Framework for Net-Zero Climate Action

At COP26, members of the Carbon Neutrality Coalition resolved to develop a framework reflecting a common understanding of how best to build and implement plans to reach net-zero emissions. Recognizing the many challenges to be overcome to unlock a net-zero climate-resilient and just future, and acknowledging that no jurisdiction has completed the needed transition, this framework presents elements vital to reach our common goal. The CNC members remain committed to exchanging and learning on policies and approaches to maintain the path towards 1.5°C.

The framework for net-zero climate action illustrates the combination of seven priority areas which can best translate commitment into action and unlock progress toward a net-zero and just future. This future will be achieved through major transformational shifts toward net-zero emissions, and ensuring a just, resilient, and equitable transition.

Foundational decisions are critical first steps that countries can take to clarify the scope of a net-zero target, formalize the target, and tie it to immediate policymaking.

Countries must also undertake enabling actions in the priority areas of governance, sectoral policy, and finance and investment. These actions taken will need to disrupt established GHG-intensive practices and unlock systemic changes that are required for realizing a just net-zero future. They must be combined for a robust and long-standing signal to decision-makers across government and society.

Critically, stakeholder engagement must be continuously prioritized throughout to ensure a workable, equitable and balanced plan for change.

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DISCLAIMER: The framework and country examples were prepared and compiled by the World Resources Institute with generous support from the European Climate Foundation and the Austrian Ministry for Climate Action.
Countries are already taking action

- **Andorra** created the Green Fund for boosting the energy transition and climate action.
- **Canada** adopted a robust legal framework, the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, joining many countries that have designed laws to guide decarbonization.
- **Chile** established a new Just Transition Office under the Ministry of Environment to facilitate a just and equitable phase-out of coal.
- **Colombia** established an objective within its LTS of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, including all sectors of the economy, and is currently working on embedding this goal in planning instruments such as the National Development Plan.
- **Ethiopia** has mainstreamed climate change targets into national planning processes including its 10-year development strategy.
- **Fiji** has committed to producing 100% renewable-generated power by 2030, which will mitigate a large percentage of the country’s total GHG emissions and helps to ground Fiji’s long-term net-zero target in the present.
- **France** ended international public support for exploration, production, transport, storage, refining and distribution of fossil fuels. The French Central Bank will exit from coal and limit exposure to gas and oil in its investment portfolio by the end of 2024.
- **Germany** achieved a transition from coal in the Ruhr region, including through a slow, gradual phase-out of subsidized coal, socially-acceptable staff reduction processes, and comprehensive packages for affected miners.
- **Ireland** established a Citizen’s Assembly to openly discuss pressing social, environmental, and political issues facing the country, including climate change.
- **Japan** engages directly with the private sector, mandating corporate GHG reporting and providing support for setting science-based targets.
- **New Zealand** established the Climate Implications of Policy Assessment for central government agencies to assess the emissions footprint of certain policy proposals which go to Cabinet.
- **South Africa’s** Presidential Climate Commission is creating a social partnership to advise and facilitate a just transition, chaired by the President.
- **Spain** launched a suite of just transition agreements and programs to support coal mine workers, mining communities and power plant workers that face socio-economic impacts from the transition away from coal.
- **Sweden** works with non-state and subnational actors through its Fossil Free Sweden initiative, with 22 sectors which have developed roadmaps that can enhance their competitiveness by going fossil free or climate neutral.
- **The United Kingdom** clearly defined the scope of its net-zero target, committing to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 from all GHGs and in all sectors, as well as its intention to meet its targets through domestic emissions reductions.
- **The Netherlands** is transforming building energy use by banning fossil fuel heating and making heat pumps mandatory from 2026, supported by government subsidies.

This map includes illustrative examples of good practice towards achieving national net-zero targets across foundational decisions, governance, sectoral policy, finance and investment, and stakeholder engagement. Together, these actions can unlock major transformational shifts and drive progress toward a just, resilient, and equitable future.

**DISCLAIMER:** This briefing is meant to illustrate a selection of good-faith efforts countries are making toward implementing net-zero targets. This map is not comprehensive of everything that national governments are undertaking. National circumstances including emission profiles and institutions, varying responsibility and capacity eventually define the types of policy instruments available to countries. Further, while we recognize the critical role of adaptation in building a just, resilient, and equitable future, this framework focuses on GHG emissions reductions to net zero.

For more information, please contact the Carbon Neutrality Coalition Secretariat: secretariat@carbon-neutrality.global