

Outlining the Climate Neutral Now **PLEDGE**

Why should I pledge to Climate Neutral Now?

- Science tells us that to avoid the worst effects of climate change we must reach greenhouse gas (GHG) emission neutrality (i.e. climate neutrality) in the second half of the century, as detailed in the Paris Agreement.
- Climate neutrality is achievable, but it requires action from all of us - from national governments to corporations to individuals now.
- By taking the Climate Neutral Now pledge you are making public your sincere efforts to strive for climate neutrality today.
- Any constituency, company, organization, large event or even an individual can take the Climate Neutral Now pledge. The type and extent of a pledger's climate action is reported and recognized – whether covering a portion of emissions, or all emissions, to achieve climate neutrality now!
- Much of our personal or corporate GHG emissions can easily be quantified and regularly measured, and many companies already report these emissions using recognized standards.
- Increasingly, organizations are taking steps to reduce GHG emissions to a point where they can claim climate neutrality today. Either by reducing their emissions to zero or by sponsoring those who can reduce more effectively, now, through offsetting.
- Offsetting plays an important role in achieving climate neutrality as many organizations, despite efforts to reduce on their own, have unavoidable GHG emissions – so they use offsets to become climate neutral now, if required.

Advantages

- There are a number of demonstrated advantages to becoming climate neutral now:
 - Improve cost efficiency and reduce costs through increased resource and energy efficiency, which also helps to improve competitive advantage.
 - Demonstrate leadership by setting ambitious targets
 - Improve brand recognition and cement employee commitment behind a common goal and recognized corporate social responsibility in management of GHG emissions.



Requirements for becoming a signatory of the Climate Neutral Now **PLEDGE**

Step one: Measure your GHG emissions and report them

1. Signatories shall measure and report their estimated emissions for the organization or a part thereof¹.
2. Select the greenhouse gases² to be included in the pledge.
3. Measure and report via a channel of their own choosing or use a service provider following acceptable standards³.

Step two: Reduce GHG emissions through own action to the fullest extent possible

1. Signatories shall report relevant practices, business policies, procedures, or activities in order to reduce GHG emissions.
2. Signatories will determine if, even with the best efforts to reduce, there are remaining unavoidable GHG emissions that are substantive⁴ in the scope⁵ selected in step 1, point 1 above.
3. Signatories will define the period of time to which the neutrality claim will apply. Signatories can make a pledge for a specific or an open-ended time period.

Step three: Offset all remaining unavoidable emissions to be neutral

- Signatories shall compensate via offsetting the remaining unavoidable GHG emissions as determined in step 2, point 2, if any.
- If offsetting is required, it is recommended that at least 20% of the offsets used to compensate shall be Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). Signatories shall provide information on the amount of GHG emissions offset with CERs and proof of cancellation of those CERs.

¹ It could include the operation of an entire organization or an element/component or a line business only, for example.

² The relevant greenhouse gases are: Carbon dioxide (CO₂); Methane (CH₄); Nitrous oxide (N₂O); Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); Perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

³ Preferred approaches for estimation of GHG emissions are the standards recognized by CDP (<https://www.cdp.net/en-US/Respond/Pages/verification-standards.aspx>), the GHG Protocol Corporate Reporting & Accounting Standard, GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard, ISO 14064-1, ISO 14064-2, ISO 14067, PAS 2050, Defra 'Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions', Bilan Carbone. NOTE: the applicable standards vary depending on the scope of the pledge.

Alternatively, another GHG estimation approach or one developed by the organization can also be used, but these estimation methods shall be shared with the UNFCCC secretariat.

⁴ Remaining GHG emissions are considered substantive if they are equal or higher than the following thresholds:

- a. 0.5 per cent of the total emissions for activities with total emissions of 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year or more;
- b. 1 per cent of the total emissions for activities with total emissions of between 300,000 and 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year;
- c. 2 per cent of the total emissions for activities with total emissions of between 60,000 and 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year;
- d. 5 per cent of total emissions for activities with total emissions of between 20,000 and 60,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year;
- e. 10 per cent of the total emissions for activities with total emissions of 20,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year or less.

⁵ The scope refers to the elements/components of the organization that have been included in the pledge, and the selected greenhouse gases, according to step 1, point 1.



Your role as a signatory

1. Report on your efforts

- Signatories shall report every two years on their estimated GHG emissions, reduction activities and offsetting.
- Reports can be those already publicly provided through a recognized platform⁶ or the Climate Neutral Now reporting template can be used. These reports shall be non-confidential and could be made available to the public.

2. Advocate for climate neutrality by making your efforts public

- Include your Climate Neutral Now pledge and what it entails in your Corporate Sustainability communications and reporting. At least two different communication channels shall be used (e.g. sustainability or corporate social responsibility reports, reporting initiatives, meetings, website, social media, press releases etc.).
- Raise awareness among your staff, customers, business partners and industry coalitions or groups about how they too can become Climate Neutral Now.

What do I receive as a signatory?

1. A certificate from the UNFCCC's Climate Neutral Now initiative stating the period and the scope of the pledge of the organization.
2. Recognition of commitment on the Climate Neutral Now website

The logo of the organization and detail on the pledge will be added to the [Climate Neutral Now](#) portal recognition section.

3. Use of Climate Neutral Now logo and its promotional assets

A package of Climate Neutral Now promotional material including high quality logos and seal will be provided for use in communication and advocacy.

4. Visibility on the NAZCA ([Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action](#)) portal for organizations that have established a GHG emissions reduction target and report via one of NAZCA's data partners⁷. If the organization does not report through one of NAZCA's partners, it could consider reporting through the UN Global Compact⁸.

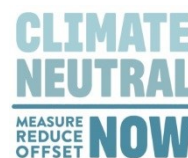
⁶ Preferred approaches for reporting include reporting through CDP, GRI, UN Global Compact, Carbone Climate Registry, Covenant of Majors for Climate and Energy. Other reporting platforms may be acceptable, or the Climate Neutral Now reporting template may be used.

⁷ NAZCA's data partners are CDP, Carbone Climate Registry, Investors on Climate Change, UN Global Compact, and Climate Bonds Initiative (<http://climateaction.unfccc.int/about>)

⁸ www.unglobalcompact.org



NAZCA showcases commitments to action by companies, cities, subnational regions and investors to address climate change⁹. It provides additional visibility for the organization.



5. Possibility to be invited to showcase achievements at climate events and high-level climate policy fora.
6. Possibility to be invited to take part in joint communication campaigns with the UNFCCC secretariat and other partners.
7. Possible opportunities to be featured on UNFCCC social media platforms (e.g. Twitter and Facebook)

⁹ If a signatory reports via any of the NAZCA data partners or its associated standards, including reporting on its GHG emissions and actions to reduce it, it can be added to NAZCA. If a signatory does not yet report via any of the NAZCA data partners they are encouraged to consider joining and reporting through the UN Global Compact.

