get us there.

1. Commit to reaching 100% decarbonized power systems by 2040, at the latest.
2. End coal financing immediately, and coal exports by 2025, and phase out the use of coal by 2030 for OECD countries, and 2040 for non-OECD countries, at the latest.
3. Make climate-related financial disclosures mandatory for corporations, in line with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations.
4. Invest in infrastructure for reliable and seamless electric vehicle charging for all.
5. Commit to 100% sales of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) for new light-duty vehicles by 2035, and by 2040 for new heavy-duty vehicles, at the latest.
6. 100+ companies are transitioning their fleets to EVs by 2030, through Climate Group’s EV100, including Indian food delivery company Zomato, multinational company Siemens, Chinese internet giant Baidu and the world’s largest consumer goods group Unilever.
7. The total number of vehicles pledged to transition to EVs by 2030 through EV100 now stands at over 5 million.
8. 26 major global and US companies, including Amazon, AT&T, IKEA, the National Grid and Uber are working to accelerate the deployment of ZEVs in the US through Ceres’ CEVA by aggregating demand, advocating for strong policies at multiple levels and sharing best practices on fleet electrification.
9. Major automakers are announcing bold plans to complete phase out the internal combustion engine in the 2030s, including Daimler, Volvo Cars, and General Motors.
10. A growing number of automakers are aligning their emission reductions targets with 1.5°C science-based targets, including Ford Motor Company, Volvo Cars and Mercedes-Benz AG.
Heavy industry is responsible for over 20% of global emissions, with steel, cement and chemicals being the top emitting sectors and among the hardest to decarbonize. Decarbonization must address these sectors’ reliance on fossil fuels for feedstock and heat, and the need for their products to continue to meet stringent quality criteria. With the right policy support, these strategies are economically and technically feasible as well as offering other social, public health and environmental benefits in addition.

1. Put industry roadmaps in place, with interim targets and milestones to net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.
2. Facilitate financing and R&D, demonstration and deployment of zero-emissions technologies to accelerate private sector investment.
3. Use public procurement, life cycle accounting, standard setting and labelling to drive demand for zero emissions materials and circularity.
4. Combine ambitious carbon pricing systems with provisions for border adjustment mechanisms for imported materials and products to prevent unfair competition and carbon leakage.

Buildings and infrastructure represent almost 40% of global energy-related carbon emissions coming from their use (operational emissions) and construction (embodied emissions). Efforts to halve emissions by 2030, reach a net-zero built environment by 2050 at the latest, and increase resilience, must cover the full life cycle of existing and new assets: design, construction, operation and dismantling.

1. Strengthen NDCs with building decarbonization targets to at least halve emissions by 2030 and achieve whole life (operational and embodied) net-zero emissions by 2050, supported by tangible policies and implementation mechanisms.
2. Develop national roadmaps towards a net-zero whole life carbon footprint of built structures, with all new buildings operating at net zero and halving overall carbon footprint by 2030.
3. Implement mandatory, performance-based building energy codes to reduce whole life carbon and enhance building resilience.
4. Increase deep renovation rates of the existing building stock to 3% per year before 2030, focusing on heating and cooling systems, insulation and building materials.
5. Align public funding, public procurement criteria and economic recovery spending for buildings and infrastructure with net-zero, resilience and workforce upskilling goals.

Addressing climate change strengthens nature’s ability to absorb carbon and adapt to climate impacts. Nature-based solutions only receive 5% of global public mitigation finance, despite the potential to abate 30% of greenhouse gases by 2030, to help achieve a 1.5°C pathway. The interlinked crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are most effectively solved if addressed in tandem. Resilient economies and thriving businesses rely on nature, as more than half of the world’s GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature.

1. Deliver policies to end nature loss and degradation and turn forests and other land uses into a net carbon sink globally by 2030.
2. Eliminate commodity-driven deforestation by 2025 through trade policies developed in collaboration between producer and demand-side countries, aligned with the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) dialogue.
3. Repurpose more than $700 billion of annual public subsidies for agriculture by integrating climate and biodiversity objectives, and eliminate subsidies that drive harmful land-use change and ecosystem degradation.
4. Ensure that by 2025 the share of international climate finance that is channelled to high quality nature-based solutions better reflects its 30% abatement potential, while catalyzing private sector investments through Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
5. Align climate policy with the Convention on Biological Diversity by establishing ambitious and mutually beneficial targets, including to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 to achieve an equitable, net-zero and nature positive world.

900+ companies have committed to procuring 100% zero carbon steel by 2050 through the SteelZero initiative, led by the Climate Group in partnership with ResponsibleSteel.

Over 25 chemicals companies and 20 cement manufacturers have committed to setting science-based targets, such as Novozymes, Syngenta, Holcim and Heidelberg Cement in the EU, Clorox Company and CEMEX in North America, and Tata Chemicals, ACC and Ultratech Cement in India.

ResponsibleSteel launched the first global standard for steelmaking sites with ambitious emissions standards for the sector. Company members produce 170 million tonnes of steel per year, and include Tata Steel and ArcelorMittal, as well as major mining companies such as Anglo American.

100+ businesses and organizations have committed to driving net-zero operational emissions in their buildings through the EP100/Net Zero Carbon Buildings commitment, led by World Green Building Council in partnership with the Climate Group and C40, including major owners and operators of buildings such as Hilton, Majid Al Futtaim, Grosvenor Group and Lendlease.

Over 80 construction and real estate companies have set science-based targets including Skanska, the world’s fifth largest construction company, and Daiwa House, Japan’s biggest home construction company.

WBCSD together with leading companies, including Holcim and Saint-Gobain, have developed a new framework for aligning all actors of the built environment around a common language and vision for reduction of carbon emissions.

For more information - WeMeanBusinessCoalition.org/ policy