

# **COP26 half-term report**

## **Analysis of action and media coverage in G20 countries and selected others\* since Glasgow\*\***

*Urgent need to ‘pick up the pace’ on NDCs and  
Net Zero commitments, adaptation, loss and damage,  
financing and delivery*

**Version 4.0: 5 June 2022**

**Sources: Clean Air in London and BBC Monitoring**

G20 countries: <https://g20.org/>

COP26, Glasgow, Scotland (31 October - 13 November 2021): <https://ukcop26.org/>

COP27, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt (7 - 11 November 2022): <https://www.cop27egy.com/>

\*Selected others include Bangladesh and Barbados

\*\*Between 14 November 2021 and 15 May 2022 inclusive

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clean Air in London (CAL) published three reports in 2021 that analysed media coverage of climate change and air pollution related issues in some 30 countries ahead of COP26. They can be seen here: <https://cleanair.london/sources/unccc/>.

In October 2021, CAL predicted that COP26 would be “good but not good enough”. In many ways that prediction was correct, despite the COP26 President’s many remarkable achievements in Glasgow.

CAL’s fourth report pulls together an overview of the G20 countries and the actions and policies they have taken and announced since the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow at the end of 2021 (the “COP26 Half-term Report” or the “Report”).

The G20 focus was chosen because it is a strategic multilateral platform connecting the world’s major developed and emerging economies. Together, G20 members represent more than 80% of the world GDP, 75% of international trade, 60% of the world’s population and 75% of territorial emissions in 2020. Indonesia holds the G20 Presidency in 2022.

Each entry in this COP26 Half-term Report provides a summary overview of the above themes, looking in particular at **whether governments are delivering on pledges they made at COP26 and the issues of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Net Zero commitments, adaptation, loss and damage and financing. It also looks at the extent, focus and tone of media reporting on these topics, including social media.** In the case of the European Union, we have broadly summarised the bloc’s policy. Responses to it are included in individual European country entries. The COP26 Report also includes Bangladesh and Barbados because of their prominent roles at COP26 (as chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and a Small Island Developing State respectively).

Key trends noted in the responses of these countries are as follows:

### Action on pledges, delivery, NDCs and Net Zero commitments

- Few countries have taken significant or decisive action since COP26 to implement pledges made at the summit.
- Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the potential loss of its provision of natural gas and fertiliser to other countries has become a significant factor that could alter policies and actions for energy consumers in Europe, particularly in Germany and Italy, but also for providers in other countries like Canada and Saudi Arabia. It also has implications for the mining of minerals in countries like Brazil. Concerns about food shortages and financial security are also increasing.
- In several places – Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa for example – continuing crises such as wildfires, droughts and floods may also change minds – though several commentators also note that so far they have not done so.
- Governments may proclaim they are making progress but environmental organisations monitoring their actions say that most are still failing to do enough, with the energy industry being cited most frequently for having too much influence.

## **Adaptation, loss and damage and financing**

- The issues of adaptation tend to be talked about in broader considerations about financing.
- Little new has been reported on loss and damage, though existing grievances over richer countries' reluctance to commit to funding these is still noted.
- In developing countries, Bangladesh in particular, there is a continued focus on the lack of clarity on how their transitions to cleaner energy will be financed.
- Among the top donor countries, such as Germany and Canada, there is concern as to whether climate financing is growing despite the G7's reaffirmation of its pledge to the \$100bn of funding per year through to 2025 for vulnerable countries. This goal might be met by 2023.
- Some countries, such as Turkey, also continue to question why they should feature on the UNFCCC's list of developed rather than developing countries.
- Discussions of funding in poorer countries are underpinned with the question of why they, with little or no historical responsibility for climate change, should bear the cost of change as well as possible loss of economic development.
- As a result, despite pledges to the contrary, there is not much optimism that environmental targets that have been set are likely to be met.
- The COP26 President emphasised the challenges in his speech in Glasgow on 16 May 2022 to mark six months since COP26 that:

*"...frankly we need to pick up the pace. Leaders have not done enough to deliver on their Glasgow commitments. And that must change."*

## **Media coverage including extent, focus and tone**

- Discussions of detailed policies specific to pledges on adaptation, loss and damage and financing, do not often feature in mainstream media outlets. Most coverage of the issues has dropped since COP26. The picture is similar in social media.
- Well-funded international outlets, NGOs and publications that focus specifically on the environment are again more likely to carry comment and report on climate change issues than national or local media outlets.

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\*\*Iran (6<sup>th</sup> largest emitter), Kazakhstan (20<sup>th</sup>) and Poland (19<sup>th</sup>) are not G20 countries. Nor are Bangladesh or Barbados.

Ranking by territorial emissions in 2020

Global Carbon Atlas: <http://www.globalcarbonatlas.org/en/CO2-emissions>

# ARGENTINA

## Overview

Argentina updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) shortly before COP26. The Latin American nation also signed global pledges to end deforestation, reduce methane emissions and develop climate-resilient health systems at the climate event.

The Argentine government says the country has made significant progress on its National Adaptation Plan, which is expected to be completed before COP27.

Nevertheless, Argentina began 2022 “struggling with fires, droughts and heat waves” across the country. Climate experts say the country’s actions to combat climate change are “weak”, “highly insufficient” and will only lead to rising emissions by 2030.

Financial experts also took note of the country’s major economic challenges, which they said could hinder its chances of realising its net zero target by 2050.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Argentina updated<sup>1</sup> its NDC in October at COP26, pledging to reduce emissions by 27.7% compared to its first target submitted in 2016. Argentina’s updated NDC aimed to not exceed the net emission of 349 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2030. Argentina has not changed any other climate targets since its second NDC submission in December 2020, which included its objective to achieve net zero by 2050.

Argentina also signed global pledges<sup>2</sup> to end deforestation by 2030 and reduce methane emissions by 30% by 2030. Its signing of the Global Methane Pledge was particularly significant because Argentina is one of the world’s top 10 emitters of methane<sup>3</sup>.

The Latin American nation also joined a global initiative to develop climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems<sup>4</sup> during the event, which would include the development of a national plan to adapt health systems to global warming. Left-wing President Alberto Fernandez voiced his country’s commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement at the climate summit as well.

According to Climate Action Tracker<sup>5</sup>, however, Argentina’s climate policies and actions for 2030 were “highly insufficient”, and would lead to rising, rather than falling, emissions that were not consistent with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C temperature limit.

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1 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/cambio-climatico/contribucion-nacional>

2 <https://eleconomista.com.ar/politica/el-gobierno-argentino-firmo-compromiso-frenar-revertir-deforestacion-n47496>

3 <https://ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/COP26-Presidency-Outcomes-The-Climate-Pact.pdf>

4 <https://www.paho.org/en/news/10-11-2021-eleven-countries-americas-join-cop26-initiative-build-climate-resilient-low-carbon>

5 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/argentina/policies-action/>

A report by global financial advisory firm KPMG<sup>6</sup> also noted that Argentina's major economic challenges, exacerbated by COVID-19, could also hinder its chances of hitting its 2050 net zero target. At present, the country is still heavily reliant on fossil fuels and has made little progress on reducing transportation emissions and use and deforestation. Agriculture, land use and forestry accounted for the majority (43%) of Argentina's emissions.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Argentina's National Adaptation Plan<sup>7</sup> is being spearheaded by the country's National Climate Change Cabinet<sup>8</sup>, and aims to integrate adaptation to climate change into the country's development strategies. The plan, still in its preliminary phase, focuses on coordinating adaptation for all relevant stakeholders at all levels, including from academia, civil society and the private sector.

To develop the Adaptation Plan, the government will promote impact, vulnerability and adaptation studies. During the National Climate Change Cabinet's first meeting<sup>9</sup> of the year on 22 March 2022, Argentine Chief of Staff Juan Manzur said the country hoped to have its National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation plan finalised by the second half of the year, before the COP27 summit.

According to the UNFCCC<sup>10</sup>, Argentina has been addressing climate losses by implementing a subnational line of credits at a subsidised rate to producers facing agricultural climate emergencies, providing insurance coverage to small agricultural producers to cover part of the costs to replace damaged infrastructure, and implementing financial instruments to help producers under the National System of Agricultural Emergency.

Other strategies and measures focused on climate adaptation and loss and damage include the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan<sup>11</sup>, Resilient Cities Programme and National Fire Management Service, among other initiatives.

Regional initiatives also exist, including the Argentine Network of Municipalities Against Climate Change<sup>12</sup>, which focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as guaranteeing universal access to clean, safe and affordable energy.

## Finance

In a speech<sup>13</sup> at COP26, President Alberto Fernandez "pressured" the IMF to allow what he called a "debt swap to finance climate actions" in his country. Fernandez made a proposal to the IMF "to create payment mechanisms for ecosystem services, swap debt for climate action and introduce the concept of environmental debt". He also emphasised that Argentina would be willing to link part of the payment of its IMF debt to "essential investments in green infrastructure".<sup>14</sup> Before the COP26 summit,

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6 <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2021/09/nzri-argentina.html>

7 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/cambio-climatico/plan-nacional>

8 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/cambio-climatico/gabinete-nacional>

9 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/alberto-fernandez-encabezo-la-primera-reunion-del-gabinete-nacional-de-cambio-climatico-0>

10 <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/resources/santiago-network/country-page-argentina#eq-2>

11 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/cambio-climatico/adaptacion>

12 <https://www.ramcc.net/ramcc.php>

13 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c20302ow>

14 <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202111/573506-presidente-deuda-clima.html>

Fernandez proposed this climate finance initiative at the Forum of Major Economies on Energy and Climate in September 2021 and during the last G20 summit in Rome.

Argentina joined Brazil and Uruguay at COP26 in launching a proposal<sup>15</sup> to create a committee to “monitor rich countries’ climate financing”, which was supported by the G-77 and China. The proposal called for a structured process to provide transparency on resources from wealthy nations for climate adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries. The proposed committee would also be responsible for monitoring the flow, origin and destination of these resources provided by developed countries to combat climate change.

Argentina is a member<sup>16</sup> of the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action<sup>17</sup>, which works with fiscal and economic policymakers to lead the climate response and ensure a just transition to low-carbon development. The group also mobilised climate financing and sought to mainstream climate in global economic policies.

## Delivery

According to Greenpeace<sup>18</sup>, Argentina’s climate action plans presented at COP26 were “insufficient” because even if it reached a 27% reduction in emissions by 2030, the target would “still be weak”. Argentina was 31<sup>st</sup> largest territorial emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.

In addition, despite Argentina’s signing of the global pledge to end deforestation at COP26, Greenpeace also pointed out that nearly 8 million hectares had been lost in the country in the last three decades, leaving Argentina as one of the top 10 countries with the highest deforestation levels in the world.

Greenpeace called for immediate climate action in the country and warned that setting targets for 2030 would be too late. It noted that for Argentina’s proposals to be “truly ambitious”, its commitments would have to be redirected towards “penalising and banning deforestation, protecting wetlands through a national law, halting the advance of the oil industry over the Argentinean Sea, and abandoning investments and subsidies for fossil fuels”.

The main causes of climate change in the country continue to be transportation, industry, food production and deforestation. In 2021, Argentina deforested over 110,000 hectares of forest, equivalent to 12 football fields, per hour, and 80% of it was deforested illegally, according to Greenpeace<sup>19</sup>.

A report<sup>20</sup> by Spanish news agency EFE’s environmental service emphasised that Argentina began 2022 “struggling with fires, droughts and heat waves”, which it said were clear effects of the climate crisis. In addition to high levels of illegal deforestation, devastating wildfires raged from January to February, while people in 21 Argentine provinces endured record-breaking 40°C temperatures during this time period.

An outbreak of devastating wildfires in Argentina’s Corrientes province in February, which ravaged over 800,000 hectares of forest, illustrated Greenpeace’s point about the country having to act fast

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15 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2030qr5>

16 <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/asuntosinternacionales/cafe>

17 <https://www.financeministersforclimate.org/member-countries>

18 <https://www.greenpeace.org/argentina/story/issues/bosques/cop-26-compromisos-que-no-estan-a-la-altura-de-la-emergencia-climatica/>

19 [https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-international-stateless/2021/04/b1e486be-greenpeace-international-report-destruction-certified\\_finaloptimised.pdf](https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-international-stateless/2021/04/b1e486be-greenpeace-international-report-destruction-certified_finaloptimised.pdf)

20 <https://www.efeverde.com/noticias/argentina-crisis-climatica/>

against climate change. Argentine media reported<sup>21</sup> that the wildfires, combined with extreme drought, had already caused financial losses in Corrientes productive system of over \$240m. Various environmental experts and media analysts were critical<sup>22</sup> of the Fernandez administration's handling of the wildfires crisis, which they said showed the "indifference and ineptitude" of the government when it came to climate change.

Various opinion pieces in Argentine media showed little confidence in the government's ability to carry out its COP26 climate vows.

One op-ed<sup>23</sup> published in March 2022 said that municipalities and communes were "taking charge" of adaptation and mitigation actions with their own resources, while the national government received credit and made "bombastic announcements" but failed to make any relevant changes to climate policy.

It reiterated that the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report "made it clear that time is running out" for Argentina as it "suffers from fires, drought and floods" while "the elimination of forests is advancing, nature reserves are burning and avalanches affect the Andean zone".

Another opinion piece<sup>24</sup> said that while government discussions centred on environmental issues had "once again vigorously revived" since the COP26 summit, the debate "seemed to be leading nowhere".

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21 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2039dv7>

22 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2039lbw>

23 <https://www.perfil.com/noticias/opinion/el-cambio-climatico-necesita-acciones-concretas-no-voluntarismo-verbal.phtml>

24 [https://www.clarin.com/opinion/rol-congreso-materia-ambiental-climatica\\_0\\_Y4GrMChLp6.html](https://www.clarin.com/opinion/rol-congreso-materia-ambiental-climatica_0_Y4GrMChLp6.html)



# AUSTRALIA

*This section was written before the 2022 federal election held on 21 May 2022*

## Overview

Australia is one of the biggest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters in the world and its “climate change isolation”, as one columnist puts it, has seen its global ranking in terms of its response to global warming fall from 35 to 52<sup>25</sup>, just one place behind oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Australia has committed to reducing emissions by between 26% and 28% by 2030, but during campaigning for the federal election in May 2022, major political parties made promises for new fossil fuel projects if export demand increases.

The Morrison government pledged some funds and tax concessions for schemes related to environmental management, but critics and environment experts believe they are not sufficient, with some even estimating that, based on the current expenditure, climate funding will fall in the coming years.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Australia has not made any new commitments to achieve net zero, nor has it strengthened its 2030 emissions reduction targets since it submitted updated NDCs under the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC in October 2021.

The updated NDCs adopted a target of net zero emissions by 2050. To achieve this, Australia committed to seven low emissions technology stretch goals.

Australia has also agreed to reduce GHG emissions by between 26% and 28% below 2005 levels by 2030 and will exceed it by up to nine percentage points. The updated NDC was reiterated<sup>26</sup> during a UK-Australia virtual summit in January 2022. Prime Minister Scott Morrison claimed that Australia is on track to achieve a reduction of up to 35% on 2005 levels by 2030.

However, the UN Global Compact Network Australia (UNGCNA) has urged the government<sup>27</sup> to review its NDCs and set intermediary climate targets to support the path to decarbonisation.

The UNGCNA stated that the government should first achieve robust targets for 2030, which will build momentum for the 2050 net zero target.

The UNGCNA also suggested the government allocate additional funding to achieve the 2030 targets and to promote sustainable and green infrastructure. The UNGCNA head of programmes, Corinne Schoch, said the Morrison government’s focus on low-carbon technologies and measures “[is] not a long-term sustainable solution”.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australian-climate-change-isolationism-sees-it-fall-behind-the-world-20220419-p5aect.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-uk-australia-virtual-summit-16-february-2022>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.financialstandard.com.au/news/federal-budget-delivers-nothing-on-climate-179792183>

Morrison's government was criticised domestically for declining to increase Australia's 2030 emissions reduction targets of 26 to 28% below 2005 levels. According to a survey<sup>28</sup> conducted by YouGov in January 2022 for the Australian Conservation Foundation, six in 10 Australians believed that Morrison's commitment to net zero by 2050 was not enough and 41% think that net zero by 2050 is "too little, too late".

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Australia has committed to spending another 500m Australian dollars<sup>29</sup> (\$357m) over the next five years, in addition to the A\$1.5bn(\$1.07bn) allocated in 2021. Prime Minister Morrison said at least A\$700m (\$501m) of the total would be allocated to the Pacific, an increase of A\$200m (\$143m) from the last commitment.

The Climate Council, a leading climate change communications non-profit organisation, criticised the Morrison government for not fully honouring its responsibility to support developing nations coping with the adverse impacts of climate change. "On an annual basis, Australia's commitment (of A\$2bn, or \$1.42bn, between 2020-2025) represents only around 0.3% of the international goal of mobilising 100bn US dollars per year," the Climate Council said.

It further added that independent assessments placed Australia's fair share of the goal at around 2.4% or \$2.4bn a year. Even with the increased financing, "Australia is well behind where it needs to be," it added.

The UNGCNA's Schoch noted that Australia's allocation to support sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific region is lagging. "While we acknowledge the increase in official development assistance in this year's budget, it is still not in line with 0.7% of gross national income, which the government committed to under the Sustainable Development Goals."<sup>30</sup>

In the wake of the Solomon Islands signing a security pact with China, opposition leaders criticised the ruling coalition for not fulfilling its commitment to assist its neighbouring island countries with funds to tackle climate change.

Labour leader Anthony Albanese said<sup>31</sup> his government wouldn't have cut aid to neighbouring countries as addressing climate change is crucial to maintaining stability in the region.

Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd told ABC News that "Relations with the island states has got to such a threadbare level over climate change, over the aid cuts and the rest that we now see the Chinese being welcomed into our immediate neighbourhood by these countries."<sup>32</sup>

Former president of Kiribati Anote Tong wrote an article in the Sydney Morning Herald saying: "We cannot help but think that politicians in Australia are fighting harder for coal and gas companies than they are for their family in the Pacific, including nations like Kiribati."<sup>33</sup>

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28 <https://www.miragenews.com/australias-biggest-climate-poll-2022-people-743905/>

29 <https://www.upstreamonline.com/energy-transition/australia-commits-more-funding-to-help-indo-pacific-neighbours-combat-climate-change/2-1-1092052>

30 <https://www.financialstandard.com.au/news/federal-budget-delivers-nothing-on-climate-179792183>

31 <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/labor-pledges-to-maintain-foreign-aid-in-pacific-in-wake-of-solomon-islands-security-pact-with-china/k0vqx2ccu>

32 <https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/scomo-responds-to-leaked-security-deal-between-china-and-solomon-islands/news-story/128e3bee952a836485ee04cb2331fbdb>

33 <https://www.smh.com.au/world/oceania/while-australia-fights-for-coal-the-pacific-fights-for-its-survival-20220301-p5a0n0.html>

## Finance

In January 2022, the Morrison government pledged A\$1bn (\$710m), to be spent over nine years, on improving the water quality, management and research of the Great Barrier Reef.<sup>34</sup>

The Morrison government also announced tax concessions for farmers who sell Australian Carbon Credit Units and biodiversity certificates. The Morrison government estimated that concessions will benefit farmers with a gain of around A\$100m (\$71m) over four years.

The Morrison government would also provide A\$86m (\$61m) in aid to Tasmania's forestry industry and A\$50m (\$35m) for the long-term protection and recovery of koalas. The government also allocated A\$148.6m (\$105.6m)<sup>35</sup> for 60 community renewable microgrids, to increase the reliability of regional electricity.

Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Angus Taylor said that the 2022 federal budget has committed to spend A\$22bn (\$15.6bn) on low-emissions technology by 2030 and A\$1.3bn (\$920m) will be invested on hydrogen, gas and carbon capture.<sup>36</sup> Based on the Morrison government's current budget allocation, The Guardian newspaper estimated that the fund for climate spending would fall to A\$2bn in 2023, A\$1.9bn (\$1.35bn) in 2024, A\$1.5bn (\$1.07bn) in 2025 and A\$1.3bn (\$920m) in 2026.<sup>37</sup>

According to the calculations of Nicki Hutley of the Climate Council, just 0.3%<sup>38</sup> of total expenditure for 2021-2024 has been committed to climate change initiatives, which will fall even lower to just 0.2% from 2024 to 2026. She added that much of the 0.3% allocation was already allocated in prior budgets, so the 2022 budget adds literally nothing to climate spending.

The Clean Energy Council said that the 2022 budget did not give Australia enough momentum to launch it as a leading player in the global clean energy sector. The Clean Energy Council chief executive, Kane Thornton, said: "The lack of transmission investment is now one of the most critical challenges facing Australia's energy industry. Instead, yet another Federal Budget [has] prioritised the fossil fuel industry when Australia's bottom line should be focused on providing a better future for communities through clean, low-cost renewable energy and storage."<sup>39</sup>

## Delivery

Australia has not passed any legislation or bill in parliament to enact commitments made at Glasgow. On the contrary, there are developments in the past few months, which seem to contradict them.

While campaigning for the federal election, both the ruling coalition and the opposition Labour Party promised to support new fossil fuel projects if there is international demand for exports. Speaking to its traditional blue-collar base in Queensland, the Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese said "If coal

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34 <https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/federal-budget/budget-2022-everything-we-know-so-far-ahead-of-josh-frydenbergs-march-29-budget/news-story/6b509194110b73856dfd0fbc9417bd65>

35 <https://www.energymagazine.com.au/budget-2022-23-government-backs-traditional-energy-while-building-clean-sector/>

36 <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/budget-2022-23-energy-and-emissions-reduction>

37 <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/mar/29/australia-federal-budget-2022-climate-environment-morrison-government-coalition-great-barrier-reef-angus-taylor#:~:text=The%202022%2D23%20budget%20papers,annual%20spending%20by%202025%2D26.>

38 <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/massive-lost-opportunity-virtually-no-funding-climate-federal-budget-2022/>

39 <https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/news/federal-budget-fails-to-prioritise-rapid-transition-to-renewable-energy>

mines stack up environmentally, and then commercially, which is the decision for the companies, then they get approved.”<sup>40</sup>

Some of Australia’s largest carbon-emitting companies, including Chevron Australia, EnergyAustralia and Stanwell Corporation, have decided to not participate in the Corporate Emissions Reduction Transparency scheme,<sup>41</sup> which monitors a company’s carbon emissions to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

In November, 2021 Australia’s banking regulator the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority issued guidelines<sup>42</sup> to banks, insurers and pension fund companies, instructing them to manage financial risks associated with climate change.

Market Forces, an international organisation headquartered in Australia introduced a resolution compelling Westpac Banking Corporation, Australia New Zealand Banking Group and National Australia Bank to stop financing new fossil fuels to comply with banks’ commitments to achieving net zero by 2050. But the resolution was voted down at the annual general body meeting of the respective banks. ANZ has given its existing oil and gas customers a grace period of four years to submit their transition plans.

The CEO of software company Atlassian, billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes, had offered to buy Australia’s biggest greenhouse emitter AGL Energy for A\$8bn. Cannon-Brookes planned to replace AGL’s coal-fired power stations with renewable energy projects, but the government argued that the early shutting of coal-fired power plants would lead to increases in electricity bills.<sup>43</sup>

In February 2022, Australia’s treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, said the government would encourage more investment in renewables but “Australia needs to maintain the stability of our grid and the affordability of power.”<sup>44</sup>

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40 <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/labor-digs-in-on-support-for-coal-to-negate-damaging-climate-debate-20220418-p5ae8h.html>

41 <https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/big-emitters-shun-new-carbon-reduction-program-20220204-p59tw3>

42 <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/australias-apra-issues-guide-banks-managing-climate-change-risks-2021-11-25/#:~:text=The%20guidance%20calls%20for%20financial,climate%20risks%20are%20considered%20material>

43 <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/feb/21/mike-cannon-brookes-dismisses-pms-suggestion-that-coal-plants-should-run-to-end-of-scheduled-life>

44 <https://www.9news.com.au/national/mike-cannon-brookes-agl-bid-tech-billionaire-federal-government-clash-potential-takeover-energy-prices-supply/2234aa42-b6d0-4c63-88c3-7d569f8e0003>

# BANGLADESH

## Overview

Bangladesh last updated its NDC<sup>45</sup> in August 2021, aiming for “comprehensive coverage” to reduce emissions. The country has the “second largest number of people globally facing very high exposure [to GHG], behind only China”.<sup>46</sup>

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and media coverage, in the lead up to COP26 and immediately after, focussed on urging rich nations to make good on their pledge to provide \$100bn to vulnerable countries for adaptation and mitigation measures, particularly given Bangladesh’s role as chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

On 25 April 2022 Bangladesh and Denmark<sup>47</sup> signed a framework agreement, under which Denmark will share its expertise and technical knowhow to help Bangladesh attain its target of generating 40% of its power from renewables by 2041.

There is limited reporting on how far the government has managed to deliver on the promises made in its NDCs and at COP26, and most coverage has been about targets set for 2030.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

In September 2015, Bangladesh submitted its NDC to the UNFCCC for its power, industry and transport sectors, aiming to cut GHG emissions by 5%, or 12 million tonnes, and proposing a reduction of 10% (24 million tonnes) if it received international support and funding.

In August 2021 Bangladesh updated its NDC<sup>48</sup> to include other sectors like energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, forestry and other land use and waste sectors “to ensure comprehensive coverage”.

The country aims to cut all emissions generated by up to 22% by 2030.<sup>49</sup> Mirza Shawkat Ali, director of the climate change department at the environment ministry, said that taking 2012 as the yardstick, “Bangladesh would gradually generate nearly 410 million tonnes of GHGs in 2030... Out of this projected total, we have proposed to cut 27.56 million tonnes, or 6.73% of emissions in 2030... We have also proposed a further 61.9 million tonnes, or 15.21%, of emission cuts, provided we get financial and technological support.”

At COP26 Sheikh Hasina announced her government’s decision to scrap 10 coal-based power plants<sup>50</sup> worth \$12bn in foreign investments and plans to fulfil 40% of its energy needs from renewable resources by 2041.

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45[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Bangladesh%20First/NDC\\_submission\\_20210826revised.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Bangladesh%20First/NDC_submission_20210826revised.pdf)

46<https://www.strausscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Country-Brief-Fragility-and-Climate-Risks-in-Bangladesh-2018.pdf>

47<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/strengthening-partnership-green-transition-3012676>

48[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Bangladesh%20First/NDC\\_submission\\_20210826revised.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Bangladesh%20First/NDC_submission_20210826revised.pdf)

49<https://www.thethirdpole.net/en/climate/bangladesh-pitches-for-climate-sensitive-growth/>

50<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/pm-demands-100-billion-annually-climate-vulnerable-countries-323851>

She also highlighted the work of Climate Change Trust Fund, which was established in 2010 to mitigate losses, and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan launched in July 2021, and said Bangladesh was working on a National Adaptation Plan.

During COP26, Bangladesh signed the pledge to end deforestation and committed to meeting its net zero targets by 2030, but it did not commit to quitting coal or cutting its methane emissions.<sup>51</sup>

A news report<sup>52</sup> on the IPCC's April 2022 report<sup>53</sup> highlighted that GHG emissions in Bangladesh rose by 218% between 1990 and 2017 and blamed the country's reliance on "coal, gas and oil, which make up 77% of the country's energy mix", and dependence on fossil fuels for electricity generation - 79% - for the rise. The report noted that the share of renewables used dropped by 8.6% from 2014 to 2019.

Commenting on the IPCC report, Professor Dr AKM Saiful Islam, from the Institute of Water and Flood Management, suggested "a more rapid, deep, and immediate reduction of GHG of 43% by 2030 including a methane reduction of 34%".

Most English-language and Bengali newspapers prominently reported Bangladesh updating its NDC, its decision to scrap coal-based power plant projects and the Mujib Plan.

The prominent English-language daily Dhaka Tribune in October lauded Sheikh Hasina's article in The Financial Times<sup>54</sup>, saying it was time for leaders of Western countries to "take responsibility for a monster that has been their making", while another daily reported Hasina saying that Bangladesh had updated its NDC "compromising its development needs".<sup>55</sup>

Bengali-language daily Kaler Kantho in November 2021 quoted Mustafa Kamal, secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, who said Bangladesh was "ahead" of many countries in "reducing carbon emissions, protecting forest lands, and increasing forests".

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, chief conservator of forests, has said Bangladesh plans to "increase forest cover from 16% to 20% and afforestation from 22% to 25% by the year 2030".

## Adaptation and loss damage

Bangladesh, as CVF chair, has repeatedly voiced the concerns of the group's 48 countries at various forums and platforms, before and at COP26.

An opinion piece in Newsweek<sup>56</sup>, co-authored by Sheikh Hasina and Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation, said Bangladesh's land "is being poisoned by saltwater infiltration and may soon become infertile wasteland", adding that the IMF estimates that between "\$6 trillion and \$10 trillion needs to be invested over the next decade to green our economies [of CVF countries]" and that "both funding and expertise" are needed to help devise adaptation strategies.

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51 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/14/infographic-what-has-your-country-pledged-at-cop26>

52 <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/bangladesh-ghg-emissions-rise-218-27-yrs-398306>

53 <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>

54 <https://www.ft.com/content/67b17114-5503-4db6-a49a-7b8b21355344>

55 <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/pm-demands-100-billion-annually-climate-vulnerable-countries-323851>

56 <https://www.newsweek.com/more-funding-critical-most-vulnerable-survive-climate-change-opinion-1644240>



Hasina said Bangladesh spends on average 2.5% of its GDP, or \$5bn each year, on “climate adaptation and resilience-building”, and about 800 projects have been implemented.

In July 2021, the government unveiled the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan,<sup>57</sup> which Hasina dubbed the “world’s first national climate prosperity plan”, which will “enhance resilience, grow our economy, create jobs and expand opportunities for our citizens, using action on climate change as the catalyst”.

The IPCC report released in February gave a “dire” warning that by 2050, Bangladesh’s economy could face a “severe setback”,<sup>58</sup> lose “31-40 % of agricultural output and saline inundation could lead to losses of up to \$18-20m.

Rawshan Ara Begum<sup>59</sup>, one of the lead authors of the IPCC report, said one to two million people living in the south could be displaced by 2050 and that 25% of people in Bangladesh will live with water scarcity by 2050, compared with about 10% now.

Challenges like “extreme poverty, income inequality, economic and non-economic losses and damages and low adaptive capacity” could exacerbate the situation.

Mohammad Arfanuzzaman, another author of the IPCC report, said “Bangladesh must focus on transformative and multi-sectoral adaptations”.

Several local and foreign news outlets highlighted the development of the “climate-resilient” coastal town of Mongla. Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, hailed Mongla as a “success story” which shows “how climate refugees could transform their life through new opportunities, through a new approach of adaptation” with “climate-resilient infrastructure”.<sup>60</sup>

In January 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declared 1,743 sq km of the Bay of Bengal, including St Martin's Island<sup>61</sup> in Cox's Bazar district, a marine protected area – the largest in Bangladesh.

Media reports said this was to “prevent uncontrolled ships and motorboats, overfishing, the dumping of waste and harmful chemicals in the sea, destruction of coral colonies and depletion of the area's biodiversity”.

At the Our Ocean Conference<sup>62</sup> in Palau in April 2022, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen highlighted five new commitments: a National Plan of Action to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; declaring a Marine Protected Area in Saint Martin's Island; ensuring safe ship recycling by 2023; formulating Solid Waste Management Rules 2021 and harnessing marine resources sustainably under plans for Blue Economy inclusive development.

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57<https://www.ft.com/content/67b17114-5503-4db6-a49a-7b8b21355344>

58<https://www.newagebd.net/article/164062/climate-change-to-hit-bangladesh-food-output-ipcc>

59<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/climate-change-impact-ipcc-paints-grim-picture-bangladesh-2975051>

60<https://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/for-climate-migrants-in-bangladesh-town-offers-new-life-101648660305518.html>

61<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/st-martins-island-declared-marine-protected-area-2938011>

62<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/home/foreign-minister-calls-for-protecting-oceans-ecosystems-to-save-planet-1649946111>

When Momen met US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry<sup>63</sup> on the sidelines of the conference, Kerry pledged that the US would assist Bangladesh in improving its production of renewable energy, creating afforestation in coastal areas and improving embankments to help with climate change adaptation. Praising Bangladesh's adaptation programmes, Kerry urged Bangladesh to join the Global Methane Pledge – which Bangladesh did not sign at COP26.

## Financing

Bangladesh, as the voice of the CVF, has repeatedly raised the issue of the promise of \$100bn a year from developing countries for adaptation and mitigation measures. In a Financial Times article<sup>64</sup>, Sheikh Hasina welcomed the net zero commitments made by the developed countries, but said their pledges “are largely not accompanied by policies that give confidence that they will be delivered... This \$100bn is tiny compared with what developing nations will need in order to build a zero-carbon future.”

At an event on the sidelines of COP26 Sheikh Hasina called for the \$100bn fund to have a “50:50 ratio between adaptation and migration” and said this should be in addition to the Official Development Assistance.<sup>65</sup> Hasina also highlighted the “additional challenges” created by the 1.1 million Rohingya refugees in the country.

An editorial in the prominent daily Bangladesh Pratidin in November said: “Climate change is creating an existential crisis... There is no good to be had in underestimating the agreement of industrialised countries to compensate for the environmental damage caused and acceptance of their liability.”

A Dhaka Tribune editorial the same month said climate financing is “non-negotiable” and urged vulnerable countries to “continue to push for it”.

## Delivery

In July 2021, Bangladesh announced the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan<sup>66</sup> which aims to coordinate and expedite delivery of ongoing schemes, including the National Adaptation Plan, Climate Trust Fund, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, Forest Investment Plan.

Sheikh Hasina called it “the first plan of a CVF country with a strategic investment framework to mobilize financing through international cooperation to implement climate-resilience initiatives”.<sup>67</sup>

The plan aims to increase capacity for renewable energy, create power storage infrastructure, modernise power generation and emission trading. Bangladesh is already working on making crops and the agriculture sector adaptable to changing weather and soil salinity, building dykes and cyclone shelters, planting 11.5 million saplings and protecting mangrove forests.<sup>68</sup>

The government aims to meet 30% of its energy needs via renewable resources by 2030, creating 4.1 million more jobs, preventing climate-related economic loss. The government believes the plan will benefit GDP by \$850bn.

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<sup>63</sup><https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/kerry-assures-us-assistance-bangladeshs-renewable-energy-403338>

<sup>64</sup><https://www.ft.com/content/67b17114-5503-4db6-a49a-7b8b21355344>

<sup>65</sup><https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2021/11/03/pm-hasina-world-has-to-share-responsibilities-of-climate-migrants>

<sup>66</sup><https://www.v-20.org/our-voice/news/all-you-need-to-know-about-bangladeshs-climate-prosperity-plan>

<sup>67</sup><https://thediplomat.com/2021/11/climate-change-through-the-lens-of-bangladesh/>

<sup>68</sup><https://www.ft.com/content/67b17114-5503-4db6-a49a-7b8b21355344>



The Mujib Plan was prominently reported in the media, with authored pieces from Sheikh Hasina published in international magazines and dailies in the run up to COP26.

On 25 April 2022 Denmark signed a framework agreement with Bangladesh to help the country increase its capacity to generate power from renewable energy by sharing its expertise.

Bangladesh is aiming to generate 40% of its power from renewable sources by 2041 - currently this is at just 3.5%.

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Momen said Denmark would also support Bangladesh in checking environmental degradation in Cox's Bazar caused by the huge influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar.

The Danish Embassy said the pact will focus on "climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental damage and loss of biodiversity, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement".<sup>69</sup>

### **Media reaction to Bangladesh's climate plans**

An editorial in New Age<sup>70</sup> urged the government to abandon its "piecemeal" plans, saying its focus has been on building flood protection dams or cyclone shelters, but it has "rarely addressed" the issue of economic shock due to climate change. It urged the government to "move away" from fossil-fuels, nuclear power plants and "carbon-intensive" plans.

A report in Bengali daily Kaler Kantho in November 2021 cited environmentalist Dr Atiq Rahman as saying that Bangladesh is on the "right path" in establishing a Climate Trust Fund and allocating funds in its budget for climate change. By improving its reaction and infrastructure for tackling natural calamities it is becoming a "role model" for other countries, he added.

But a Dhaka Tribune report<sup>71</sup> criticised the government for "failing to spend" 251.24bn taka (\$2.88bn) allocated in the climate budget for 2021-22. Professor Mizan R Khan of North South University also noted a "political aspect" to it as vulnerable regions got "lower allocations".

A webinar organised by Citizen Alliance for Renewable Energy in Bangladesh in April<sup>72</sup> highlighted "policy gaps". Experts said that Bangladesh had pledged that 10% of its electricity would be generated from renewable energy sources by 2021 but had achieved only 3%.

Hasan Mehedi, chief executive of the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network, said Bangladesh has the potential to deliver only 3% to 7% and cast doubts on its NDC target of 30% energy from renewables by 2030, and Mujib Plan's aim of taking that to 40%.

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<sup>69</sup><https://www.dhakatribune.com/foreign-affairs/2022/04/25/bangladesh-denmark-sign-mou-on-sustainable-framework-engagement>

<sup>70</sup><https://www.newagebd.net/article/164116/govt-must-take-mounting-threat-of-climate-change-seriously>

<sup>71</sup><https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2021/09/14/experts-critical-of-poor-utilization-of-huge-climate-budget>

<sup>72</sup><https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/policy-gap-blame-3008351>

# BARBADOS

## Overview

Despite its Small Island Developing State (SIDS) status and negligible responsibility for the climate crisis, Barbados took ambitious steps to reduce its emissions in the July 2021 update to its first NDC.

Heavily reliant on oil imports, the country has yet to commit to a net zero target but hopes to do so in 2025. Barbados has committed to reducing emissions by 35% by 2030. It has also set itself an “aspirational goal” for 2030, hoping to become the first 100% green and fossil-fuel free island-state in the world.

As a SIDS, Barbados is not bound by the COP26 commitment for developed countries to double 2019 levels of adaptation finance by 2025. Nor is it expected to contribute to the Santiago Network on loss and damage.

While it is open to developing countries to contribute to climate finance, Barbados has consistently focussed on harnessing international support and identifying appropriate and alternative fiscal solutions to respond to the climate emergency.

Despite Barbados’s notable contribution at COP26, domestic media is not particularly passionate about climate issues. Information is mostly disseminated by the Government Information Service, with articles in the media pegged to these statements or climate conferences or events. Reporting is very factual, gives little explanation of technical matters and relies heavily on quotes. Barbados has not been observed to have taken any concrete action following COP26.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Barbados updated its first NDC prior to COP26 in July 2021, significantly enhancing its ambition and increasing its mitigation contribution by doubling the per capita emissions reduction identified in its 2015 NDC.<sup>73</sup>

Barbados does not commit to a net zero target in the 2021 update but anticipates being able to do so in its second NDC due in 2025. In the 2021 update, Barbados “set the aspirational goal to achieve a fossil fuel-free economy and to reduce GHG emissions across all sectors to as close to zero as possible by 2030”. It hopes to become the first 100% green and fossil-fuel free island-state in the world.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>73</sup>

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoo m=100,90,652>

<sup>74</sup>

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoo m=100,90,652>

Barbados aims to reduce emissions by 35% by 2030 and offers a “conditional commitment” to reduce them by 70%<sup>75</sup> contingent on international support. By 2030, Barbados aims to reduce emissions in the electricity sector by 50% and offers a conditional contribution for a reduction of 95%.<sup>76</sup>

In contrast, Barbados’ economy-wide 2015 NDC contribution was conditional on international support in its entirety<sup>77</sup> and favoured adaptation over mitigation, describing its ambition to reduce emissions as reflecting a “fair contribution” in the global context.<sup>78</sup>

Barbados’ climate pledges attract little local media attention. Dissemination of information is largely limited to posts by the Government Information Service. Since COP26, little of significance has been found in domestic reporting on the updated NDC, net zero or 2030 emissions commitments.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

As a SIDS, Barbados is not bound by the COP26 commitment for developed countries to double 2019 levels of adaptation finance by 2025. Nor is it expected to contribute to the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage. Neither has received much domestic media attention since COP26. Adaptation is referenced only in the very broadest terms, for example in reports about talks between leaders<sup>79</sup> or the content of a climate report.<sup>80</sup> Evidence of domestic reporting on the Santiago Network was not found.

Barbados’ Roofs to Reefs Programme, a conditional contribution in its NDC, which aims to make the country more resilient and increase its ability to recover quickly from disasters,<sup>81</sup> has not received much media attention since COP26, other than being cited as an existing model.<sup>82</sup>

The publication of the 2022 IPCC report was, however, picked up by regional and domestic media. Under the somewhat sparse headline of “Climate change”, Barbados Today ran an article noting the global failure to meet targets. It quotes minimally from the report itself and rests heavily on quotes from experts commenting on the report.

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<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoom=100,90,652>

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<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoom=100,90,652>

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<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoom=100,90,652>

78 <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/Barbados%20INDC%20FINAL%20September%20%2028,%202015.pdf>

79 <https://barbados.loopnews.com/content/barbados-and-costa-rica-hold-talks>

80 “UN: Africa, already suffering from warming, will see worse”, Loop Barbados website, 2 March 2022 <https://barbados.loopnews.com/content/un-africa-already-suffering-warming-will-see-worse-3>

81 Barbados 2021 Update of the First Nationally Determined Contribution, 21 July 2021

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoom=100,90,652>

82 “Need for true global partnerships, says Mottley” Barbados newspaper The Nation website, 2 March 2021 <https://www.nationnews.com/2021/03/02/need-true-global-partnerships-says-mottley/>

The impact of the report is understood in regional terms and lays out the experts' call for action.<sup>83</sup> The scope of an article published by the Barbados version of the pan-Caribbean news website Loop is very broad, with no mention of the relevance of the IPCC report to Barbados or the Caribbean.<sup>84</sup>

In contrast, Barbados' The Nation newspaper website published an article in April 2022 about a warning from the University of the West Indies Climate Studies Group at Mona to Caribbean islands to pay attention to the IPCC report. In this article, detail that specifically affects the region is highlighted.<sup>85</sup>

## Finance

Barbados has consistently focussed on harnessing international support and identifying appropriate and alternative fiscal solutions to respond to the climate crisis.

Barbados has called for the release of Special Drawing Rights<sup>86</sup> of \$500bn a year over the next 20 years<sup>87</sup> by the Bretton Woods institutions<sup>88</sup> [International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, World Trade Organization] thereby enabling developing countries to circumvent climate finance pledges and increase self-determination.

The idea of using SDRs in this way continued to receive media attention after COP26. Soon after the conference, Barbados Today ran the headline: "Barbados and small islands land breakthrough on finance at COP26". The article is weighted towards the positive and does not make clear that, while the concept of harnessing SDRs was taken up, the idea for a \$500bn trust fund over 20 years was not.<sup>89</sup> Most reporting on the SDR proposal is factual, technical and supportive.<sup>90</sup> The UK Guardian takes the idea of the reallocation of SDRs further in an article in January 2022, suggesting it could be a mechanism for reparation for colonialism and slavery.<sup>91</sup>

After COP26, no evidence of domestic reporting was found on Barbados' call for a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to replace the historic per capita income criterion.<sup>92</sup> Barbados is classified as a high-income country,<sup>93</sup> which can pose an obstacle to accessing some climate finance under international rules.

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83 <https://barbadostoday.bb/2022/03/04/climate-change/>

84 <https://barbados.loopnews.com/content/un-climate-report-atlas-human-suffering-worse-bigger-3>

85 <https://www.nationnews.com/2022/04/19/warning-uwii-climate-studies-group/>

86 The SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of its member countries. The SDR is not a currency. It is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. As such, SDRs can provide a country with liquidity.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/special-drawing-right>

87 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/BARBADOS\\_cop26cmp16cma3\\_HLS\\_EN.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/BARBADOS_cop26cmp16cma3_HLS_EN.pdf)

88

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoo m=100,90,652>

89 <https://barbadostoday.bb/2021/11/13/barbados-and-small-islands-land-breakthrough-on-finance-at-cop26/>

90 <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/barbados-mottley-says-imf-must-help-finance-fight-against-climate-change-2021-12-03/>

91 Here's how to repay developing nations for colonialism – and fight the climate crisis, The Guardian, 14 January 2022

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jan/14/heres-how-to-repay-developing-nations-for-colonialism-and-fight-the-climate-crisis>

92 "Prime Minister: Multidimensional Vulnerability Index Is Key", Barbados Government Information Service, 5 November 2021

<https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/multidimensional-vulnerability-index-is-key/>

93 Barbados 2021 Update of the First Nationally Determined Contribution, 21 July 2021

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Barbados%20First/2021%20Barbados%20NDC%20update%20-%202021%20July%202021.pdf#page=34&zoo m=100,90,652>

No evidence of domestic reaction was found to the UNFCCC's Needs Determination Report.

## Delivery

Reporting by Barbadian sources on climate issues is muted. There is little evidence of Barbados having taken any concrete action following COP26.

Barbados's policy framework is laid out in its 2021 updated NDC in the 2021 Physical Development Plan Amendment and the Roofs-to-Reefs Programme (R2RP). R2RP is a conditional contribution and no evidence or reporting of any elements being progressed following COP26 has been found.

In a statement published in November, following COP26, the Barbadian government described its current annual multi-million spend on fossil-fuel imports as unsustainable. The statement notes the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and discusses the rapid change of pace affecting the energy and transport sectors. The Division of Energy is said to be "currently working" with the Barbados National Oil Company Limited on the commercial introduction and supply of biodiesel.<sup>94</sup>

One story to attract attention, albeit mostly from energy/climate interest sources rather than domestic sources, was Barbados's 2020 plan to resume fossil fuel exploration off its coast.

Speaking at the FT Climate Capital Live conference in March, Prime Minister Mia Mottley defended the plans saying that developing countries needed "a way to finance our route to net zero" and if the wealthy nations that "caused the problems" would not provide funding, other ways to generate revenue would have to be identified, such as exporting fossil fuels. She observes that net zero emissions "doesn't mean zero fossil fuels".<sup>95</sup>

The government's One Million National Tree Planting Project was due to have been completed by 2020 but stalled due to COVID-19, drought and other factors. The initiative is often cited in reports and subsequent re-launches have attracted domestic media attention each time. Reporting is factual with little detail on the project's background, ambition or aims.<sup>96</sup> There is no reporting to date to indicate whether the project has been completed.

At COP26, Barbados was one of over 100 countries which signed up to the Global Methane Pledge to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030.<sup>97</sup> There is little reporting or evidence of any follow-up to this.

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94 "Government's Annual Fossil Fuel Bill Unsustainable", Barbados Government Information Service, 22 November 2021 <https://gisbarbados.gov.bb/blog/governments-annual-fossil-fuel-bill-unsustainable/>

95 <https://www.ft.com/content/3554b0b3-973a-491a-b5c6-8669f057c2d5>

96 <https://www.nationnews.com/2021/08/05/150-000-trees-planted-september/>

97 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_21\\_5766](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5766)

# BRAZIL

## Overview

Brazil's COP26 commitments to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, eliminate illegal deforestation by 2028 and achieve net zero by 2050 were met with scepticism at the climate conference, and show no signs of becoming a reality based on the country's continued struggle to curb rising emissions, deforestation levels, and illegal logging and mining in protected biomes, including indigenous territories in the Amazon rainforest.

Brazil's new NDC, submitted in November 2021, was widely accused of "lacking ambition" and being "more damaging" than the country's previous climate commitments in 2016. The right-wing government, led by Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro's endorsement of environmentally-harmful activities such as the expansion of agribusiness and logging in protected biomes like the Amazon, was widely accused of causing the country's growing climate crisis. Brazilian media outlets even accused the Bolsonaro government of "hiding data" at COP26 showing the highest level of deforestation in the Amazon in 15 years.

As Brazil continues to struggle with prolonged periods of drought, as well as forest fires and natural disasters such as landslides and flooding, the IPCC has said it is among the economies that already suffered the most damage from the climate crisis. If emissions continued to rise, Brazil could see an 83% decrease in its median income by the end of the century.

At present, no significant actions have been taken to reduce emissions, deforestation or harmful economic activities in environmentally-vulnerable zones. Brazil's 2022 budget also significantly cut funding for environmental protection initiatives, and most observers did not think the country would achieve any of its COP26 climate vows under the Bolsonaro government. Some analysts noted, however, that a possible change in government after Brazil's 2 October general election (2022) could push climate change to the top of the country's agenda again, due to many opposition parties' commitment to climate action.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Brazil submitted a new NDC<sup>98</sup> to the UNFCCC in November, which outlined that the country aimed to reduce, by 2030, 50% of GHG emissions relative to the year 2005. However, many critics accused<sup>99</sup> the country of increasing its "climate ambition without decreasing emissions" and of "taking a step backward"<sup>100</sup> in relation to climate pledges it outlined in 2015.

Compared to Brazil's finalised NDC plan submitted in 2016, the country's current environmental objectives were widely reported to be "more damaging".<sup>101</sup> Brazil's emissions were mainly caused<sup>102</sup> by deforestation and livestock farming, which have shown no signs of slowing.

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98 <https://www.politicapointeiro.org/2021/11/01/a-zero-sum-game-brazils-announcement-on-ndc-at-cop26-lacks-ambition/>

99 <https://climatenetwork.org/2021/11/02/brazils-ndc-magic-how-to-increase-ambition-without-decreasing-emissions-eco-2-cop26/>

100 <https://brazilian.report/liveblog/2022/02/21/ndc-environmental-commitments/>

101 <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/cop26-diary-nov-2-did-you-know-brazil-s-new-ndcs-will-be-even-more-damaging-80032>

102 <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2022/04/brasil-oficializa-pedalada-climatica-em-nova-meta-de-reducao-de-gases.shtml>



During COP26, Brazil also vowed to eliminate<sup>103</sup> illegal deforestation by 2028 and achieve net zero<sup>104</sup> by 2050, in addition to joining the global methane<sup>105</sup> reduction pledge. Nevertheless, experts still pointed out<sup>106</sup> that Brazil's "long-term goals are not backed by concrete, short-term and ambitious measures".

Many reports blamed<sup>107</sup> the Jair Bolsonaro government – which was widely known for prioritising the country's powerful agribusiness sector over environmental protection initiatives – for Brazil's lack of ambitious climate goals. The government's National Green Plan announced in October 2021 was also criticised over its failure to mention an "explicit commitment to reduce deforestation, the main driver of Brazil's emissions". The clearing of land for cattle ranching<sup>108</sup> was the leading cause of illegal deforestation in the Amazon.

Even though Brazil announced the strengthening of its 2030 emissions targets at COP26, emissions have continued to rise<sup>109</sup> and the Bolsonaro administration has consistently defended the expansion of agribusiness, mining and other harmful economic activities in environmentally vulnerable zones.

Shortly after COP26 took place, mainstream Brazilian media outlets even accused<sup>110</sup> the government of "hiding data at the summit" showing the highest level of deforestation in the Amazon in 15 years.

Most commentators, climate scientists and environmental NGOs, among other groups, did not think the government would follow through on the climate pledges it announced at COP26. For example, President Bolsonaro was recently criticised<sup>111</sup> over his defence of a draft bill that would permit potassium mining in protected indigenous lands, many of which are in the Amazon.

He claimed potassium mining needed to be expanded to increase the country's fertiliser production capacity due to the shortage caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, some analysts<sup>112</sup> pointed out that if Brazil's 2022 presidential election<sup>113</sup> brings about a new government that considers climate to be an issue of high priority, the country's environmental policy would most likely change.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Brazil has a National Climate Change Fund<sup>114</sup> which has provided funding for over 60 projects to reduce emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. Greenpeace Brazil<sup>115</sup> pointed out, however, that since the fund's creation in 2009, "only 15 projects had been fully completed".

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103 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2030yaz>

104 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2031er1>

105 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2030em2>

106 <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/climate-governance-in-brazil/>

107 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c202zkui>

108 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c202wjzp>

109 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c202zroi>

110 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2031li6>

111 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c203ab2n>

112 <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/climate-governance-in-brazil/>

113 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c203b2wm>

114 <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/acao-a-informacao/apoio-a-projetos/fundo-nacional-sobre-mudanca-do-clima>

115 <https://www.greenpeace.org/brasil/blog/o-que-e-um-plano-de-adaptacao-climatica/#:~:text=O%20Fundo%20Nacional%20sobre%20as,aos%20efeitos%20da%20crise%20clim%C3%A1tica.>

The organisation also mentioned that, in 2020, “only seven Brazilian states had a climate adaptation plan in place” as national funding could not be easily accessed. The latest projects listed on the Environment Ministry’s website dated back to 2020. These projects<sup>116</sup> focused on protecting forests and biodiversity and developing renewable energy sources and green technologies, among other environmental initiatives. Private sector funding for adaptation is also provided by over 40 national and international funds<sup>117</sup> available to Brazil’s private sector.

In February 2022, a draft bill<sup>118</sup> was submitted to Brazil’s Chamber of Deputies to direct National Climate Change Fund funds to municipalities and states affected by natural disasters such as landslides and floods.

In recent months, Brazilian media frequently reported on the devastating effects of natural disasters. In the north-eastern state of Bahia, for example, devastating floods<sup>119</sup> killed 24 people and left over 91,000 displaced or homeless in December 2021.

According to an IPCC report<sup>120</sup> released in February, Brazil was among the economies that had already suffered the most damage as a result of the climate crisis.

It warned that if the country’s greenhouse gas emissions continued to increase, Brazil’s median income would fall by 83% by the end of the century, much more than the average global decrease of 23% predicted. In addition to natural disasters, Brazil’s agribusiness sector was also being negatively affected by climate change. The IPCC’s report pointed out that Brazil’s GDP per capita from 1964 to 2010 suffered a 24.5% decrease due to factors related to climate change.

## Finance

Brazil regularly advocates for financing from “rich countries” to support its climate initiatives. During COP26, it joined<sup>121</sup> South Africa and China in asking the developed world to mobilise \$100bn annually as climate finance support to developing countries to meet their existing obligations towards carbon emissions.

The governments of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay also proposed to create a committee<sup>122</sup> “to monitor rich countries’ climate financing”. Brazilian Environment Minister Joaquim Leite reiterated at the event that “the climate emergency is financial”, pointing out there is a high level of poverty in areas in Brazil with forests such as the Amazon.<sup>123</sup>

Brazilian media reports<sup>124</sup> noted that Brazil’s pledges at COP26 would “not be enough unblock billion-dollar contributions from European contributions” for the Amazon Fund, a mechanism that relies on foreign donations to finance conservation in the rainforest.

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116 <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/financiamento/produto/fundo-clima>

117 [https://www3.ethos.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Publicacao%C3%A7%C3%A3o\\_Financiamento\\_Clim%C3%A1tico\\_compressed.pdf](https://www3.ethos.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Publicacao%C3%A7%C3%A3o_Financiamento_Clim%C3%A1tico_compressed.pdf)

118 <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/852173-projeto-destina-recursos-de-fundo-sobre-clima-para-enfrentamento-de-desastres-naturais/>

119 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c20351nm>

120 <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2022/02/brasil-esta-entre-economias-mais-prejudicadas-por-crise-do-clima-aponta-onu.shtml>

121 <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cop-26-india-brazil-south-africa-china-demand-roadmap-for-100-billion-climate-finance-support/article37279999.ece>

122 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2030qr5>

123 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2030cmk>

124 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c2031er1>



A proposal to create a new global fund to protect biodiversity was initially discredited, Brazilian media reported<sup>125</sup>, but then received the support of 63 countries on 29 March 2022 at a UN biodiversity convention. The group developing countries in Latin America and Africa would ask a bloc of developed countries for “at least \$100bn per year, initially, and \$700bn by 2030” to protect areas with biodiversity.

Domestically, the Bolsonaro government has been sharply criticised by media outlets for “cutting”<sup>126</sup> 2022 federal budget funds for environmental protection initiatives such as the combat of forest fires and the demarcation of indigenous lands.

For example, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources’ (Ibama) budget for fire prevention and control was cut by 17.2m Brazilian reais (\$3.1m), the equivalent of 25% of the project’s allocated funds. Bolsonaro’s reluctance to spend money on projects to prevent climate change was widely reported<sup>127</sup> to be one of several reasons why developed countries were hesitant to provide Brazil with environmental funding.

## Delivery

Brazil’s Supreme Court is currently discussing<sup>128</sup> the so-called “green agenda” and will primarily focus on the Bolsonaro government’s omissions in environmental protection. The government is expected to be judged harshly on the country’s continued surge in illegal deforestation, logging and mining in biomes such as the Amazon, and overall failure to curb rising emissions in recent years. This also takes place at a time when the Bolsonaro administration is attempting to relax current restrictions in place on mining and other harmful economic activities in environmentally vulnerable areas in biomes such as the Amazon.

Even though Brazil also committed to reducing methane emissions and eradicating illegal logging, emissions continue to increase and illegal logging and mining show no signs of slowing. Most climate experts agree that Brazil’s current actions to combat climate change are insufficient and would not lead to it to achieving any of the pledges it made at the summit in Glasgow.

In April 2022, for example, thousands of indigenous people camped out and marched<sup>129</sup> in the Federal District of Brasilia to press Congress to not pass legislation proposed by President Bolsonaro that would open their protected lands to commercial mining and agriculture.

A report<sup>130</sup> in April 2022 by the Hutukara Yanomami Association also showed that in 2021, illegal gold mining in the Yanomami’s indigenous group’s territory, in the Amazon, increased by 46% when compared to 2020. This was the highest increase in 30 years. The report said this exponential increase was partly caused by “the weakening of environmental policies” and “the current government’s position of encouraging<sup>131</sup> the illegal practice”.

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125 <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2022/03/apos-descredito-brasil-recebe-apoio-de-63-paises-para-criar-novo-fundo-ambiental.shtml>

126 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c20372ng>

127 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/21/world/americas/bolsonaro-climate-amazon.html>

128 <https://umsoplaneta.globo.com/sociedade/noticia/2022/03/30/com-pauta-verde-stf-se-prepara-para-mandar-duros-recados-ao-governo-bolsonaro-sobre-politica-ambiental.ghtml>

129 <https://g1.globo.com/df/distrito-federal/noticia/2022/04/06/indigenas-protestam-em-brasilia-contra-projetos-de-lei-que-liberam-exploracao-de-terras.ghtml>

130 <https://oglobo.globo.com/brasil/ianomami-garimpo-ilegal-cresce-46-na-maior-destruicao-em-30-anos-de-demarcacao-em-2-25468590>

131 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c203dv4j>

In March 2022, COP26 President Alok Sharma visited<sup>132</sup> Sao Paulo and said that Brazil's entry into the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) would depend on it following through on its COP26 promises and would also be "important if the country wants to attract private investment".

He noted the importance<sup>133</sup> of "private sector actions" to help Brazil achieve its climate targets. He reiterated that the country's environmental goals should still be met even if there is a change<sup>134</sup> in government after the 2 October 2022 presidential election.

On 12 April, a group of NGOs, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, sent a letter<sup>135</sup> to the OECD about "regressions" seen in Brazil in recent years, including high deforestation levels and a significant surge in invasions of protected indigenous lands. OECD members such as France<sup>136</sup> also previously objected to Brazil's entry into the organisation until it could demonstrate that it would "reduce deforestation and corruption" in the country.

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132 <https://g1.globo.com/meio-ambiente/noticia/2022/03/28/no-brasil-presidente-da-cop-26-cobra-que-acordos-sejam-cumpridos-e-lembra-que-acesso-a-ocde-depender-de-metas.ghtml>

133 <https://oeco.org.br/noticias/no-brasil-presidente-da-cop-26-cobra-acao-do-setor-privado-para-que-pais-alcance-metas-climaticas/>

134 <https://sustentabilidade.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,presidente-da-cop-26-diz-que-acordos-ambientais-devem-ser-seguidos-mesmo-com-troca-de-governos,70004022560>

135 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c203e1ha>

136 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c20376la>

# CANADA

## Overview

The Canadian government has ‘planned’ thoroughly for how to reach a 2050 net zero target. In March 2022, the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, touted as “an ambitious and achievable sector-by-sector approach for Canada to reach its new climate target of cutting emissions by 40% below 2005 levels by 2030” was released to great fanfare and scrutiny in the media.

While the plan was well-received overall, critics said it gave the country’s oil and gas sector “a free pass from any major new regulations or costs aimed at slashing emissions”. And the country’s Climate Commissioner Jerry DeMarco has said the government has over-estimated the potential of hydrogen fuel in reducing emissions.

Canada has also announced an initiative where it will allocate C\$315m (\$245m) to climate change action in the global south.

However, media, activist and expert commentary saw contradiction as the country pledged to provide more oil to Europe after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and approved a new oil field. Canada “recognized the need for bold climate action”, but “paradoxically” continued to support fossil fuel projects and was now “caught between climate warnings and economic realities”.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

The Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, stating Canada’s commitment to net zero by 2050, became law on 29 June 2021.<sup>137</sup>

In March 2022, the government released its 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, and tabled it for approval in parliament on 29 March 2022.<sup>138</sup>

According to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, it is “an ambitious and achievable sector-by-sector approach for Canada to reach its new climate target of cutting emissions by 40% below 2005 levels by 2030”. It includes plans to “green” Canada’s homes and buildings, help industries to adopt clean technology and reduce oil and gas emissions.<sup>139</sup>

Reuters reported that the government expects the oil and gas sector, which accounts for 26% of Canada’s overall emissions, to “cut carbon emissions 31% below 2005 levels by 2030, which is a 42% cut from current levels”. The government will also “support development of carbon capture, storage and utilization”, Reuters said.<sup>140</sup>

The plan “was quickly hailed as a ‘watershed moment’ for Canadian climate policy”, CBC reported, but a local politician from the oil-rich province of Alberta called the projection a “fantasy”.

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137 <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050.html>

138 <https://twitter.com/environmentca/status/1508872465635753996>

139 <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/03/29/delivering-clean-air-and-strong-economy-canadians>

140 <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/key-points-canadas-plan-hit-2030-climate-target-2022-03-29/>

The Conservatives warned that such high reductions from the oil and gas sector would have a “devastating effect”, CBC said. “[Conservatives said that] the government... should instead focus on getting Canada’s ‘ethical energy’ to the world”, the broadcaster added, “though how energy products could be described as ‘ethical’ if they can’t be reconciled with Canada’s climate targets is a riddle”.<sup>141</sup>

Climate Commissioner Jerry DeMarco in April 2022 also criticised the government, saying it had overestimated the role of hydrogen fuel in reducing GHG emissions – so much so that its “unrealistic” assumptions “compromise the credibility” of its entire climate plan, meaning Canada might not be able to reach its 2030 emissions target, he said.<sup>142</sup>

He also accused the government of phasing out of coal on a “business-as-usual basis”.

In another piece, however, CBC said that without deep cuts in the “oilpatch”, there would be “scant chance” Canada would meet its 2030 climate goal but that for now, the government was “giving the sector a free pass from any major new regulations or costs aimed at slashing emissions”.<sup>143</sup>

The Financial Post said reaction to the plan from the sector was “mostly positive”, with industry proponents saying the plan’s projections “acknowledged global demand for Canadian oil and gas will continue for decades”.

“While many critics felt the emission targets for oil and gas were too lenient, others pointed out that the oil and gas sector will shoulder significantly more onerous emissions targets than the transportation sector which produces a similar share of Canada’s emissions,” The Financial Post said.<sup>144</sup>

A University of British Columbia professor also commented: “For three decades, Canada has failed to meet any of its emissions targets... This is Canada’s 10th climate plan since 1990, and only the second to offer a plausible strategy to meet a national target... Industry lobbying looms... All those regulatory measures... still need to be developed and finalized.”<sup>145</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Domestically, Climate Commissioner DeMarco in April accused the government of being “unprepared and slow off the mark” in supporting energy workers who face job losses as the country moves away from fossil fuels.

Given Canada estimates 170,000 jobs may go as a result, DeMarco said legislation and a plan were needed to support workers and communities affected.

In February 2022, the government announced the new Partnering for Climate initiative, where C\$315m - part of the country’s June 2021 C\$5.3bn (\$4.1bn) climate finance pledge - would be allocated to initiatives where Canadian groups partner with groups in the global south to work for climate change action.<sup>146</sup>

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141 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/climate-change-trudeau-canada-1.6401791>

142 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/environment-commissioner-emissions-reduction-targets-1.6431155>

143 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/bakx-emissions-reductions-plan-oilpatch-1.6401297>

144 <https://financialpost.com/commodities/energy/canada-must-cut-emissions-40-by-2030-to-meet-new-climate-targets-say-ottawa>

145 <https://theconversation.com/the-political-opportunities-and-challenges-of-canadas-new-9-1b-climate-plan-179564>

146 <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/02/partnering-for-climate.html>

The initiative did not receive much media attention but Canada's National Observer said it marked “a departure from Canada’s reliance on large multinational banks to distribute funds”, adding that it had been praised among experts for offering grants rather than loans.

## Finance

“Canada’s C\$5.3-bn (\$4.1-bn) commitment is part of a promise by rich countries to deliver \$100bn annually by 2020 to compensate developing countries grappling with the impacts of climate change. But this promise was broken, despite being a key commitment when the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015,” Canada’s National Observer said.

“With the new commitment, Canada is contributing roughly C\$1bn (\$780m) per year and [a representative from NGO Climate Action Network Canada] says [the country’s] fair share is more than C\$4bn (\$3.1bn) per year... Canada’s global investments ‘continue to go in the wrong direction,’ he said. ‘While we’re providing C\$5.3bn (\$2.7bn) on climate finance through public sources, our own Crown corporations continue to fund fossil fuel projects internationally... so, sometimes in the same country, we provide C\$1 for climate finance and C\$10 for fossil fuels’”.<sup>147</sup>

The Santiago scheme has not been mentioned in Canadian media since COP26.

## Delivery

Prime Minister Trudeau wrote a mandate letter to the new minister of environment and climate change in December 2021, asking him to “deliver” on a commitment to “make progress on methane emission reductions” by developing a plan “consistent with the Global Methane Pledge”.<sup>148</sup>

Canada and other governments also signed a pledge at COP26 to end deforestation. “It sounds nice but is entirely non-binding,” Greenpeace said, in a blog entry from 22 November 2021. “And while the Canadian government signed this deal, it’s still negotiating at the same time a deal with Brazil that could actually accelerate deforestation in the Amazon.”<sup>149</sup>

“The [Canadian] government is caught between... two conflicting options. It has recognized the need for bold climate action and is developing key climate policies, laws and regulations. Yet, paradoxically, it continues to support... fossil fuel projects. Canada is one of the world’s top public fossil fuel financiers,” said the David Suzuki Foundation, an environmental non-profit organisation, in March 2022, after the latest IPCC report was made public.<sup>150</sup>

Later in March 2022, Canada announced it would boost oil exports by about 5% to help address supply shortages faced by allies shunning Russian energy after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Talking at a ministerial meeting of the International Energy Agency in Paris, Canada’s resources minister said Canada would “step up” to help Europe “getting off Russian oil and gas in the short term”.<sup>151</sup>

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147 <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/02/24/canadas-latest-climate-finance-initiative-prioritizes-adaptation.html>

148 <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2021/12/16/minister-environment-and-climate-change-mandate-letter>

149 <https://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/story/50918/cop26-expectation-vs-reality/>

150 <https://davidsuzuki.org/expert-article/ipcc-report-illustrates-canadas-climate-paradox/>

151 <https://www.barrons.com/news/canada-to-boost-oil-exports-to-displace-russian-energy-01648142408>

In April 2022, the country approved the new Bay du Nord oil field outside Newfoundland and Labrador, after an environmental assessment concluded it was “not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects when mitigation measures are taken into account”, as reported by Global News.<sup>152</sup>

Before the approval, CBC said Canada was “caught between climate warnings and economic realities”, adding that the president of the union for offshore oil workers in Newfoundland and Labrador said the project was “sorely needed”.

“We’re talking thousands of jobs... we’re talking about billions of dollars,” he said. “We need that for our education. We need that for our health-care system... We need that for just transition.” Newfoundland and Labrador has Canada’s highest unemployment rate, CBC added, and its provincial government is “drowning in debt”.<sup>153</sup>

One of the findings of the 2021-22 IPCC report is that “rhetoric and misinformation on climate change and the deliberate undermining of science have contributed to misperceptions of the scientific consensus”.

Strong party affiliation and partisan opinion polarization also contribute to delayed mitigation and adaptation action, most notably in the US, but with similar patterns in Canada, the report said. “Vested economic and political interests have organized and financed misinformation and ‘contrarian’ climate change communication,” it added.

Commenting on this, The National Observer said: “In Canada, this is clearly reflected in Alberta Premier Jason Kenney using taxpayer money to [attack environmentalists](#) and [spread propaganda](#) via the Canadian Energy Centre. But it is more subtly reflected in the federal Liberal government that [claims fossil fuel investments will pay for a clean energy transition](#).”<sup>154</sup>

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<sup>152</sup> <https://globalnews.ca/news/8740282/feds-approve-bay-du-nord-oil-project/>

<sup>153</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/climate-warnings-bay-du-nord-1.6408649>

<sup>154</sup> <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2022/03/01/news/how-canada-fits-ipcc-reports-atlas-human-suffering>

# CHINA

## Overview

China has committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2060 and pledged to peak emissions before 2030. In September 2021, President Xi Jinping announced China would not build new coal-fired power projects abroad.

In October 2021, days before COP26, China released a plan<sup>155</sup> detailing its path to peak emissions, saying it would encourage industries to “accelerate high-quality development and green and low-carbon transition”.

The revised NDC raised its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to 25% by 2030, from an earlier pledge of 20%.

China is the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases.

However, official and media messaging flagged up China’s status as the “largest developing country” and called on developed countries to offer more help to the developing world in tackling climate change.

Through official messaging<sup>156</sup> China positions itself as a responsible climate leader, saying that it has allocated about 1.2bn yuan (\$183m) for South-South climate cooperation, a term used to describe cooperation among developing countries in the Global South, and signed 40 cooperation documents with 35 countries.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

In September 2020, President Xi Jinping announced China would aim to have carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

In his speech at COP26 in Glasgow,<sup>157</sup> Xi did not offer any new major commitments but urged other countries to act on climate pledges. Xi said that China would “put in place a ‘1+N’ policy framework for carbon peak and carbon neutrality”.<sup>158</sup>

In its revised emissions reduction commitment<sup>159</sup> submitted ahead of the summit, China raised its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to 25% by 2030, from an earlier pledge of 20%.

According to the updated NDC, China will aim to increase the forest stock volume by six billion cubic metres from the 2005 level and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to more than 1.2 billion kilowatts by 2030.

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<sup>155</sup> [https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policies/202110/t20211027\\_1301020.html](https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policies/202110/t20211027_1301020.html)

<sup>156</sup> <https://twitter.com/zlj517/status/1514960836204572675>

<sup>157</sup> [http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/01/c\\_1310284288.htm](http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/01/c_1310284288.htm)

<sup>158</sup> [http://www.china-](http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zt/climatechange/202111/t20211117_10449121.htm#:~:text=China%20aims%20to%20gradually%20increase,over%2080%20percent%20by%202060.)

[embassy.org/eng/zt/climatechange/202111/t20211117\\_10449121.htm#:~:text=China%20aims%20to%20gradually%20increase,over%2080%20percent%20by%202060.](http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zt/climatechange/202111/t20211117_10449121.htm#:~:text=China%20aims%20to%20gradually%20increase,over%2080%20percent%20by%202060.)

<sup>159</sup> <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3154134/china-sends-modest-climate-pledge-glasgow-cop26>



In another crucial announcement just months before the summit in September 2021, Xi announced that China would not build new coal-fire projects abroad.

Before and after the summit, state media called on developed countries to shoulder more responsibility in dealing with climate change, while also praising China<sup>160</sup> for its “difficult climate pledges”.

Chinese media, citing experts, at the time also emphasised the need for “common but differentiated responsibilities” in combating climate change, dismissing foreign reports that claimed China and India sought a weakened pledge in the area of coal consumption.<sup>161</sup>

In March 2022, Premier Li Keqiang, while delivering the government’s annual work report, said China would “work harder to make coal usage cleaner and more efficient”.<sup>162</sup> He added, however, that Beijing would reduce the use of coal and replace it with alternative energy sources in a “well-ordered way”.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

At COP26, the G77+China proposed the establishment<sup>163</sup> of a funding facility to help vulnerable nations respond to the loss and damage caused by climate change, which was opposed by the US, UK and EU.

However, mainstream media and officials were not observed to directly comment on whether China would contribute to the financial and technical support delivered through the Santiago Network, calling instead on developed countries<sup>164</sup> to fulfil funding promise to build confidence in the climate process.

Since the Glasgow summit, references to adaptation and loss and damage in the media are generally limited to measures taken by Beijing in the domestic context.

A few media reports quoted experts<sup>165</sup> praising China's pledge to work towards carbon neutrality, expressing hope that it would increase climate adaptation funds and usher in low-carbon development in Asia.

A white paper<sup>166</sup> released by China’s State Council Information Office in October said that adaptation is a major component in executing Beijing’s national strategy for actively responding to climate change.

The paper added that in 2020, China started to prepare the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation 2035, which focused on “overall guidance, communication, coordination, strengthening observation and assessment of climate change impacts, and improving the ability of major sectors and key vulnerable regions to adapt to climate change”.

There was reporting<sup>167</sup> as well as limited comment in mainstream media outlets about the IPCC’s latest report focusing on the mitigation of climate change.

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<sup>160</sup> <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1237936.shtml>

<sup>161</sup> <https://newsus.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-14/COP26-adopts-Glasgow-Climate-Pact-15aDEJxJZiE/index.html>

<sup>162</sup> [http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202203/12/content\\_WS622c96d7c6d09c94e48a68ff.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202203/12/content_WS622c96d7c6d09c94e48a68ff.html)

<sup>163</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/G77\\_LD\\_SN\\_Functions\\_2Nov2021r5.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/G77_LD_SN_Functions_2Nov2021r5.pdf)

<sup>164</sup> <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1238777.shtml>

<sup>165</sup> <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202203/26/WS623ea451a310fd2b29e53782.html>

<sup>166</sup> <https://bit.ly/3v18SVC>

<sup>167</sup> [https://www.stcn.com/xw/news/202203/t20220331\\_4309447.html](https://www.stcn.com/xw/news/202203/t20220331_4309447.html)



A report published on 21 April 2022 by the Global Times<sup>168</sup> quoted Wang Yuanfeng, director of the Carbon Neutral Technology and Strategy Centre of Beijing Jiaotong University, as saying that the IPCC report for the first time highlighted the risk of a “tipping point” which, once exceeded, could lead to “catastrophic, irreversible changes”. It cited a survey by a European think tank that countries like Germany, which are “very active in tackling climate change”, are considering whether to resume the use of fossil energy following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, an article in China Daily<sup>169</sup> on the IPCC report hailed China’s announcement on achieving “carbon neutrality” as a major strategic decision made by the Chinese Communist Party.

## Finance

Chinese media have made no direct mention of whether China would contribute specifically to financing the pledged \$100bn per year, but have instead urged developed countries to fill the funding gap.<sup>170</sup>

Before and after COP26, China in its official and media messaging stressed its status as a developing country. For instance, the media highlighted<sup>171</sup> China and Africa signing a joint declaration on tackling climate change at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation ministerial meeting in November. The declaration urged developed countries to help developing countries, especially African countries, to cope with climate change, and strive to fill the gap with the pledged \$100bn aid per year by 2023 as soon as possible.

State media, including government-run English-language newspaper China Daily, have also blamed<sup>172</sup> the US for not doing enough to support the UN’s Green Climate Fund, noting that in 2017 and 2018, Washington provided less climate finance than France, Germany, Japan or the UK, despite having an economy larger than all those countries combined.

A report by the official Xinhua News Agency<sup>173</sup> on 14 November 2021 said that developed countries “have not lived up to their promises” of providing \$100bn a year to help lower-income nations by 2020, while calling on these nations to pay up their “climate debt”.

Beijing has, however, made other commitments on climate finance independent of the \$100bn-per-year pledge.

In a white paper<sup>174</sup> released by China’s State Council Information Office in October 2021, just days before the Glasgow summit, Beijing said it provides assistance “within its means” to other developing countries to tackle climate change.

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168 <https://opinion.huanqiu.com/article/47gpIEU05zN>

169 <https://cn.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202204/05/WS624c0deca3101c3ee7acf023.html>

170 <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1237746.shtml>

171 <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-12-02/China-Africa-to-strengthen-cooperation-on-tackling-climate-change-15FcUW8CnHG/index.html>

172 <http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202204/14/WS62577613a310fd2b29e56e15.html>

173 [http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/14/c\\_1310310279.htm](http://www.news.cn/english/2021-11/14/c_1310310279.htm)

174 <https://bit.ly/3v18SVC>

According to the white paper, China has allocated 1.2 billion yuan for South-South cooperation and signed 40 cooperation documents with 35 countries. It added it had also helped countries to build low-carbon demonstration zones and provided them with climate-related supplies.

Similarly, in April 2022, the official Xinhua News Agency reported that the Export-Import Bank of China would be providing 85% financing for Uganda's Karuma Hydro Power Plant.

Since the summit, state media have quoted several experts who encouraged China to transfer technologies, especially to ASEAN countries.<sup>175</sup>

Beijing has also made efforts<sup>176</sup> to green its ambitious global infrastructure connectivity plan, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to a study published in February by the Green Finance and Development Centre at Shanghai's Fudan University, green energy finance and investments in the BRI increased in 2021 to a new high of \$6.3bn as compared to \$6.2bn in 2020.

## Delivery

At COP26, China submitted its revised emissions reduction commitment,<sup>177</sup> raising its share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to 25% by 2030, from an earlier pledge of 20%. Beijing also said it would aim to reduce its carbon intensity by 65% compared to 2005 levels, 5% more than it had pledged in 2016.

The document contained Xi's pledge from September 2020 on peaking CO<sub>2</sub> emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060. But Beijing did not mention the date of achieving the peak of carbon dioxide emissions, promising instead to peak "before 2030".

Chinese media reports and commentaries flagged up Xi's pledge on carbon neutrality and praised his pledge from September 2021 saying that Beijing will not build new coal-fire projects abroad.<sup>178</sup> Following the summit, state media also rejected Western criticism<sup>179</sup> of China and other countries for changing the COP26 commitment from "phasing out" coal usage to "phasing [it] down" in the final deal, calling their criticism "unfair".

While China has made no big announcement since COP26, it has reaffirmed its commitment to reducing reliance on coal and cutting carbon emissions.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's announced that China would continue to target a peak in carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality while delivering the annual government work report at the opening of this year's parliament session in March 2022.

"We will work harder to make coal usage cleaner and more efficient, while reducing the use of coal and replacing it with alternative energy sources in a well-ordered way. We will work to upgrade coal-fired power plants to conserve resources, reduce carbon emissions, make operations more flexible, and upgrade heating facilities," he said.<sup>180</sup>

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175 <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-04-05/From-economy-to-environment-China-s-role-in-ASEAN-amid-energy-crisis-18Z6YQlea64/index.html>

176 <https://greenfcd.org/brief-china-belt-and-road-initiative-bri-investment-report-2021/>

177 <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3154134/china-sends-modest-climate-pledge-glasgow-cop26>

178 <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-11-02/China-s-green-transition-A-feasible-way-of-quitting-coal-14R0bIIFpx6/index.html>

179 <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202111/1239029.shtml>

180 <https://english.news.cn/20220312/e738e18691e7402aa94d26c316f762a9/c.html>

In April 2022, Vice-Premier Han Zheng said that<sup>181</sup> China would “balance land greening and farmland protection”, adding that Beijing had been working to ensure the nation's farmland acreage remained above around 120 million hectares.

In January 2022, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Commerce jointly released guidelines<sup>182</sup> urging Chinese companies to incorporate environmental protection into their BRI projects.

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<sup>181</sup>[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/hanzheng/202204/12/content\\_WS62556babc6d02e533532923d.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/hanzheng/202204/12/content_WS62556babc6d02e533532923d.html)

<sup>182</sup> <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202201/13/WS61df5adfa310cdd39bc80ada.html>

# EUROPEAN UNION

## Overview

As a body, the EU has repeatedly said it is “at the forefront of international efforts to fight climate change”.<sup>183</sup>

In July 2021, the EU announced a new series of policies to fight climate change and environmental degradation with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. Its ability to deliver on these aims will be dependent on the individual member states’ work to lower emissions and keep up with the targets set by European institutions.

The EU prides itself on its contribution to global climate finance, although observers at COP26 said that, alongside the US, the EU blocked efforts for climate disaster funding.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

In July 2021, the EU announced a series of policies, dubbed the “European Green Deal”, that aim to cut the EU’s emissions by 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, an increase from its previous pledge of a 40% cut.<sup>184</sup> The aim is to set out a binding objective of climate neutrality in the EU; after 2050, the goal of the EU will be to achieve net negative emissions.<sup>185</sup>

However, observers have noted that, should emissions continue to fall at the pace they are now, the total reduction by 2030 will amount to merely 41%.<sup>186</sup>

Although the COP26 final agreement requested that all parties “revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets” in their climate action plans, the European Commission said the bloc’s plans were already in line with the Paris Agreement target and would not be strengthened further.<sup>187</sup>

Many observers agree that the EU’s next challenge is in its ability to share the burdens of the 55% target fairly between its member states and among economic sectors – “an endeavour with significant potential for conflict in light of the recent energy price increases”.<sup>188</sup>

It’s been noted<sup>189</sup> that high-polluting east European countries and non-diversified, less-developed countries will be most severely affected by the target. Hints of potential tensions over climate targets appeared as early as 2019, when a push by most EU nations for the bloc to go carbon-neutral by 2050 was dropped to a footnote after resistance from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.<sup>190</sup>

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183 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_3661](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3661)

184 <http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=2031756786&Country=France&topic=Economy&subtopic=Outlook>

185 <https://www.jonesday.com/en/insights/2021/07/european-climate-law-sets-a-binding-objective-of-climate-neutrality-by-2050>

186 <https://www.touteleurope.eu/environnement/les-emissions-de-gaz-a-effet-de-serre-dans-lunion-europeenne/>

187 <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-will-not-strengthen-climate-action-plan-in-2022/>

188 <https://www.swp-berlin.org/10.18449/2022C02/>

189 <http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=2031756786&Country=France&topic=Economy&subtopic=Outlook>

190 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/20/eu-leaders-to-spar-over-zero-carbon-pledge-for-2050>

## Loss and adaptation

During COP26, Politico reported that, alongside the US, the EU “resisted calls” from developing countries for the COP26 summit to create a facility providing financial support to victims of climate disasters.<sup>191</sup>

A senior policy adviser at Oxfam was quoted by US outlet Vox as saying that the reason for this reticence lies in the US and EU’s “fear that once they start accepting that they are contributing to financial assistance to address loss and damage, this would open up the avenue towards compensation claims for harm done through causing the climate crisis”.<sup>192</sup>

## Finance

The EU’s total climate finance for 2020 showed that the bloc contributed €23.39bn (\$24.67bn) in climate finance that year. Ahead of COP26, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the body would “propose an additional €4bn (\$4.22bn) for climate finance until 2027.”<sup>193</sup>

However, one issue many campaigners have highlighted is that different EU member states have different ways of adding up their contributions to climate finance. Such are the discrepancies that net climate finance is estimated<sup>194</sup> to be far lower than the numbers reported to the UNFCCC. For example, Oxfam reported that, in 2015-2016, net public climate finance amounted to \$16bn-\$21bn, instead of the \$48bn reported by donor countries.<sup>195</sup>

## Delivery

A third of the €1.8tn (\$1.9tn) investments from the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan and the EU’s seven-year budget will finance the European Green Deal.<sup>196</sup> Each member state is set to receive a portion of the NextGenerationEU funds to implement the necessary changes in their own country. National spending plans were approved by the EU in 2021 and at least 37% of each plan’s allocation has to support the green transition.

At COP26, the EU, together with the US, launched the Global Methane Pledge, a proposal to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% before 2030. The initiative should reduce warming by at least 0.2°C.<sup>197</sup>

In Glasgow, the EU also announced it would put forward €1bn (\$1.05bn) to protect world forests, a five-year support package that will help countries manage and restore forests worldwide.<sup>198</sup>

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191 <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-us-block-financial-support-climate-change-cop26/>

192 <https://www.vox.com/22777957/cop26-un-climate-change-conference-glasgow-goals-paris>

193 <https://www.energylivenews.com/2021/09/17/eu-to-boost-climate-funding-with-further-e4bn-for-poorer-countries/>

194 <https://www.govtran.eu/to-truly-lead-on-climate-change-the-eu-must-step-up-its-game-on-climate-finance/>

195 [https://oi-files-d8-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/file\\_attachments/bp-climate-finance-shadow-report-030518-en.pdf](https://oi-files-d8-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/file_attachments/bp-climate-finance-shadow-report-030518-en.pdf)

196 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

197 <https://www.globalmethanepledge.org/>

198 <https://www.eyes-on-europe.eu/the-contribution-of-the-european-union-to-the-cop26/>

# FRANCE

## Overview

France's efforts to tackle climate change and reduce GHG emissions have largely been lauded. Emmanuel Macron's government has been keen to continue on this track and is planning to invest €1bn (\$1.05bn) on nuclear power over the next eight years to further boost France's independence from highly polluting energy sources.

Nevertheless, it's been noted that France's current target of reducing its emissions by 40% by 2030 is not as ambitious as the EU's target of a 55% reduction. NGOs have also pointed out that France is not doing enough to reduce its emissions given the "historical responsibility" it bears for climate change.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

France came in at sixth overall in KPMG's Net Zero Readiness Index (NZRI), a tool that compares the progress of 32 countries in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions. The Index notes that "France punches above its ranking in a number of categories in the NZRI",<sup>199</sup> and that it is ranked third for policies and enabling environment, contributing to it being placed fifth on national preparedness overall.

France is actively working towards meeting its 2050 net zero target, which was made legally binding by lawmakers in 2019.<sup>200</sup> In September 2020, France allocated €30bn (\$31.6bn) of its €100bn (\$105.77bn) post-COVID-19 recovery plan to green energy work, including hydrogen fuel development.<sup>201</sup>

In September 2021, the French government published a €30bn (\$31.73bn) investment plan dubbed "France 2030", designed to boost technological innovation and low-carbon transition into a range of areas. The launch campaign for the France 2030 plan read: "We have the ambition and we have the means: €30bn by 2030. The plan means the money is ring-fenced. It's also a plan in cooperation with Europe. And it's a plan for the present: 3 to 4bn will start being put to use in 2022."<sup>202</sup>

The country already generates 91% of electricity from low-carbon sources, mainly nuclear, but increasingly from renewable sources including offshore wind. The France 2030 plan also states that the French government is planning to invest €1bn (\$1.05bn) on nuclear power by the end of the decade.<sup>203</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

A sizeable portion of French coverage of COP26 focused on the plight of countries that are more vulnerable to climate change – but few mentioned the Santiago Network mechanism.

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<sup>199</sup> <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2021/09/nzri-france.html>

<sup>200</sup> <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-energie-climat#:~:text=Adopt%C3%A9%20le%20novembre%202019,%C3%A0%20l'Accord%20de%20Paris.>

<sup>201</sup> <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/france-reliance-transition-ecologique#:~:text=Dot%C3%A9%20d'un%20budget%20de,engag%C3%A9s%20pour%20la%20reliance%20verte>

<sup>202</sup> <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/10/12/presentation-du-plan-france-2030>

<sup>203</sup> <https://www.europe1.fr/politique/macron-veut-investir-1-milliard-deuros-dans-le-nucleaire-et-developper-des-minis-reacteurs-4071126>

One outlet did note that Scotland was the only country at COP26 to announce just over \$1m in “symbolic” funding for loss and damage and wondered whether “climate conferences will always be doomed to ‘baby steps’ and ‘symbolic gestures’”.<sup>204</sup>

The issue of vulnerable developing countries and island nations also largely disappeared from French coverage of environmental issues once COP26 ended.

A prominent environmental NGO, Réseau Action Climat, put out its own calculations to work out what the “fair share” of France’s emissions reduction should be. “France’s historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and its ability to act to combat climate change, i.e. its national wealth” mean the country should reduce its emissions by 168% by 2030 compared to 1990,<sup>205</sup> it said.

## Finance

France committed to raising its contributions to fight climate change in developing countries from €3bn (\$3.17bn) in 2015 to €5bn (\$5.29bn) in 2020. This total includes a yearly €1.5bn (\$1.59bn) earmarked for adaptation – a dramatic increase from the yearly average of €400m (\$423m) between 2010 and 2015.

France achieved and surpassed this objective with one year to spare and, in 2020, contributed €5.05bn (\$5.34bn) (of which €1.96bn (\$2.07bn) is meant for adaptation) to developing countries. Between 2021 and 2025, France’s new goal is to raise the total to €6bn (\$6.35bn), of which a third will go towards adaptation.<sup>206</sup>

## Delivery

In December 2021, a report by the High Council for Climate, a new independent body set up by Emmanuel Macron’s government, stated that France needs to revise its 2030 goals to make them more ambitious and to assume an international leadership role. The report also said that France’s emission reduction target of 40% in 2030 compared to 1990 levels “is no longer up to the challenges highlighted at COP26”, especially now the European Union has set a new target of a 55% reduction.

The head of the HCC also warned that “the carbon neutrality scenarios of many states are very fragile and not very credible because they postpone the bulk of the effort after 2030 while action for the current decade must be taken now”.<sup>207</sup> Mainstream media reported on the findings of the HCC mostly factually.

The April 2022 IPCC report garnered wider coverage, with media ranging from local papers to national radio to lifestyle magazines discussing the outcomes and the findings of the paper.

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204 <https://www.rfi.fr/asi-pacifique/20211111-leurs-%C3%AElles-coulent-comment-les-petits-%C3%A9tats-insulaires-tendent-de-se-d%C3%A9battre-%C3%A0-la-cop>

205 <https://reseauactionclimat.org/la-france-devrait-reduire-ses-emissions-de-168-dici-2030-selon-le-principe-dequite/>

206 <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/climat-et-environnement/la-lutte-contre-les-changements-climatiques/le-financement-un-enjeu-essentiel-dans-la-lutte-contre-le-changement-climatique/#:~:text=Dans%20ce%20cadre%2C%20la%20France,par%20rapport%20%C3%A0%20la%20moyenne>

207 [https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2021/12/16/le-haut-conseil-pour-le-climat-appelle-la-france-a-acceler-ses-efforts-et-renforcer-ses-objectifs\\_6106247\\_3244.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2021/12/16/le-haut-conseil-pour-le-climat-appelle-la-france-a-acceler-ses-efforts-et-renforcer-ses-objectifs_6106247_3244.html)

The topic of the environment in the French public discourse has been noticeably absent during the electoral campaign for the April 2022 presidential election. Many outlets noted that during a televised debate between the two final candidates only 18 minutes out of three hours were devoted to the issue.<sup>208</sup>

Marine Le Pen distanced herself from the climate change deniers that make up some of her electorate by saying she is “in favour of the ecological transition” albeit a “much slower one than is currently being imposed on the French”<sup>209</sup>, despite the HCC’s appeal to speed up the transition to achieve net zero by 2050.

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208 <https://www.nouvelobs.com/election-presidentielle-2022/20220421.OBS57431/macron-et-le-pen-pas-a-la-hauteur-des-enjeux-climatiques-lors-du-debat-tonnent-wwf-et-greenpeace.html>

209 [https://www.lemonde.fr/election-presidentielle-2022/article/2022/04/21/entre-emmanuel-macron-et-marine-le-pen-une-opposition-frontale-sur-la-lutte-contre-le-dereglement-climatique\\_6123073\\_6059010.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/election-presidentielle-2022/article/2022/04/21/entre-emmanuel-macron-et-marine-le-pen-une-opposition-frontale-sur-la-lutte-contre-le-dereglement-climatique_6123073_6059010.html)



# GERMANY

## Overview

Since COP26, two important developments are likely to have an increasing impact on Germany's climate policies: In December 2021, Olaf Scholz took over as Germany's new chancellor at the head of a three-party coalition government, which includes The Greens. In addition, the Russian invasion of Ukraine may cause Germany to speed up investments in renewables as it seeks to move away from reliance on Russian oil and gas. At the same time, it may force the government to postpone its planned phase-out of coal, which provides about 30% of Germany's electricity.

The fast-moving Ukraine crisis is forcing a rethink on Germany's energy policies and goals. The coalition government is planning to overhaul key energy legislation to speed up the roll-out of renewables – in many ways going beyond agreements reached at COP26.

Germany aims at a reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions of at least 65% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

There has been factual reporting of the latest IPCC report in the German media, e.g. in news weekly Der Spiegel and weekly newspaper Die Zeit, but little commentary.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Germany has not published new NDCs. Its NDC is aligned with that of the EU – “a commitment to a binding target of a net domestic reduction of at least 55% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990”, according to an EU NDC update on 17 December 2020.<sup>210</sup>

The Clean Energy Wire (CLEW) says Germany aims to become greenhouse gas neutral by 2045. It has set a preliminary target of cutting emissions by at least 65% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, and 88% by 2040, says CLEW.<sup>211</sup>

Germany has strengthened its 2030 goals. In December 2021 it approved a plan to tackle climate change, including a goal of generating 80% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Assuming comparable future electricity usage, this will require renewable electricity generation to almost double in less than a decade. Germany also plans to stop coal mining by 2038 and many of the country's nuclear plants have already shut down, with the last to close by the end of 2022.<sup>212</sup>

Renewable energy sources are the answer to both the climate crisis and the energy crisis exacerbated by Russia's war against Ukraine, said ministers at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue on 29-30 March 2022.<sup>213</sup>

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210 [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Germany%20First/EU\\_NDC\\_Submission\\_December%202020.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Germany%20First/EU_NDC_Submission_December%202020.pdf)

211 <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-climate-targets>; website says it produces “top-quality journalism about the energy transition in Germany

212 <https://www.dw.com/en/coal-and-fossil-fuel-share-of-german-electricity-rises-in-3q/a-60114010>

213 [https://www.energydialogue.berlin/app/uploads/2022/03/220329\\_BETD22\\_Press-Release\\_EN.pdf](https://www.energydialogue.berlin/app/uploads/2022/03/220329_BETD22_Press-Release_EN.pdf)

CLEW said 2022 marks a crucial year for Germany's energy transition, with the government planning a massive acceleration of a renewables roll-out, wanting to bring forward the coal exit and create an international climate club.<sup>214</sup>

It also said the new coalition government aims for renewables' share in the country's gross final energy consumption to be 30% by 2030, adding "this puts Germany ahead of many other industrialised nations".

Germany's national climate law (passed 2019, amended 2021) states annual reduction targets for individual sectors until 2030. These are set in line with European greenhouse gas (not just carbon dioxide) emission reduction plans.

Germany has not made a new commitment to achieve net zero but is one of a handful of countries globally to have enshrined the goal of climate neutrality by or before 2050 in its national law.

Under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation, member states together are to achieve an overall emissions reduction of 10% by 2020 and 30% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. Countries are, however, required to contribute more or less depending on their relative wealth, says CLEW.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

"Global responsibility is one of the principles of the German Sustainability Strategy and part of a comprehensive vision for a sustainable future in Germany," says a Voluntary National Review of Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>215</sup>

At COP26 Germany committed €10m to support the work of the Santiago Network but there have been no mainstream press reports of Santiago post COP. A final decision on the enactment of the Santiago Network is expected to be taken at the UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP27).<sup>216</sup>

The Heinrich Böll Foundation, a think-tank with links to the German Green party, says finance for loss and damage was a critical issue at COP26. It said that while the outcome in the Glasgow Climate Pact was "underwhelming", the momentum gained on this issue could lead to more success at COP27 in Egypt.<sup>217</sup>

"After the meagre COP26 outcome that did little more than to launch a dialogue... the G7 could use 2022 to demonstrate leadership and rebuild trust with vulnerable countries," says germanclimatefinance, a website run by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.<sup>218</sup>

Germany is the second largest donor of ODA<sup>219</sup> and one of the top 10 bilateral donors on adaptation.<sup>220</sup> The Adaptation Fund raised a record \$356m in new pledges at COP26 and Germany was one of the top two donors.<sup>221</sup>

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214 <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/dossiers/preview-2022-new-german-govt-enters-decisive-energy-transition-year-high-climate-ambitions>

215 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/germany>

216 <https://unepdtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ld-cop26.pdf>

217 <https://us.boell.org/en/2021/12/16/deferred-not-defeated-outcome-loss-and-damage-finance-cop26-and-next-steps>

218 <https://www.germanclimatefinance.de/2022/03/02/german-g7-presidency-five-areas-for-advancing-climate-finance-in-2022/>

219 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/germany>

220 [https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37311/AGR21\\_ANEN.pdf](https://wedocs.unep.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/37311/AGR21_ANEN.pdf)

221 <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/adaptation-fund-raises-record-us-356-million-in-new-pledges-at-cop26-for-its-concrete-actions-to-most-vulnerable/>

However, Germany's annual commitments to the Adaptation Fund since 2013 have fluctuated widely and there is no clear growth trend... While it always "emphasizes the relevance of climate funds... so far only a fraction of German climate financing is allocated to them," says [germanclimatefinance](#).

In 2020 Germany was the largest contributor in absolute terms to the Adaptation Fund with \$456m, 0.012% of its GDP. "Germany should continue to lead the way, especially within the EU, in encouraging donor countries to increase their previous pledges to the Fund and encouraging others that have not yet pledged," says [germanclimatefinance](#).<sup>222</sup>

Germany also funds and coordinates the International Climate Initiative (IKI). IKI says Germany is a key element of climate financing and funding commitments in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Initiative places clear emphasis on climate change mitigation, adaption to the impacts of climate change and the protection of biological diversity.<sup>223</sup>

Germany's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) supports partner countries in strengthening their adaptation capacity to increase their resilience. GIZ's focus is promoting comprehensive climate risk management, cross-sectoral analysis and the planning, and financing of adaptation measures.<sup>224</sup>

## Finance

In June, Germany pledged to increase budget allocations to climate finance from €4bn (\$4.21bn) to €6bn (\$6.32bn) annually by 2025. There was criticism that the new commitment did not include a promise to ensure that, by 2025, half of all climate finance would be allocated to supporting adaptation. Currently, just under a fifth of German climate finance goes into adaptation, said [germanclimatefinance](#).<sup>225</sup>

There has not been widespread reporting on finance, but [Germanclimatefinance](#) said Germany, which holds the G7 presidency in 2022, should "lead by example and up its current pledge and increase budget allocations for climate finance to reach at least €8bn (\$8.42bn) per year by 2025 (with mobilised finance used to form loans coming on top)".

[Germanclimatefinance](#) said in March 2022 that Germany's G7 presidency offered a unique opportunity for the German government to advance the global climate finance agenda and make good for some of the rich countries' (including Germany's) shortfalls of the past. It described the outcome on climate finance at COP26 as "mediocre", basing its article on a joint paper by Care, Germanwatch and Oxfam.<sup>226</sup>

The G7 process offers the opportunity to take important steps towards a new paradigm for climate finance, based on "actual needs in recipient countries that also... focus on the most vulnerable people and countries," it added. The same report says rich countries announced new pledges to increase finance, indicating "they will reach the \$100bn level by 2023 – three years late", adding that other areas of concern on climate finance remain untouched, i.e. "much finance is being provided in the form of loans, worsening debt levels in countries with stretched budgets".

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222 <https://www.germanclimatefinance.de/2021/09/30/stable-and-predictable-funding-for-the-adaptation-fund-what-can-germany-do/>

223 <https://ndcpartnership.org/funding-and-initiatives-navigator/international-climate-initiative-iki>

224 <https://www.giz.de/expertise/html/60102.html>

225 <https://www.germanclimatefinance.de/2021/06/15/g7-summit-germany-pledges-to-increase-climate-finance/>

226 <https://www.germanclimatefinance.de/2022/03/02/german-g7-presidency-five-areas-for-advancing-climate-finance-in-2022>

“Only a quarter of the current roughly \$80bn a year in climate finance is dedicated to supporting adaptation, way off course to achieve the agreed balance between mitigation and adaptation in the allocation of climate finance,” the report said, noting needs in developing countries are set to rise to up to \$300bn a year by 2030.<sup>227</sup>

An FT article restated that at COP26 G7 leaders had reaffirmed the \$100bn target, with only Germany and Canada offering more.<sup>228</sup>

## Delivery

Germany is already moving on its aim to fight the climate crisis and its dependence on fossil fuel imports by speeding up the rollout of renewables with an overhaul of key legislation.

In an “Easter package” draft law of over 500 pages, the “biggest energy policy reform in decades”, the government plans to take the rollout of wind and solar power to a new level, CLEW reported. It aims to free up land for green power production and increase wind and solar additions to achieve nearly 100% renewable power by 2035. The energy industry has welcomed the package as a starting point for the faster roll-out of wind and solar energy. Russia’s war against Ukraine has added a sense of urgency and the government sees renewables as “a matter of national security”.<sup>229</sup>

Chancellor Scholz highlighted Germany’s goal to become climate-neutral by 2045, saying the ‘Easter Package’ showed clear intentions. “Now, more than ever, we will become independent of the use of fossil resources.”

The package includes draft reforms of the [Renewable Energy Act](#), the [offshore wind](#) law, the energy industry law, and legislation to speed up power transmission grid development. It could be adopted in the first half of 2022 and a second package of reforms could come by Summer 2022.<sup>230</sup>

Germany’s climate law (amended in 2021) states that new emission budgets for after 2030 will be set in 2024, and they “must be in line with the goals of the law and the requirements of the EU - climate neutrality by 2050”.<sup>231</sup>

A report in weekly news magazine Der Spiegel showed almost half of Germans polled believe the new government’s climate policy is progressing faster than before, but also just over half believe they will be personally disadvantaged by it and a similar proportion fear it will increase social disparity.<sup>232</sup>

In his December 2021 inaugural address to the Bundestag, Scholz said his government would focus on climate change, particularly on the transition to renewables. He said his coalition’s target of bringing a coal phaseout forward from 2038 to 2030 was conditional on the ability of renewables to take up the slack. He said private companies would drive new innovations in climate neutrality, supported by subsidies, government policies and existing market mechanisms.<sup>233</sup>

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227 <https://www.germanclimatefinance.de/2022/03/02/german-g7-presidency-five-areas-for-advancing-climate-finance-in-2022>

228 <https://www.ft.com/content/78cae12f-9afc-4796-a85a-1b5a63137bf9>

229 <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/germany-boosts-renewables-biggest-energy-policy-reform-decades>

230 <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/news/germany-boosts-renewables-biggest-energy-policy-reform-decades>

231 <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-climate-targets>

232 <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/umfrage-zur-ampel-mehrheit-fuerchtet-soziale-folgen-der-klimapolitik-a-5f530839-b3f0-4fcb-bb8d-7633dd334653>

233 <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-new-chancellor-olaf-scholz-briefs-bundestag-for-the-first-time/a-60124735>

# INDIA

## Overview

India's commitment to a net zero emissions target by 2070 has received prominent media coverage since COP26.

Being among the most vulnerable countries, India has called on rich nations to provide climate finance and technology to support its transition. The local media have also been pushing for global financing.

India is the third largest emitter<sup>234</sup> of greenhouse gases after US and China and will need investments worth \$12.4 trillion from developed nations for transition, one study says.<sup>235</sup>

The government continues to work towards a steady shift away from the use of traditional biomass and coal, in line with its COP26 commitments.

However, while the media is optimistic about the government's climate actions, some concerns remain regarding meeting the 2030 non-fossil fuel energy target.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

India has not updated NDCs announced at COP26. At the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced five<sup>236</sup> - net zero carbon emissions by 2070; 500GW of renewable energy by 2030; 50% renewable energy by 2030; reduction of one billion tonnes of carbon emissions by 2021 to 2030, and total carbon emissions reduction of 45%.

The media have been following what they see as India's "bold and ambitious target".<sup>237</sup>

In March 2022, the federal government said that India was "on track"<sup>238</sup> to meet its NDCs.

Both the government and the media have been vocal about the "historical responsibility of developed countries for consuming the carbon budget"<sup>239</sup> and sought climate financing for developing countries – a stance reinforced by the UN's IPCC report<sup>240</sup> on 4 April 2022.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav welcomed the IPCC report, with the media prominently leading with his statement that it "justifies India's emphasis on equity"<sup>241</sup> in climate action.

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234 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/11/17/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-world-bank-group-s-south-asia-climate-roadmap>

235 <https://av.sc.com/in/content/docs/in-transition-to-meet-long-term-net-zero-goals.pdf>

236 <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/economy/why-union-budget-2022-23-is-not-good-in-environmental-terms-81535>

237 <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/climate-change/india-s-new-climate-targets-bold-ambitious-and-a-challenge-for-the-world-80022>

238

239 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ipcc-report-justifies-indias-emphasis-on-equity-at-all-scales-in-climate-action-and-sustainable-development-govt/articleshow/90669972.cms>

240 <https://www.ipcc.ch/2022/04/04/ipcc-ar6-wgiii-pressrelease/>

241 <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/ipcc-climate-report-fully-supports-indias-view-for-developing-nations-environment-minister-bhupender-yadav-2863761>

The media also highlighted a study Standard Chartered Bank, which said that India would need \$12.4 trillion to transition to net zero emissions.<sup>242</sup>

The media also highlighted Yadav's announcement in March on India having "already overachieved"<sup>243</sup> its commitment by meeting 40% of its power capacity with non-fossil fuels, and now aims to meet 50% of its electricity needs<sup>244</sup> using renewable energy sources by 2030. However, some experts have been sceptical, saying India's "pathway to net-zero emissions seem distant".<sup>245</sup>

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's focus on energy transition<sup>246</sup> in the 2022-2023 federal budget is aimed at meeting the country's emission reduction target.

Indian media have also highlighted the government's move to push households towards a steady transition away from the use of traditional biomass.<sup>247</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Not much has been reported in the Indian media on adaptation and loss and damage since COP26, though some outlets noted the UNDP's climate action grant of \$2.2 million<sup>248</sup> for 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India, and the UK government's move to invest<sup>249</sup> in India's clean energy transition

The enactment of the "Santiago Network" also saw little coverage in the Indian media, with some questioning the lack of action on that account.

A few outlets urged richer countries to "deliver on the promised technological and financial transfers",<sup>250</sup> while climate expert Harjeet Singh called for addressing the "finance gaps in scaling up adaptation and addressing loss and damage".<sup>251</sup>

The Indian Express's business editor Anil Sasi also questioned Rachel Kyte, a member of the UN group on climate action, on why "there's very little to show in terms of commitments"<sup>252</sup> on loss and damage. Kyte attributed it to the "stalemate between the developing world and the US and the EU" on the issue.

## Finance

Local media have been as vocal as the government in seeking global financing for the energy transition.

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242 <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/economy/story/india-will-need-124-tn-to-meet-long-term-net-zero-goals-standard-chartered-report-328698-2022-04-05>

243 <https://www.wionews.com/world/wion-climate-summit-indian-policies-to-be-based-on-equity-and-climate-justice-says-environment-minister-462589>

244 <https://www.news18.com/news/opinion/india-can-lead-the-world-in-the-transition-towards-renewable-energy-4936880.html>

245 <https://www.news18.com/news/opinion/india-can-lead-the-world-in-the-transition-towards-renewable-energy-4936880.html>

246 <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/union-budget-energy-climate-7751166/>

247 <https://www.news18.com/news/opinion/india-can-lead-the-world-in-the-transition-towards-renewable-energy-4936880.html>

248 [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/undp-announces-2-2-million-in-climate-action-grants-for-innovators-122041200175\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/undp-announces-2-2-million-in-climate-action-grants-for-innovators-122041200175_1.html)

249

250 <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/editorials/house-on-fire-384146>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/6-million-raised-in-charity-to-tackle-climate-crisis-101647799440601.html>

251 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/6-million-raised-in-charity-to-tackle-climate-crisis-101647799440601.html>

252 <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-should-be-a-hugely-investable-proposition-for-the-rest-of-the-world-7863007/>



“India is the third largest contributor to global carbon emissions but receives only 5% of annual global charity to mitigate the effects of climate change,”<sup>253</sup> the India Climate Collaborative said. The organisation is founded by Indian philanthropists and directs funding and visibility towards climate action, having raised \$6m<sup>254</sup> since it was established in January 2020.

According to India’s Economic Survey<sup>255</sup> in January 2022, “climate financing will be the key” for India to meet its mitigation targets.<sup>256</sup>

## Delivery

Following the latest IPCC report (April 2022) which calls for coal to be phased out, local media have reiterated the need for India to cut fossil fuel.

However, Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi recently said that energy transition away from coal will not take place in the “foreseeable future”, as demand has yet to peak, and is expected to increase 63% from current demand to the range of 1.3-1.5 billion tonnes by 2030.<sup>257</sup>

Energy specialist Vibhuti Garg said: “If developed countries provided finance and technology, this transition could be faster but without that India is already doing much more than its fair share.”<sup>258</sup>

India is the world’s second-largest consumer and importer of coal,<sup>259</sup> according to the International Energy Agency’s 2021 India energy outlook report. However, “India’s per capita emissions are seven times lower than that of the US”,<sup>260</sup> other reports add.

Some media outlets have urged India to “speed up the shift away from coal”.<sup>261</sup>

The government is optimistic on other fronts, with India’s Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari stating India is “on the path”<sup>262</sup> to shift to alternate fuel and that he expected the “total scenario will change” in five years.

The media also highlighted government initiatives for its climate action commitment, including the Green Hydrogen Policy<sup>263</sup> International Solar Alliance, and electric vehicles<sup>264</sup> – all of which are reflected in the latest Economic Survey.<sup>265</sup>

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253 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/6-million-raised-in-charity-to-tackle-climate-crisis-101647799440601.html>

254 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/6-million-raised-in-charity-to-tackle-climate-crisis-101647799440601.html>

255 <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/eschapter/epreface.pdf>

256 <https://www.business-standard.com/about/what-is-economic-survey>

257 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/not-moving-away-from-coal-anytime-sooncentre-101648577007007.html>

258 <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/unpacking-the-glasgow-pact-what-does-indias-coal-usage-look-like-1053000.html>

259 <https://www.iea.org/reports/india-energy-outlook-2021>

260 <https://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/sustainable-lifestyles-to-be-focus-of-india-s-stand-in-climate-talks-101645590404512.html>

261 <https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/editorials/2022/apr/15/time-to-grapple-with-climate-change-is-now-2442165.html>

262 <https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/alternative-fuels-ev-sales-set-to-rise-scenario-will-change-in-5-years-says-gadkari/90282629>

263 <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/opinion-green-hydrogen-policy-is-india-taking-the-right-steps/90768917>

264 <https://zeenews.india.com/electric-vehicles/how-india-plans-to-push-electric-vehicle-growth-to-ensure-cleaner-environment-2451884.html>

265 <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/eschapter/epreface.pdf>



# INDONESIA

## Overview

Indonesia took on the G20 Presidency in December 2021 and will host the 17<sup>th</sup> G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in Bali on 15-16 November 2022.

Indonesia has renewed its NDC commitment by adding an ambition to reach net zero by 2060 or earlier. Some media commentators and experts consider the 2060 target too far away and insufficient to support achieving global climate goals set in the Paris Agreement.

Since Paris, the country has issued several regulations to facilitate the green financing it desperately needs to achieve its goals, including new Carbon Economic Value regulation and the green taxonomy. The government is also in the process of drafting the Climate Change Fiscal Framework.

Despite some progress in the past few months, media and critics said they did not see significant progress in capping emission reductions from the key sectors with the biggest emissions: the energy and forestry sector.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

In its latest NDC published in July last year, Indonesia set its emission reduction target to between 29% and 41% with international support.<sup>266</sup> While this target is similar to the commitment announced in COP21 in Paris, Indonesia added that it sought to reach net-zero emissions by 2060, if not earlier.<sup>267</sup>

Following climate announcements by Indonesian President Joko Widodo, known as Jokowi, at COP26, several media outlets said the plans were not ambitious enough.

Environmental news website Mongabay quoted the executive director of the Institute for Essential Services Reform, Fabby Tumiwa, who said President Jokowi's speech at COP26 was "not impressive".<sup>268</sup> "Fangless in the fight for emission reduction" was one headline in the newspaper Tempo.<sup>269</sup>

The newspaper argued that to fall in line with the Paris agreement to cap temperature rise to below 2°C, Indonesia's emissions must drop by 622 million tonnes in 2030 (excluding the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors) and reach carbon neutral in 2050.

Another website, The Conversation, said: "As one of the largest emitters in the world, Indonesia has an important role to play in the global race to net-zero emissions. Sadly, the government only targets 2060 to achieve net-zero emissions in Indonesia, a longer timeframe than what is needed."<sup>270</sup>

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<sup>266</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Indonesia%20First/Updated%20NDC%20Indonesia%202021%20-%20corrected%20version.pdf>

<sup>267</sup> <https://majalah.tempo.co/read/info-tempo/164540/komitmen-kurangi-emisi-tak-sejalan-dengan-kelestarian-gambut>

<sup>268</sup> <https://www.mongabay.co.id/2021/12/11/catatan-pasca-cop26-membaca-arrah-skema-energi-nasional-indonesia/>

<sup>269</sup> <https://koran.tempo.co/read/berita-utama/469157/mengapa-target-penurunan-emisi-karbon-indonesia-belum-memadai>

<sup>270</sup> <https://theconversation.com/heres-how-indonesia-could-get-to-zero-emission-in-its-energy-sector-by-2050-170291#:~:text=As%20one%20of%20the%20largest,timeframe%20than%20what%20is%20needed>

In the same Conversation article, President Widodo revealed at a post-Glasgow discussion that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson tried to persuade him to follow other countries in reaching net zero emissions earlier, by 2050 instead of 2060. The president said the difficulty of committing to the more ambitious target was due to contracts already in place to build coal-fired power plants. However, Widodo told Johnson that Indonesia could potentially use rivers as an alternative renewable energy source to reduce its reliance on coal, the article added.<sup>271</sup>

Indonesia is eager to continue seeking financing commitments from overseas. The country's Coordinating Minister for Investment and Maritime Affairs Luhut Pandjaitan said in November 2021 that "Indonesia is ready to reduce its emission to up to 41%, even 50%, if the world would give us strong support."<sup>272</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

As an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is prone to climate-induced disasters and expects to receive adaptation financing from developed countries.

The country's National Planning and Development Agency said Indonesia could potentially incur costs of up to 544tn rupiah (\$37bn) between 2020 and 2024 as a result of climate crises.<sup>273</sup>

In January 2022, the environment and forestry ministry instructed provincial governors across the country to implement mitigation and adaptation measures, including the carbon economic value principles. The ministry also asked the governors to register the private sector and other activities in the National Registration System as part of an effort to achieve the NDC and Emission Mitigation.<sup>274</sup>

## Finance

To fulfil its NDC, Indonesia's Fiscal Policy Agency said in November that it requires 3,834tn rupiah<sup>275</sup> (\$269bn) until 2030 to reduce its emissions. Indonesia is focussing on reducing emissions in five sectors, including in energy, forestry and land use, and waste – with energy requiring the most funding to do so.<sup>276</sup>

In 2020, the allocation for mitigation and adaptation in the state budget was 88.81tn rupiah, while in 2018 and 2019, the government had allocated 132.45tn rupiah and 97.66tn rupiah respectively.<sup>277</sup> This amount is insufficient as Indonesian government officials have said the country will require at least 340tn rupiah annually for the next 10 years.

Indonesia is looking to fulfil its financing needs in several ways, including by the private sector and multinational development banks. For example, Indonesia has in recent years received \$103.78m from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its REDD+ programme. The GCF has also approved the funding of nine projects in Indonesia, including for the Rapid Bus Transit in Central Java and Geothermal Resource Risk Mitigation Project.

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<sup>271</sup> Ibid.

<sup>272</sup> <https://money.kompas.com/read/2021/11/04/104000126/ini-langkah-ri-untuk-pangkas-emisi-karbon->

<sup>273</sup> <https://ekbis.sindonews.com/read/766453/33/gara-gara-perubahan-iklim-sepanjang-4-tahun-indonesia-bisa-tekor-rp544-triliun-1652259922>

<sup>274</sup> <http://ppid.menlhk.go.id/berita/siaran-pers/6381/menteri-lhk-meminta-para-gubernur-untuk-pemahaman-bersama-tentang-perkembangan-perubahan-iklim-dan-karbon>

<sup>275</sup> <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/ekonomi/20211119165853-532-723578/sri-mulyani-indonesia-butuh-rp3834-t-untuk-capai-target-ndc>

<sup>276</sup> <https://majalah.tempo.co/read/lingkungan/165026/pejuang-investasi-krisis-iklim>

<sup>277</sup> <https://www.kompas.id/baca/telaah/2022/02/04/upaya-pendanaan-perubahan-iklim-di-indonesia>

Through the REDD+ programme, Indonesia also signed an agreement with the government of Norway. Norway has agreed to provide \$1m for a moratorium to stop deforestation. Unsatisfied with the progress of the initiative, however, Indonesia pulled out from the agreement in September 2021.

President Widodo passed the regulation on Carbon Economic Value in November, with the aim of attracting global green financing into the country.<sup>278</sup> It introduces a regulatory framework on carbon pricing and carbon trading arrangements. The government is seeking to introduce further technical regulations following the presidential regulation.<sup>279</sup>

Separately, the Fiscal Policy Agency said it is drafting the Climate Change Fiscal Framework, which will set out the strategy and options to develop climate financing, including both domestic and international funding, as well as organisational and regulation prerequisites.<sup>280</sup>

Indonesia will implement carbon tax regulation on the coal-fired power plant sector from July 2022, before reviewing it to target other sectors.<sup>281</sup>

Earlier this year, Indonesia also launched its “Indonesian Green Taxonomy 1.0” in its bid to ensure the use of common vocabulary in sustainable finance.<sup>282</sup>

## Delivery

While Indonesia has sought to strengthen regulations to facilitate green financing and investment, its emission reduction agenda has been far from outstanding.

Although it managed to reduce emissions by 64.4MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2020, exceeding its target of 58 MtCo<sub>2</sub>eq, Kompas newspaper said that without increased efforts, it will be hard to achieve the emissions reduction target of 314 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030.<sup>283</sup>

Several media outlets quoted the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Arifin Tasrif saying that during the transition period to renewable energy, he hoped that Indonesia could use natural gas to fulfil its energy needs.<sup>284</sup>

Separately, during a recent visit by Germany’s special envoy to Indonesia to discuss climate cooperation between the two countries, Deutsche Welle reported that Greenpeace was sceptical of the cooperation.

“We need to see evidence of how committed the Indonesian government really is. As long as it still gives room to fossil fuel, the cooperation is not as pretty as you would imagine,” a Greenpeace spokesman said.<sup>285</sup>

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278 <https://www.shearman.com/perspectives/2022/01/committing-to-a-greener-future--indonesia-embraces-the-use-of-carbon-economic-value/news/20211102115709-4-288375/turunkan-emisi-karbon-41-di-2030-jokowi-rilis-aturan-baru>

279 <https://money.kompas.com/read/2021/11/02/111200726/bkf--indonesia-siap-capai-target-penurunan-emisi-karbon-2030>

280 <https://majalah.tempo.co/read/lingkungan/165026/pejuang-investasi-krisis-iklim>

281 <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/terapkan-pajak-karbon-1-juli-2022-pemerintah-siapkan-aturan-teknis-pelaksanaan/>

282 <https://www.ojk.go.id/keuanganberkelanjutan/en/home>

283 <https://www.kompas.id/baca/telaah/2022/02/04/upaya-pendanaan-perubahan-iklim-di-indonesia>

284 <https://voi.id/ekonomi/167357/menteri-esdm-sebut-gas-jadi-komoditas-penting-untuk-proses-transisi-energi>

285 <https://www.dw.com/id/komitmen-transisi-energi-di-indonesia/a-61786708>

The same article described the complexities of energy transition: the structure of the regulation; lack of incentives; inconsistency of the energy transition roadmap; and the lack of prioritising decentralised renewable energy development, as well as unsupportive business ecosystem and financing.

Tempo newspaper also quoted a report saying Indonesia is slow in developing renewable energy sources as it continues to rely on coal-fired power plants.

The government also issued a ministerial decree in February 2022 – the “Indonesia FoLU [Forestry and Other Land Use] Net-Sink 2030” – a plan to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and to reduce emissions from forest and other land use so that the carbon absorption from the sector is at the same level or higher than that of emissions.<sup>286</sup>

In November 2021, the Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar was heavily criticised after tweeting that massive development in President Widodo’s era must not stop in the name of carbon emissions or deforestation. Most media outlets reported criticism of her view as “disappointing, given her role”.<sup>287</sup>

Tempo newspaper also quoted an expert who said the country has not done enough to protect its forest, and that the cause of forest loss is not only due to the need for agriculture land but also a lack of protection for the environment and the lack of regulation.<sup>288</sup>

Despite being criticised for its lacklustre goals and delivery, Indonesia has continued calling on developed countries to realise the \$100bn-per-year long-term financing, a mechanism agreed in the Paris Agreement.

Tempo quoted Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati saying: “The question is how big is the developed countries’ contribution? What technology can they transfer to us? This requires action, implementation as soon as possible.”<sup>289</sup>

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286 <https://www.kompas.com/properti/read/2022/05/12/153000621/wamen-lhk--indonesia-serius-tangani-perubahan-iklim-lewat-folu-net-sink>

287 <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/11/04/11533401/kritik-twit-menteri-lhk-soal-deforestasi-walhi-kok-malah-pro-pembangunan?page=all>

288 <https://koran.tempo.co/read/berita-utama/469157/mengapa-target-penurunan-emisi-karbon-indonesia-belum-memadai?>

289 [https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/1526869/dana-iklim-usd-100-m-negara-maju-mandek-sri-mulyani-janjinya-sudah-dari-kapan?page\\_num=2](https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/1526869/dana-iklim-usd-100-m-negara-maju-mandek-sri-mulyani-janjinya-sudah-dari-kapan?page_num=2)

# ITALY

## Overview

As the coronavirus pandemic subsides, Italy is relying on the most substantial chunk of the EU's Recovery Fund to kickstart a plan of reforms and investments across several areas. A sizeable amount of the resources are due to be invested in making the country more sustainable and environmentally resilient.

The climate discussion, however, is rarely at the forefront of Italian public debate. The outcomes of COP26 were widely reported on by the Italian media, but current concerns over energy, following the disruption caused by the war in Ukraine, have shifted the focus from the need to invest in sustainable energy sources to the procurement of natural gas and an increased use of coal power plants.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

To reach new European objectives, Italy will need to cut 200m tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 years – roughly double the 100m tonnes it cut from 1990 to 2020, former environment minister Edo Ronchi has said in an article for Huffington Post Italia. Ronchi argues that an equivalent of the UK's Climate Change Act is “sorely needed” if Italy wants to meet the 2030 and 2050 European targets.

At COP26, Italy signed a deal to end overseas financing for fossil fuels, reversing its position at the last minute. A Bloomberg report noted that “the pact isn't binding and would still allow limited support for foreign fossil fuel ventures... but it does mark a further tightening of the flow of money from public development banks to oil, gas and coal”. Italian NGOs praised the decision, noting that Italy's fossil fuel subsidies currently amount to €17.7bn (\$18.7bn).<sup>290</sup>

Italy plans to spend over €70bn (\$74bn) of the €191bn (\$202bn) in grants and loans it will receive through the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility on measures that support climate objectives. These include boosting the energy efficiency of buildings as well as measures to promote the use of renewable energy sources and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through investments in urban mobility and railway infrastructure.<sup>291</sup>

In March 2021, the minister for ecological transition, Roberto Cingolani, said that EU financing will help Italy cut its carbon emissions by around 60% by 2030 – above the EU's target of a 55% reduction of emissions by the same year.<sup>292</sup>

However, Italian media have pointed out that the percentage of EU funds Italy will allocate to achieving climate objectives is one of the lowest in the bloc – 37% against an average of 40%.<sup>293</sup> This is despite the fact that Italy is set to receive the largest chunk of EU post-COVID financing.<sup>294</sup>

290 <https://www.greenpeace.org/italy/comunicato-stampa/14426/dalla-cop-26-di-glasgow-stop-ai-crediti-allesportazione-ambientalmente-dannosi/#:~:text=Mettere%20fine%20ai%20Sussidi%20Ambientalmente,che%20ancora%20oggi%20ammontano%20a>

291 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3126](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126)

292 [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/european-green-deal/2030-climate-target-plan\\_it](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/european-green-deal/2030-climate-target-plan_it)

293 [https://www.ansa.it/canale\\_ambiente/notizie/green\\_economy/2021/12/15/italia-sotto-la-media-ue-per-fondi-pnrr-su-ecotransizione\\_6f376ea5-3a6c-472d-951e-423ab7b6845f.html](https://www.ansa.it/canale_ambiente/notizie/green_economy/2021/12/15/italia-sotto-la-media-ue-per-fondi-pnrr-su-ecotransizione_6f376ea5-3a6c-472d-951e-423ab7b6845f.html)

294 <https://apnews.com/article/italy-europe-health-coronavirus-pandemic-business-ed931b3c5d304b22a4e7f2df8cf3be15>

## **Adaptation and loss and damage**

Both before and after COP26, several Italian media outlets focused on the failure of rich countries to gather the \$100bn promised. Observers such as the prominent ISPI think tank noted that the goal of spending \$100bn is largely symbolic, as “in reality, [developing countries] need trillions, not billions”.<sup>295</sup> However, the results of the summit were largely reported factually with little to no comment or assessment.

Perhaps the harshest critic of all was the minister for the ecological transition, Roberto Cingolani, who was interviewed extensively on the outcomes of COP26 and consistently expressed his disappointment in the results, notably during an interview with Radio24, in which he said he was “deeply dissatisfied” with the financial outcomes of the conference: “I don’t think all the participants understand the concept of solidarity,” he said.<sup>296</sup>

During a speech to MPs in January, Cingolani doubled down on his criticism: “The failure to gather \$100bn “undermined the credibility of developed countries... This had been a key element of the debate.”<sup>297</sup> Cingolani also said that while COP26’s final statement noted the failure to reach that sum, it also “failed to outline a way to solve this problem by 2025 and merely encouraged developed countries to ‘urgently’ put together the \$100bn until 2025. I personally feel this is the weakest outcome of all.”

In March 2022, an opinion piece in the daily *Il Giornale* criticised the current state of climate financing around the world, arguing that “money alone is not enough: the funds needs to be spent on concrete action to fight the climate crisis”. The piece stated that wealthy countries currently have “ample discretion” in terms of the projects they finance, which often results in lower-budget or “PR-friendly” endeavours.<sup>298</sup>

## **Finance**

In September 2021, Minister Cingolani spoke at the Youth4Climate pre-COP conference in Milan and said that Italy should double its contribution to climate adaptation to around €1bn (\$1.06bn) per year.

The following month, at the October 2021 G20 in Rome, PM Mario Draghi committed to bringing the Italian climate finance budget from €500m (\$529m) to €1.4bn (\$1.48bn) a year from 2022 to 2028. However, climate think-tank ECCO estimates that Italy’s fair contribution should be around \$4bn.<sup>299</sup>

## **Delivery**

In November 2021, a joint report by three NGOs placed Italy 30th out of 90 countries for its efforts in fighting climate change. The fall from 27<sup>th</sup> position previously was attributed to a slowing down in the development of renewable energy.<sup>300</sup>

<sup>295</sup> <https://www.ispionline.it/it/pubblicazione/finanza-climatica-cosa-manca-realizzare-gli-impegni-della-cop26-32341>

<sup>296</sup> <https://www.ilsolo24ore.com/art/clima-cingolani-mancato-l-obiettivo-100-miliardi-paesi-vulnerabili-AEPWm4w>

<sup>297</sup>

[https://www.camera.it/leg18/1058?idLegislatura=18&tipologia=audiz2&sottotipologia=audizione&anno=2021&mese=12&giorno=07&idCommissione=08c13&numero=0002&file=indice\\_stenografico](https://www.camera.it/leg18/1058?idLegislatura=18&tipologia=audiz2&sottotipologia=audizione&anno=2021&mese=12&giorno=07&idCommissione=08c13&numero=0002&file=indice_stenografico)

<sup>298</sup> <https://www.ilgiornale.it/news/finanza-sostenibile/intervenire-salvare-finanza-climatica-2020865.html>

<sup>299</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/italy-hikes-climate-finance-contribution-14-bln-per-year-next-five-yea-2021-10-31/>

<sup>300</sup> <http://www.rainews.it/archivio-rainews/articoli/Cop26-Italia-scende-al-30-posto-in-classifica-otta-a-cambiamenti-climatici-a70e8529-ee66-4ea2-9cb9-693a9848480e.html>

The war in Ukraine also threatens to severely undermine Italy's efforts to move away from coal.

At the end of February 2022, parliament approved a decree which allows electricity suppliers to diversify energy sources, suspending the usual priority given to gas. The same decree also halts the decommissioning of six coal power plants that were scheduled to close down by 2025.<sup>301</sup>

While Italy does not yet have a law that makes achieving net zero targets legally binding, a law building protection of the environment into the constitution was approved by parliament in February 2022. The law says the state must safeguard the environment, biodiversity and the ecosystem "also in the interest of future generations". The new law was widely praised, with popular daily La Repubblica stating that it was "decades overdue".<sup>302</sup>

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<sup>301</sup> <https://www.open.online/2022/02/28/guerra-ucraina-decreto-italia-gas/>

<sup>302</sup> [https://www.repubblica.it/green-and-blue/2022/02/09/news/tutela\\_ambiente\\_costituzione\\_cosa\\_cambia-337003607/](https://www.repubblica.it/green-and-blue/2022/02/09/news/tutela_ambiente_costituzione_cosa_cambia-337003607/)



# JAPAN

## Overview

Japan has not made significant progress or implemented new measures towards realising its COP26 pledges.

It updated its climate priorities in the build-up to the summit and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced at the summit that Japan would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 46% by 2030, in addition to other announcements such as signing up to the Global Methane Pledge. While this marks a major improvement from earlier, Climate Action Tracker still rates this as “almost sufficient”.

Kishida also announced that Japan would step up efforts and financing to boost global climate change adaptation and green innovation and play a leading role in helping Asia transition to zero-emission power generation. However, Climate Action Tracker maintains Japan’s climate finance contributions are “critically insufficient”, particularly given its continued funding for fossil fuels overseas.

The country’s goal of carbon neutrality involves switching from these fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, but this may be a challenge as Japan still relies heavily on coal, oil and natural gas.

Despite these obstacles, Japan continues to prioritise its Green Growth Plan for sustainable economic growth alongside the push for net zero emissions, and in May 2021 enshrined in law the government's vision of carbon neutrality.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Japan has not updated its NDC since COP26, having submitted its current commitments to the UNFCCC days before the Glasgow conference began.

In that update, Japan pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 46% by 2030 with respect to 2013 levels<sup>303</sup> - amounting to 760 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq - while continuing to strive for an even more ambitious target of 50%.

Addressing COP26 after the NDC update, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to these targets and to contributing to global climate change adaptation, financing, green innovation and a transition to zero-emission power generation across Asia.<sup>304</sup>

This pledge to reduce emissions by 46-50% came as part of the government's overall vision of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, a goal first outlined by former Prime Minister Yoshida Suga<sup>305</sup> and continued by his successor Kishida.

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303 [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Japan%20First/JAPAN\\_FIRST%20NDC%20\(UPDATED%20SUBMISSION\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Japan%20First/JAPAN_FIRST%20NDC%20(UPDATED%20SUBMISSION).pdf)

304 [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page22e\\_000969.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page22e_000969.html)

305 [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/statement/202010/\\_00006.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202010/_00006.html)

The country's strategy for working towards net zero emissions by 2050 is laid out in its Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050 roadmap,<sup>306</sup> first unveiled in December 2020 and last updated in June 2021.

The current NDC considerably exceeds the previous target of a 26% emissions reduction.<sup>307</sup>

While the current target of 46% is far more ambitious, Climate Action Tracker rates it “almost sufficient”, as it is not yet enough to be in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C global warming limit but could potentially reach that level “with moderate improvements”.<sup>308</sup>

However, in terms of fair-share emissions allocation, Climate Action Tracker still rates Japan's enhanced NDC as “insufficient”, highlighting that it should also include additional financial support to developing countries for emissions reduction.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Japan has not been observed to comment on adaptation at a global level in its latest NDC, although its national adaptation plans mention support for developing countries.

It has also not commented on the Santiago Network and global loss and damage, beyond a brief mention in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' factual summary of the key overall themes and events from COP26.<sup>309</sup>

Japan enacted the Climate Change Adaptation Law in June 2018, under which the government must adopt a national Climate Change Adaptation Plan every five years.<sup>310</sup> The current plan was adopted in 2018,<sup>311</sup> with its most recent revision approved in October 2021.<sup>312</sup>

This plan outlines the overall direction of measures required for climate change adaptation and sector-wise measures for implementation.

Its goals include promoting international cooperation on climate change adaptation and providing support to developing countries.

As part of this effort, at the G7 Summit in June, Japan pledged to provide 6.5 trillion yen (\$60bn) in assistance between 2021 and 2025. It also aims to boost scientific knowledge on climate change risks, strengthen the global capacity for climate change impact assessment and adaptation, and promote collaboration with other countries and organisations.

At COP26, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged to double adaptation finance to help other countries cope with the impact of climate change, raising the amount to around \$14.8bn.<sup>313</sup>

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306 [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/energy\\_environment/global\\_warming/ggs2050/index.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/energy_environment/global_warming/ggs2050/index.html)

307 <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/03/30/japan-sticks-2030-climate-goals-accused-disappointing-lack-ambition/>

308 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/japan/targets/>

309 [https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ch/page22e\\_000969.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ch/page22e_000969.html)

310 <https://www.iea.org/articles/japan-climate-resilience-policy-indicator>

311 <http://www.env.go.jp/earth/tekiou/tekioukeikaku.pdf>

312 <http://www.env.go.jp/press/110115/1tekioukeikakuR3.pdf>

313 <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/Climate-Change/COP26/Japan-pledges-extra-10bn-of-overseas-climate-financing>

In addition to measures at the national level, regional governments are also encouraged to draft their own climate change adaptation plans and set up local adaptation centres.

To support the implementation of adaptation policies, the government has also set up the Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (A-PLAT),<sup>314</sup> which serves to raise awareness about the impact of climate change and aid local governments, industry and citizens with adaptation.

## Finance

At COP26, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged to provide \$10bn in additional assistance over the course of five years and to double adaptation finance.<sup>315</sup>

This funding came on top of around \$60bn in public and private financing already promised by the government in June 2021.

According to Kishida, this additional contribution would “include our contribution to the launch of an innovative financial facility for climate, as we partner with the Asian Development Bank and others to support the decarbonisation of Asia and beyond”.<sup>316</sup>

He also expressed Japan’s intent to play a leading role in Asia’s climate change mitigation efforts through this funding.

“Japan will press onward to undertake efforts toward net zero emissions in Asia, the engine of global economic growth,” Kishida said.<sup>317</sup>

In addition to this sum and the pledge to double the assistance provided to other countries for adaptation, Japan also said it would provide around \$240m for global forestry conservation.

Kishida also highlighted his country’s technological strengths and said its 2 trillion-yen (around \$17.5bn) Green Innovation Fund would help finance the development of next-generation batteries, motors, hydrogen and synthetic fuels. “While distributing the fruits of these innovations across Asia,” he added.<sup>318</sup>

Following Kishida’s address, US climate envoy John Kerry suggested that Tokyo’s contribution would help developed countries meet their annual commitment to provide \$100bn in climate financing for developing countries starting 2022.<sup>319</sup>

Despite such praise for Japan’s increased contribution, Climate Action Tracker rates its international climate finance as “critically insufficient”,<sup>320</sup> highlighting that its financial assistance remains very low relative to its fair share. Climate Action Tracker called on Japan to stop funding fossil fuels abroad and to accelerate its commitments to boosting climate finance.

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314 <https://adaptation-platform.nies.go.jp/en/index.html>

315 [https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ch/page22e\\_000969.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ch/page22e_000969.html)

316 <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/Climate-Change/COP26/Japan-pledges-extra-10bn-of-overseas-climate-financing>

317 <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/11/6df268f9cda6-japan-pm-kishida-leaves-for-cop26-after-general-election.html>

318 <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/Climate-Change/COP26/Japan-pledges-extra-10bn-of-overseas-climate-financing>

319 <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/japan-pledge-brings-100-bln-climate-funding-target-closer-us-envoy-says-2021-11-02/>

320 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/japan/targets/>

## Delivery

Japan is not observed to have taken major new policy actions aimed at climate change mitigation since COP26 and is largely following the path laid out before the Glasgow conference.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's pledge of a 46-50% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 with respect to 2013 levels was simply a reaffirmation of his predecessor Yoshihida Suga's April 2021 commitment,<sup>321</sup> and was formally submitted to the UNFCCC as Japan's NDC following Kishida's inauguration in October, 2021

This NDC and Japan's overall path towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050 build off the Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050 roadmap.

The Green Growth Strategy focuses particularly on 14 sectors expected to grow economically between now and 2050, bridging sustainable economic growth with an environment-focused approach to prioritise carbon neutrality.

The government aims to make a major push to boost the adoption of renewable energy across sectors, with particular emphasis on offshore wind power, solar power, geothermal power, hydrogen, fuel ammonia, nuclear energy, and other key growth areas.

As part of the strategy, Japan set up a 2 trillion-yen Green Innovation Fund to encourage the private sector's efforts to tackle ambitious environmental challenges.

The Suga administration also formally incorporated its carbon neutrality goal in May 2021 by amending Japan's existing Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures<sup>322</sup> to make the new objective one of the act's basic principles.

Despite its stated focus to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and facilitate the adoption of renewable energy, critics have raised doubts about whether this is feasible.

Japan is the world's fifth-largest carbon dioxide emitter, and relies heavily on coal, oil and natural gas, which accounted for as much as 87% of its domestic energy consumption as of 2019.<sup>323</sup>

The Green Growth Strategy's emphasis on renewable sources to replace fossil fuels indicates a push to change this, even as it aims to phase out coal-fired plants over the next two decades.<sup>324</sup>

Japan also signed up to the Global Methane Pledge at COP26, an initiative aimed at cutting domestic methane emissions to help reduce global emissions by 30% with respect to 2020 levels by 2030.<sup>325</sup>

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321 [https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ch/page6e\\_000236.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/oc/ch/page6e_000236.html)

322 <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=141e6999-7396-457a-a8e5-d8796ad84736>

323 <https://www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/JPN>

324 <https://thediplomat.com/2022/01/official-japan-hopes-to-lead-asian-zero-emissions-push/>

325 <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100274617.pdf>

# MEXICO

## Overview

Climate and the environment are not at the centre of Mexico's public policy agenda. The country has not significantly updated NDCs or followed through on commitments outlined during previous climate summits, including COP26.

Mexico has not shown a strong commitment to tackling climate change, and most of the government's talking points at international summits have been on requesting financing. The government made limited mention of the most recent IPCC report, but some media commentary stated concerns about the implications of the report or the lack of action by the government.

Mexico is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. One of the most prevalent examples of this is extreme drought.

Mexico is also one of the countries with the highest number of environmental defenders killed. In Mexico, "environmental degradation is found to be directly related to human rights violations, the displacement of indigenous communities, polarisation and violence", Animal Político said in a report. It lamented that the fight for the environment has not achieved the same influence as other social movements; particularly in the case of Mexico.<sup>326</sup>

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Mexico has not strengthened its NDCs or net zero commitments since COP26. Climate Action Tracker characterizes its commitments as "highly insufficient" and says its climate finance is "not assessed".<sup>327</sup>

Mexico joined the global commitment to reduce methane emissions, "being the first that regulated its emissions", according to a government report citing Environment Secretary Maria Luisa Albores, Mexico's representative at COP26.

Mexico will also stop exporting crude oil by 2024, according to its November commitments, producing only what is necessary for national consumption.

However, Mexico also recently constructed the Dos Bocas Refinery and purchased the Deer Park refinery in Texas, causing controversy and raising questions over its true commitment to reducing oil production and use.<sup>328</sup> Its Mayan Train project was also controversial due to its environmental impact.

Mexico has restated its commitment to multilateralism and the fight against climate change, prioritising the human perspective and the sustainable use of natural resources.

After the end of COP26, the Mexican delegate also highlighted a focus on eliminating inequalities and guaranteeing access to a healthy environment.

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<sup>326</sup> <https://www.animalpolitico.com/diversas-y-juntas/mas-alla-de-la-crisis-del-agua-colapso-climatico-y-desigualdad-social/>

<sup>327</sup> <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/mexico/>

<sup>328</sup> <https://noticiasmundo.news/dos-bocas-y-deer-park-lejos-de-ser-una-solucion-fundamental-para-garantizar-el-combustible-en-mexico/>

Mexico's climate change efforts often try to address the deep-rooted inequalities that go hand in hand with environmental crises.<sup>329</sup>

Mexico also joined the declaration to reduce contaminating gas emissions by 30% by 2030.

“Our country was committed in a non-conditional manner to reaching a reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 22% and black carbon by 51% for the year 2030,” a figure that could be higher.<sup>330</sup>

However, columnists and the media have pointed out that Mexico has not strengthened its climate objectives.

Mexico is one of only two G20 members that have not announced plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Mexican media have not mentioned much of either adaptation, loss and damage or the related Santiago network. However, they have outlined some goals related to adaptation following COP26.

“The strengthening of the processes of adaptation and the increase of resilience” are to be carried out through seven strategies focused on “reducing vulnerability, strengthening adaptation capacities and promoting resilience in the face of the impacts of climate change on the human population”, among others, says the Mexico facing Climate Change website.<sup>331</sup>

One of Mexico's main strategies to manage climate change and adapt to deforestation was the Sowing Life economic and environmental plan, through which more than 800 million trees have been planted across Mexico.<sup>332</sup> Like many of Mexico's climate adaptation plans, the Sowing Life programme focuses not only on the environment, but also social-economic issues, namely migration and lack of employment.

Mexico is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. One of the most prevalent examples of this is extreme drought.

Leading Mexican daily El Universal published an editorial in April 2022, in which it highlighted the case of Coahuila state, which registered drought across 86.4% of its territory. “The country is facing an unusual lack of water that could be more serious with the passing of years, if measures are not taken to mitigate the situation today.”<sup>333</sup>

“Day Zero, the moment that we will be without water is coming closer all the time” said one headline in the newspaper El Sol de Mexico in April 2022. At least 80% of Mexico was experiencing “severe or grave drought, the paper said, adding that some states faced an “apocalyptic situation”.<sup>334</sup>

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329 <https://cambioclimatico.gob.mx/culmina-la-participacion-de-la-delegacion-mexicana-en-la-cop26/>

330 <https://cambioclimatico.gob.mx/culmina-la-participacion-de-la-delegacion-mexicana-en-la-cop26/>

331 <https://cambioclimatico.gob.mx/publica-semarnat-el-programa-especial-de-cambio-climatico-2021-2024/>

332 <https://cambioclimatico.gob.mx/en-la-cop26-mexico-se-reitera-aliado-en-la-lucha-contr-el-cambio-climatico/>

333 <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/opinion/editorial-el-universal/un-pais-en-el-que-escasea-el-agua>

334 <https://www.elsoldemexico.com.mx/mexico/sociedad/dia-cero-el-momento-de-quedarse-sin-agua-esta-cada-vez-mas-cerca-8114268.html>

Mexico has not outwardly made efforts to double adaptation finance by 2025 and make progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation. As mentioned below, its focus has been to receive financing from developed or richer countries, rather than providing additional funding itself.

It recently criticised the US for providing resources and funding for Ukraine while it has been slow to approve the provision of additional resources to Mexico's Sowing Life plan in Central America.

## Finance

In Mexico, the primary concern is with receiving financing. Mexico is not a developed nation that provides financing to others, but a developing state in search of additional funding.

During the G20 Summit in 2021 and COP26<sup>335</sup>, government officials were clear in their request for funding from developed nations. During the G20 summit, Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard specifically asked for \$100bn to begin carrying out actions against climate change; however, "up to now it has not happened".<sup>336</sup>

"Mexico is very willing to participate, but it is very important that we make it clear that this means that the countries in a more difficult situation are going to have a supportive hand from the G20 to be able to meet their goals for adaptation and mitigation," he said.

During the COP26 conference, Environment Secretary Maria Luisa Albores also underscored the need for funding.<sup>337</sup>

"Mexico made a call to developed countries to comply – urgently – with their commitment to mobilise \$100bn per year... for climate financing", said the government report following the summit.<sup>338</sup>

However, Jorge Villarreal of the NGO Climate Initiative, has said that "The question is if Mexico has the conditions to utilise a greater flow of resources because they do not have an implementation plan or a portfolio of specific actions about the destination of [the funds]."

A report published by El Sol de Mexico also highlighted that Mexico's 2022 federal budget featured an increase in funding for the environment sector. The amount assigned to the Environment Secretariat (Semarnat) and its dependencies was a little over 40.8bn pesos (\$20.1bn), an increase of 9.4bn pesos (\$473m) compared to 2021.<sup>339</sup>

## Delivery

Mexico has failed to deliver on many of its climate change commitments, and a lack of clear policy does not create optimism that they will deliver in the near future.

In a 3 November 2021 opinion column published in Spanish newspaper El Pais, Elias Camhaji<sup>340</sup> criticised the Mexican government's lack of concrete plans or commitment to tackle climate change.

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335 <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c202zrwp>

336 [https://mexico.as.com/mexico/2021/11/01/actualidad/1635727938\\_981200.html](https://mexico.as.com/mexico/2021/11/01/actualidad/1635727938_981200.html)

337 <https://cambioclimatico.gob.mx/culmina-la-participacion-de-la-delegacion-mexicana-en-la-cop26/>

338 <https://elpais.com/mexico/2021-10-31/mexico-llega-a-la-cop26-sin-nuevos-compromisos-y-con-las-renovables-bajo-amenaza.html>

339 <https://www.elsoldemexico.com.mx/mexico/sociedad/por-atender-pandemia-mexico-se-olvido-de-crisis-climatica-7989151.html>

340 <https://elpais.com/mexico/2021-11-03/lopez-obrador-se-lanza-contr-la-cop26-ya-basta-de-hipocresia-y-de-motas.html>



“So many promises and few concrete actions” by the Mexican president, he said, noting that Lopez Obrador was absent from the COP 26 conference, and sent his environment secretary instead.

In justifying his decision to not attend Lopez Obrador said “enough with hypocrisy” and called for the world to prioritise the “monstrous inequality that there is in the world”.

“The environment has been one of the Achilles heels of the president’s agenda,” the columnist said.

Lopez Obrador has also been unwilling to accept oversight from the US, a position that was made abundantly clear following US Climate Envoy John Kerry’s visit to Mexico.<sup>341</sup> Despite having initially described the meeting as “beneficial”, the Mexican president denied having agreed to accept any US influence over Mexico’s environmental policy, in particular a focus on renewable energy.

According to presiding Supreme Court of Justice Minister Jorge Mario Pardo Rebolledo, Mexico’s Federal Electricity Commission was not obligated to generate clean energy; it would continue to be able to use plants that produced fossil fuels. Mexico originally had an objective to produce 43% clean energy in 2022.<sup>342</sup>

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<sup>341</sup> <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c203cz24>

<sup>342</sup> <https://www.infobae.com/america/mexico/2022/04/08/cambio-climatico-y-acuerdo-de-paris-fueron-ignorados-en-el-debate-de-la-scjn-sobre-la-ley-electrica/>

# RUSSIA

## Overview

The political and economic situation in Russia has changed dramatically since COP26, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Anti-Russian sanctions and Russia's own plans to further isolate itself from "unfriendly" countries are likely to have an impact on Russia's participation in global efforts to counteract climate change.

Still, over two months into the war, Russian authorities continue to work on projects related to the country's Glasgow commitments. In particular, its Sakhalin experiment on carbon neutrality, intended to serve as a foundation for the trade of carbon credits, remains on track.

In addition, despite the fact that climate change issues are increasingly mentioned in the political context of Russia's standoff with the West, the country remains open to adaptation cooperation in the Arctic region.

Russia also has not abandoned its plans to develop a technical base for addressing climate change issues. It also continues to work on ending deforestation by 2030.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

The topic of climate change has never been high on the Russian agenda, except in the context of preserving its commodities trade with the EU. It has lost even more relevance since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine.

Radical changes have occurred in Russia's political and economic climate, stemming from anti-Russian sanctions and Russia's efforts to cease cooperation with countries it considers "unfriendly".

The current view about global climate change efforts and Russia's role in them inside the country is probably best reflected by President Vladimir Putin's statement in April, made during a meeting with key energy and economy officials.<sup>343</sup>

Putin said that, as "serious experts and analysts warned", swift green transition turned out to be "impossible without huge costs", but the EU used the conflict with Russia "to cover up its own miscalculations and incompetency not just in the energy sector, but in many other directions".

That said, Russia has not officially abandoned any goals set since COP26 though it also has not published new NDCs after its last in 2020.<sup>344</sup>

The plan remains therefore, as Putin announced in October 2021, to achieve net zero by 2060<sup>345</sup>. In December 2021, the president reiterated that Russia could realistically reach its net zero target and that,

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<sup>343</sup> <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/68191>

<sup>344</sup> [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Russian%20Federation%20First/NDC\\_RF\\_ru.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Russian%20Federation%20First/NDC_RF_ru.pdf)

<sup>345</sup> <https://www.interfax.ru/business/797029>

as a country that owns a fifth of all forests on the planet, it should strive for its forest carbon absorption capacities to be taken into account.<sup>346</sup>

“However, according to a recent report by pro-government newspaper Izvestia, Russia’s strategy to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 60 % by 2050 (compared to 2019) may be postponed indefinitely, due to sanctions. The newspaper reported that the Energy Ministry was discussing options for reconsidering the criteria for the decrease of emissions. The main reason for reconsideration may be the lack or complete absence of the equipment and technologies needed for the companies to cut emissions, the article suggests.”<sup>347</sup>

In March 2022, Putin formalised the Sakhalin greenhouse gases experiment, which will take place from 1 September 2022 till 31 December 2028, with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by the end of 2025.<sup>348</sup> One objective of the experiment is to create a system of carbon credits exchange.

The Sakhalin experiment is seen in Russia as the foundation of a new forest and climate industry. But experts say the results of the experiment will only be in demand if the international community recognises Russia’s carbon credit.<sup>349</sup>

As for methane emissions, Russia’s presidential climate envoy, Ruslan Edelgeriyev, said in November 2021 that the country may join the global initiative on decreasing them by 30% by 2030, but only as an observer.<sup>350</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Russia has not been discussing the impact of climate change on other countries and global adaptation efforts and has, instead, been focusing on its own needs to mitigate the damage and adapt to changes. Russian experts and officials all agree that its greatest concern is the melting of the permafrost, which covers 66% of Russian territory.<sup>351</sup>

Chairing a session on the Arctic in April 2022, Putin said that all projects on eliminating the accumulated damage in the Arctic should continue.<sup>352</sup> In particular, he said, monitoring of the permafrost, approved earlier, should serve as a basis for stability in the region, as its melting would affect ecosystems as well as infrastructure.

Putin also stressed that Russia was open to joint work with all interested partners on existing or future programmes and projects in the Arctic as the region was not viewed by Russia as “an arena for geopolitical games”, but as a “territory of dialogue”.

Russia has not adopted any new strategies in terms of adaptation policy since the national plan on climate change in 2019, which covers the period up to 2022.<sup>353</sup>

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346 [https://rg.ru/2021/12/17/putin-nazval-realnym-dostizhenie-uglerodnoj-nejtralnosti-k-2060-godu.html?utm\\_source=yxnews&utm\\_medium=desktop](https://rg.ru/2021/12/17/putin-nazval-realnym-dostizhenie-uglerodnoj-nejtralnosti-k-2060-godu.html?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop)

347 <https://iz.ru/1326653/valerii-voronov/terpiat-otlagatelstv-v-rossii-khotiat-otsrochit-sokrashchenie-parnikovyx-vybrosov>

348 [https://t.me/rian\\_ru/151606](https://t.me/rian_ru/151606)

349 [https://www.ng.ru/economics/2022-02-18/100\\_174118022022.html](https://www.ng.ru/economics/2022-02-18/100_174118022022.html)

350 [https://www.ng.ru/economics/2021-11-18/1\\_8305\\_moscow.html](https://www.ng.ru/economics/2021-11-18/1_8305_moscow.html)

351 <https://news.un.org/ru/interview/2022/03/1419752>

352 <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/68188>

353 <http://government.ru/docs/38739/>

Commenting on current adaptation efforts in December, climate envoy Edelgeriyev said both global and Russian efforts were “lagging behind the ongoing climate changes”, despite their “critical importance”.<sup>354</sup>

## Finance

Russia joined the Paris Agreement as an economy in transition, which means it is not obliged to provide financial resources to developing countries for emissions reduction activities or to help them adapt to adverse effects of climate change.<sup>355</sup>

## Delivery

The Russian government adopted a federal scientific and technical programme in ecological development and climate change for 2021-2030 on 8 February 2022,<sup>356</sup> which will be supervised by the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources.

Under this, it will allocate 5.9bn roubles (\$72m) until 2024 to develop a system of greenhouse gas monitoring, the application of low-carbon technologies in different economic sectors, and the adaptation of existing production processes to climate change and green requirements.

Announcing the programme’s approval, Deputy Prime Minister Victoria Abramchenko stressed that it would enable Russia to conduct “a balanced national policy in the context of a global fight with carbon emissions”.<sup>357</sup>

In response to its only firm commitment at COP26, to end deforestation, on 16 March 2022 the government approved a roadmap to implement its strategy to develop Russia’s forest system until 2030<sup>358</sup>. The strategy itself was approved in February 2021 and envisages that earlier forest preservation and ecology programmes should be extended to ensure deforestation ends by 2024.<sup>359</sup>

Russia’s progress in battling deforestation seems difficult to assess reliably, however.

For instance, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources, in 2021, Russia planted 105% of the forests destroyed the same year. However, state auditors concluded that while the rate of reforestation had increased over the previous five years, territories that underwent deforestation were still greater than those replanted.

In addition, green activists claim that there is no complete and accurate information about forest areas in Russia.<sup>360</sup>

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354 [https://t.me/rian\\_ru/136882](https://t.me/rian_ru/136882)

355 <https://unfccc.int/parties-observers>

356 <http://static.government.ru/media/files/Ekv7TcPAJBv4n3oUn6ofUdAR5cu5W1PM.pdf>

357 <http://government.ru/news/44518/>

358 <https://t.me/greenserpent/14126>

359 <http://static.government.ru/media/files/pFdqtWFH8y9SfQjDE0Xnwd8eXWoJJMYB.pdf>

360 При восстановлении леса наломали дров / Экономика / Независимая газета (ng.ru)

# SAUDI ARABIA

## Overview

Saudi Arabia announced plans to expand oil production in response to global demand in March 2022. Saudi oil is sought after not only for having the lowest intensity of greenhouse gas emissions per barrel - says Jim Krane from the Rice University in Texas<sup>361</sup> - but it has recently gained more attention after Western governments turned to the kingdom and other Gulf states for more oil and gas production to avoid imports from Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.<sup>362</sup>

Saudi Arabia pledged to meet the net zero target in 2060 at the inaugural Saudi Green Initiative Forum in October and has not updated its pledges since.

The kingdom is focussing on its economic diversification targets, advocating for technological solutions - something that critics have described as “unproven at a commercial scale”.<sup>363</sup>

Saudi Arabia’s efforts towards climate change have led to an improvement in its Climate Action Tracker rating, but only from “critically insufficient” to “highly insufficient”.<sup>364</sup>

According to the Tracker, its commitments do not resolve concerns about its role as one of the world’s leading fossil fuel exporters, given that its ambitions in its NDC<sup>365</sup> are contingent on high oil exports, and that the kingdom reserves the right to adjust its NDC between 2020 and 2030 if proceeds from oil exports decrease.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Saudi Arabia announced that it plans to reduce carbon emissions by more than 270 million tonnes annually, which is more than twice what was announced in 2015.<sup>366</sup>

The kingdom plans on increasing renewables in the primary energy mix to 50% by 2030, where fossil fuel consumption accounted for more than 80% in 2020.<sup>367</sup> Investments in renewables are thought to be worth more than 700bn riyals (\$186bn).<sup>368</sup>

The kingdom has also joined the Global Methane Pledge to contribute to cutting global methane emissions by 30% by 2030<sup>369</sup>.

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361 <https://www.bakerinstitute.org/media/files/files/4920158a/ces-wp-saudiaramco-010821.pdf>

362

<https://aawsat.com/home/article/3533891/%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%8A%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%A3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA>

363 <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/04/04/saudi-arabia-dilutes-fossil-fuel-phase-out-language-with-techno-fixes-in-ipcc-report/>

364 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/saudi-arabia/>

365 <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Saudi%20Arabia%20First/KSA%20NDC%202021%20FINAL%20v24%20Submitted%20to%20UNFCCC.pdf>

366 <https://www.saudigreeninitiative.org/>

367 <https://www.climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CT2021SaudiArabia.pdf#page=3>

368 <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/mar/17/saudi-arabia-uae-oil-production-climate>

369 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_21\\_5766](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5766)

In March 2022, Aramco said it is investing more money to meet oil and gas demand <sup>370</sup> following a doubling in profits in 2021. Energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman recently reiterated previous comments about the kingdom's determination to continue investing in the oil and gas sectors as well as new energy. He stressed that "it is wrong to focus on one aspect such as renewable energy, because the world economy requires various sources of energy to develop the economy".<sup>371</sup>

Saudi oil production also recently gained momentum as Western governments seek an alternative to Russian oil following the invasion of Ukraine.

"Ordinarily you'd say higher production means higher emissions, but the current situation is unusual. It's at least possible that higher production from Saudi and others could allow Europe to cut purchases from Russia. And if Russia's exports are geographically constrained (e.g. pipeline or lack of refinery capacity able to take Russian-grade crude elsewhere) or otherwise struggling to find buyers, then it could have to cut production. Quite a few big ifs there but it seems plausible/possible," Dr Simon Evans of Carbon Brief has said.<sup>372</sup>

Bin Salman's Green Initiative aims to plant 450 million trees and rehabilitate 8 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030 with the help of technology.<sup>373</sup>

Saudi Arabia's plan is also based on a proposed National Circular Carbon Economy Program, where hydrocarbons would be either recycled, removed or reused. The goal would be achieved through "underground carbon storage capacity and CCUS [Carbon, Capture, Utilization and Storage] technology expertise". However, these technologies remain "unproven at a commercial scale", environmental groups say.<sup>374</sup>

"It's absurd to think that an economy based on the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels can be 'circular' in any meaningful sense of the word. The only way it works is if you rely on technologies that don't exist yet," Matthew Archer, a researcher at the Graduate Institute Geneva, told Al Jazeera.<sup>375</sup>

Breakthrough Institute's director of climate and energy, Zeke Hausfather, told E&E news<sup>376</sup> that the total amount of carbon dioxide removed from the air by current carbon capture projects is in the order of tens of thousands of tonnes, compared with the hundreds of millions of tonnes produced by petrostates. This is in addition to the process being expensive - \$600 a ton.

Climate justice lead at ActionAid International, Teresa Anderson, says that "the IPCC report<sup>377</sup> delivers a clear warning that reliance on technofixes and tree plantations to solve the problem [of desertification]

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370 <https://www.alarabiya.net/aswaq/companies/2022/03/20/%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%83%D9%88-%D8%AA%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%81-%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AC-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%A8%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%86-50-%D8%A8%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%88%D9%84-2030>

371 <https://www.alarabiya.net/aswaq/oil-and-gas/2022/02/20/%D9%88%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%82%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%81%D8%B7-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%82%D8%B5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%B1>

372 <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/mar/17/saudi-arabia-uae-oil-production-climate>

373 [file:///C:/users/faragy02/Downloads/SGI\\_Forum\\_Press\\_Release-EN%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/users/faragy02/Downloads/SGI_Forum_Press_Release-EN%20(2).pdf)

374 <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/04/04/saudi-arabia-dilutes-fossil-fuel-phase-out-language-with-techno-fixes-in-ipcc-report/>

375 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/26/green-or-greenwashing-saudi-arabias-climate-change-pledges>

376 <https://www.eenews.net/articles/saudi-arabias-climate-plan-relies-on-more-oil/>

377 [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_FinalDraft\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf)

not only amount to wishful thinking, but would drive land conflicts and harm the food, ecosystems and communities already hardest hit by the climate crisis”.

## Adaptation and Loss and Damage

Saudi Arabia is considered below the average adaptation readiness of the G20, according to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index, a 2021 Climate Transparency report says.<sup>378</sup>

Neither adaptation, loss and damage or the related Santiago network has been mentioned much in Saudi mainstream media over the last few months.

## Finance

Saudi Arabia is not listed in Annex II<sup>379</sup> of the UNFCCC<sup>380</sup> and is therefore not formally obliged to provide climate finance. The kingdom also did not ask for financial support towards achieving its NDC.<sup>381</sup> However, in 2002 the kingdom insisted on tying adaptation funding for the impacts of climate change to “compensation” for any losses in oil revenues that might occur due to mitigation measures.<sup>382</sup>

There has not been much mention of finance issues in Saudi or regional media in recent months.

## Delivery

Following COP26, the kingdom has made several decisions to show its commitment to climate action. In March, it announced an initiative to grant industrial licenses to facilities operating in the field of renewable energy and electricity production, exempting them from customs.

This is part of its quest to generate 50% of its electricity from clean sources as part of Vision2030, Bin Salman’s ambitious plan of economic and social reforms, according to the ministry of energy.<sup>383</sup>

However, in 2019 only about 0.1% of electricity was generated with renewable energy.<sup>384</sup>

378 <https://www.climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CT2021SaudiArabia.pdf#page=3>

379 <https://unfccc.int/cop3/fccc/climate/annex2.htm>

380 <https://unfccc.int/parties-observers#:~:text=Annex%20II%20Parties%20consist%20of,adverse%20effects%20of%20climate%20change.>

381 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/7123846\\_Saudi%20Arabia-NC4-1-](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/7123846_Saudi%20Arabia-NC4-1-)

Fourth%20National%20Communication%20NC4%20Kingdom%20of%20Saudi%20Arabia%20March%202022.pdf

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[https://watermark.silverchair.com/glep\\_a\\_00379.pdf?token=AQECAHi208BE49Ooan9kKhW\\_Ercy7Dm3ZL\\_9Cf3qfKAc485ysgAAA4wggK6BgkqhkiG9w0BBwagggKrMIICpwIBADCCAqAGCSqGSIb3DQEhATAcBgIghkgBZQMEAS4wEQQM\\_eQn2tCAAdsqTtNDyAgEQgIIcCa9WbJ0F-ANMBh8cvY\\_g5gRnxQE9RsnrMEP-BYbDEusChfSSFGi61Rx5dyd9NOUghd6AnXiAtVe8uAd9IdrjTA9WwZ1gvxSF70szJ5EBz-QH-Ge3917NOge8xmwnYyYIoNNz2LCDzxR4PWpY6-hTZ2216sYStR\\_KPds-O-jc7bH2LL8i6MPggVnKkStOEpeF5GbKR76sw8B-9YtBAOiIHTPKy5z1jz27vvHOI7DGNyTesa7O-kOdj\\_UWkDwOqhXmiViQkuwB\\_tpKjP4Nk2KF3CgDjBl3x-CHSgsE9lQf4t0n28wqlba-TYMUwcGOyKReuEevLZ5iaDsRtV-bWkigT\\_tpM4\\_8qmwLq9dHJNBmJlITcVfbge4G1mXN-J1sHoX5\\_cqT4DQj\\_dC9YF2yK8o5bwBhFpQIG0GAZqrtHvCkewywuYJMK3cozOrW8wo3cMaGQFOW-vw9S\\_LALbZr00CKeZcT4Ka0kOtCjpnRY8u4Fv0DO4R838mpOAYUWusLFfVY\\_ZEW7Ksh9yPc4QYgXlGx0erttYSyoR3uFEbmtOUqFhtMbtPqXTOOMX3uPbRC2Kc486kr8O-arDafbcqmCn3GPZlnSkvEjgLIUqSSqUKdLQR2cuwMc898-](https://watermark.silverchair.com/glep_a_00379.pdf?token=AQECAHi208BE49Ooan9kKhW_Ercy7Dm3ZL_9Cf3qfKAc485ysgAAA4wggK6BgkqhkiG9w0BBwagggKrMIICpwIBADCCAqAGCSqGSIb3DQEhATAcBgIghkgBZQMEAS4wEQQM_eQn2tCAAdsqTtNDyAgEQgIIcCa9WbJ0F-ANMBh8cvY_g5gRnxQE9RsnrMEP-BYbDEusChfSSFGi61Rx5dyd9NOUghd6AnXiAtVe8uAd9IdrjTA9WwZ1gvxSF70szJ5EBz-QH-Ge3917NOge8xmwnYyYIoNNz2LCDzxR4PWpY6-hTZ2216sYStR_KPds-O-jc7bH2LL8i6MPggVnKkStOEpeF5GbKR76sw8B-9YtBAOiIHTPKy5z1jz27vvHOI7DGNyTesa7O-kOdj_UWkDwOqhXmiViQkuwB_tpKjP4Nk2KF3CgDjBl3x-CHSgsE9lQf4t0n28wqlba-TYMUwcGOyKReuEevLZ5iaDsRtV-bWkigT_tpM4_8qmwLq9dHJNBmJlITcVfbge4G1mXN-J1sHoX5_cqT4DQj_dC9YF2yK8o5bwBhFpQIG0GAZqrtHvCkewywuYJMK3cozOrW8wo3cMaGQFOW-vw9S_LALbZr00CKeZcT4Ka0kOtCjpnRY8u4Fv0DO4R838mpOAYUWusLFfVY_ZEW7Ksh9yPc4QYgXlGx0erttYSyoR3uFEbmtOUqFhtMbtPqXTOOMX3uPbRC2Kc486kr8O-arDafbcqmCn3GPZlnSkvEjgLIUqSSqUKdLQR2cuwMc898-1bt4EutdBQYKUFwSpURZkQqqQGE7d7jyP5CaKKw0JBuogcwHL4a0BON55PRANoIGDridcvpSY_2mq3zhleUtW_f8irj9yC9JyP5AEvqREQ2FFecPliN6I2fHXn0BR0tQ16uqi6PPRupyQgRHGsgWNwGwc4JR96oSBwOYmPqh94w_3R_eFo_hzooPelkOsUliwEa_Ighh8Z3Aw)

[1bt4EutdBQYKUFwSpURZkQqqQGE7d7jyP5CaKKw0JBuogcwHL4a0BON55PRANoIGDridcvpSY\\_2mq3zhleUtW\\_f8irj9yC9JyP5AEvqREQ2FFecPliN6I2fHXn0BR0tQ16uqi6PPRupyQgRHGsgWNwGwc4JR96oSBwOYmPqh94w\\_3R\\_eFo\\_hzooPelkOsUliwEa\\_Ighh8Z3Aw](https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/News/Pages/granting-industrial-licenses-to-renewables-and-power-production-companies.aspx)

383 <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/News/Pages/granting-industrial-licenses-to-renewables-and-power-production-companies.aspx>

384 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/blogs-trending-59601335>



In a bid to tackle the challenges of low-carbon mobility, in March 2022, Saudi Aramco - the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitter<sup>385</sup> - agreed with Hyundai Motor Group and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) to jointly research and develop an advanced fuel for an ultra-burn, spark-ignition engine that aims to reduce greater CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a vehicle.<sup>386</sup>

Aramco also announced its commitments to net zero operational emissions<sup>387</sup> by 2050, though Climate Action Tracker described it as “a fraction of relevant emissions in Saudi Arabia and globally, as most emissions related to oil and gas come from fuel combustion rather than extraction and processing”.

In January 2022, a KAUST start-up, Emerging Solutions Commercial Company LLC, signed a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Aramco Base Oil Company - Luberef<sup>388</sup> - to develop and deploy “Ultrasonic Oxidative Desulfurization Technology”<sup>389</sup>, which aims at “removing” sulphur from fuel oil in the marine transport industry.

Saudi Arabia was also due to start the construction of a green hydrogen plant in the planned city of Neom on the Red Sea coast in March 2022, in hopes to become the world's biggest exporter of hydrogen, and in a bid to reduce its reliance on its oil and gas revenues.<sup>390</sup> It plans to produce 650 tonnes of green hydrogen per day and 1.2 million tonnes of green ammonia annually.<sup>391</sup> However, analysts question whether customers are willing to pay the premium on hydrogen, and highlight the competition among many countries that aim for a share of the market.<sup>392</sup>

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385 <https://www.clientearth.org/projects/the-greenwashing-files/aramco/>

386 <https://www.aramco.com/en/news-media/news/2022/aramco-and-hyundai-motor-group>

387 <https://www.aramco.com/en/news-media/news/2021/ambition-to-reach-operational-net-zero-emissions-by-2050>

388 <https://www.kaust.edu.sa/en/news/mou-between-kaust-startup-and-luberef-sets-path-for-cleaner-air>

389 <https://mobile.twitter.com/AramcoLUBEREF/status/1485238154495995910>

390 <https://english.alarabiya.net/business/energy/2022/03/17/Saudi-Arabia-to-start-construction-of-5-blm-green-hydrogen-plant-in-Neom>

391 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/7123846\\_Saudi%20Arabia-NC4-1-](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/7123846_Saudi%20Arabia-NC4-1-Fourth%20National%20Communication%20NC4%20Kingdom%20of%20Saudi%20Arabia%20March%202022.pdf)

[Fourth%20National%20Communication%20NC4%20Kingdom%20of%20Saudi%20Arabia%20March%202022.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/7123846_Saudi%20Arabia-NC4-1-Fourth%20National%20Communication%20NC4%20Kingdom%20of%20Saudi%20Arabia%20March%202022.pdf)

392 <https://www.ft.com/content/6dce7e6b-0cce-49f4-a9f8-f80597d1653a>

# SOUTH KOREA

## Overview

South Korea has not reported significant progress in working towards its climate change commitments since the COP26 conference, largely following its previous roadmap for carbon neutrality.

However, it did update its NDC in December, raising its emissions reduction target by 2030 from 35% to 40% with respect to 2018 levels. The enhanced target considerably raises South Korea's commitment, but still falls well short of the estimated 59% domestic reduction South Korea needs to make by 2030.

South Korea has not focused on the challenges of adaptation, loss and damage at a global level in its roadmap but has followed National Adaptation Plans domestically since 2010.

The government has pledged to support developing countries by sharing South Korea's technological innovations and knowledge but has yet to specify its plans for doing so. It has not spoken prominently about climate change financing at a global level but continues to push for green financing as part of domestic efforts towards sustainable development and carbon neutrality.

Outgoing President Moon Jae-in's administration has, since COP26, updated the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth for Climate Crisis Response to reflect its increased commitment.

However, a major political change is expected in South Korea after Moon's successor Yoon Suk-yeol took office in May 2022. While Yoon's administration is expected to retain the overall goal of carbon neutrality, he has questioned the feasibility of his predecessor's ambitious timeline and plans to achieve this target, indicating that the country's approach to achieving net zero may change in the near future.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

South Korea submitted a new and enhanced NDC<sup>393</sup> to the UNFCCC in December 2022, raising its commitment in line with President Moon Jae-in's COP26 pledge.<sup>394</sup>

At the Glasgow conference, Moon pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% relative to 2018 levels, a reduction of 727.7 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq.

This represented an increase from the 35% passed by South Korea's parliament in August 2021<sup>395</sup> and enacted in September 2021, which itself considerably exceeded the previous target of 24.4% reduction compared to 2017 levels.

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[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223\\_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution\\_211227\\_editorial%20change.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution_211227_editorial%20change.pdf)

394 <https://english1.president.go.kr/BriefingSpeeches/Speeches/1095>

395

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1473610&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

Despite this improvement, Climate Action Tracker rates South Korea's NDC as "insufficient" to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C global warming limit, stating that a domestic reduction of at least 59% by 2030 is needed.<sup>396</sup>

Climate Action Tracker also rates the country's fair-share emissions reduction as "highly insufficient", noting that South Korea's fair share target actually leads to a rise in emissions rather than a decrease, resulting in warming increasing by 3-4°C if other countries were to follow the same approach.

The updated NDC came as part of Moon's push to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and position South Korea as a global climate leader - part of his administration's 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy<sup>397</sup> published in December 2020.

A key part of South Korea's enhanced NDC is a focus on key sectors, particularly a transition in the power generation industry from coal-fired power to renewable sources of energy.

Other sectors prioritised in the NDC submission are construction, transportation, agriculture, waste management, and emission-intensive industries like steelmaking.

However, President Moon's aim of convincing industries to switch to renewable energy is at odds with his successor Yoon Suk-yeol, who took over as president in May 2022.

In February 2022, Yoon criticised the idea of RE100<sup>398</sup> - under which companies commit to using 100% renewable energy by 2050 - as one that "doesn't make any sense".

Yoon also opposes the outgoing government's plans to phase out nuclear energy and has stated that he intends to reset Moon's 2050 carbon neutrality timeline and goals, leaving the current NDC subject to change under the next administration.

Yoon's transition team has said that it may not change the target of carbon neutrality as it was announced to the world but added that the goal cannot be considered "immutable" and the means may change.<sup>399</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

In its updated NDC and climate change legislation following COP26, South Korea has not been observed to comment on adaptation at a global level.

It has also not commented on the Santiago Network and global loss and damage, beyond a brief mention in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' factual summary of the key overall themes and events from COP26.<sup>400</sup>

South Korea has sought to address adaptation challenges at a domestic level with its National Adaptation Plans in 2010, 2015 and 2020.<sup>401</sup>

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396 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/south-korea/targets/>

397 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1\\_RKorea.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1_RKorea.pdf)

398 <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220203000944>

399 <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20220413002600315?section=search>

400 [https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m\\_4080/view.do?seq=371781](https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/view.do?seq=371781)

401 <https://www.iea.org/articles/korea-climate-resilience-policy-indicator>

The most recent - the third National Adaptation Plan (2021-25)<sup>402</sup> - outlines three major objectives: to enhance South Korea's adaptive capacity for climate risks; to enhance monitoring, forecasting and evaluation systems; and to mainstream climate change adaptation.

To boost climate resilience, South Korea in 2009 also established the Korea Adaptation Centre for Climate Change, which carries out research related to climate change adaptation, helps with planning for adaptation at national and local level, and raise awareness about climate change adaptation.<sup>403</sup>

Since 2021, South Korea has been working with the UNFCCC Secretariat to jointly operate the Adaptation Academy under the UNFCCC Climate Action and Support Transparency Training programme.<sup>404</sup>

This academy serves to support developing countries' implementation of the Paris Agreement and comes as Seoul looks to cooperate with other countries to strengthen global adaptation efforts.

## Finance

South Korea has not been observed to comment since COP26 on global financing to ensure an annual sum of \$100bn to help developing countries with climate change mitigation.

Notably, despite being an OECD member country and a relatively advanced economy, South Korea is not listed in the UNFCCC's Annex I<sup>405</sup> of industrialised countries that must provide financial support to developing countries. It also only became a “developed country” - as classified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - as recently as July 2021.<sup>406</sup>

As a non-Annex I country, South Korea is not subject to the same level of obligations as other developed countries but, as a rising economic power and a country seeking to project its climate leadership, it has much to contribute.

In its 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy, published in 2020, the government said that it would work with other countries to take “robust climate action” and pledged to support developing countries “by sharing our innovative technologies and know-hows”.<sup>407</sup>

South Korea has not specified the breadth of its policies in this focus area of technology sharing, but in September it signed an agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a Partnership and Liaison Office for the Climate Technology Centre and Network<sup>408</sup>, a UN entity strengthening action on climate change technology development and transfer.

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402 [http://www.climate.go.kr/home/cc\\_data/policy/3\\_nation\\_climate\\_change\\_adaptation\\_step\\_summary.pdf](http://www.climate.go.kr/home/cc_data/policy/3_nation_climate_change_adaptation_step_summary.pdf)

403 <https://kacc.kei.re.kr/home/eng/main.do>

404

[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223\\_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution\\_211227\\_editorial%20change.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution_211227_editorial%20change.pdf)

405 <https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/listofannexcountries.htm>

406 <https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/2021/07/04/business/economy/Unctad-developed-country-developing-country/20210704185600398.html>

407 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1\\_RKorea.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1_RKorea.pdf)

408 <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/republi-korea-signs-host-country-agreement-unep-support-technology>

Domestically, the government plans to set up the Korea Climate Action Fund this year to finance the shift towards a carbon-neutral society.<sup>409</sup>

The new fund comes as part of the government's Korean New Deal, which comprises a Green New Deal and a Digital New Deal aimed at transforming South Korea's economy and ensuring sustainable development.

Under the Green New Deal, the government is investing a total of 61 trillion Korean won (\$51.7bn) to push for carbon neutrality, green transition in cities and living infrastructure, the diffusion of low-carbon and distributed energy, and the creation of green industry ecosystems.

## Delivery

South Korea is largely following its pre-COP26 blueprint aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 but has also sought to follow up on its enhanced NDC with updated legislation and additional pledges.

Before COP26, the National Assembly passed the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth for Climate Crisis Response,<sup>410</sup> known more commonly as the Carbon Neutrality Act, and enacted it with effect from September.

In line with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, the act enshrined in law a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35% with respect to 2018 levels by 2030.

This target was later increased to 40% in South Korea's post-COP26 NDC<sup>411</sup> in December 2021, and the cabinet eventually implemented this amended goal in March after six months of inter-ministry consultations.

To ensure the larger goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, the government in May 2021 launched the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Commission<sup>412</sup> co-chaired by the prime minister and a representative from the private sector.

The commission brings together the public and private sector to review the direction of carbon neutrality policies and jointly work towards the NDC's targets.

A key pledge involves replacing the power from aging coal plants with renewable energy sources, with the NDC estimating that coal accounted for around 40% of South Korea's power mix as of 2018.

At COP26 President Moon Jae-in announced that South Korea would completely stop coal-fired power generation by 2050.<sup>413</sup> The government has also banned the construction of new coal-fired plants and in April 2021 suspended official financial support for new coal plants overseas.

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[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223\\_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution\\_211227\\_editorial%20change.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution_211227_editorial%20change.pdf)

410 Carbon Neutrality Act Passed by National Assembly Herald Economic and Social Transition Towards 2050 Carbon Neutrality

411

[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223\\_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution\\_211227\\_editorial%20change.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/211223_The%20Republic%20of%20Korea%27s%20Enhanced%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution_211227_editorial%20change.pdf)

412 <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210603001141>

413 <https://english1.president.go.kr/BriefingSpeeches/Speeches/1095>

South Korea also signed up to the Global Methane Pledge<sup>414</sup> in November 2021 with the stated aim of cutting domestic methane emissions to help reduce global emissions by 30% with respect to 2020 levels by 2030.

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414 <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20211102009100315>

# SOUTH AFRICA

## Overview

South Africa has approached an international offer to help decarbonise its power generation - announced at COP26 - very coolly.

It has also been slow to make any new climate commitments after the conference.

But devastating floods in April 2022 may yet lend new urgency to at least the need for adaptation to climate change.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

South Africa submitted new and more ambitious NDCs<sup>415</sup> in October 2021, shortly before COP26, and it has not published new ones since.

It also has not updated its commitment to a net zero target by 2050, which it set in September 2021, or strengthened 2030 emission reduction targets.

Climate Action Tracker has rated<sup>416</sup> the NDCs as insufficient and said the country “has largely not prioritised a ‘green’ economic recovery and included several carbon-intensive investments in its COVID-19 recovery plans”. It called this a “missed opportunity”.

South Africa appears reluctant to move away from coal, partly because of vested interests and partly because of the challenge of replacing the energy source.

Many commentators in newspapers recognise the threat of climate change but argue that the threat of social unrest which would accompany growing unemployment and poverty is greater and that economic growth should be prioritised over the environment.

There’s also the issue of who is to blame for the crisis.

Given developing countries like South Africa are not as responsible for the climate crisis, “there is less onus on them to commit to the resolutions made in Glasgow,” argues one commentary<sup>417</sup> in the website Eyewitness News.

Parliament is busy debating a Climate Change Bill<sup>418</sup>, which seeks to implement the country’s international commitments and provide a co-ordinated response to climate change.

It is expected to be passed by year-end.

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415 <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/South%20Africa%20First/South%20Africa%20updated%20first%20NDC%20September%202021.pdf>

416 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/south-africa/>

417 <https://ewn.co.za/2022/02/08/south-africa-s-contribution-to-climate-solutions-must-be-proportional-to-its-contribution-to-the>

418 [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/2021\\_draft\\_climatechangebill.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/2021_draft_climatechangebill.pdf)



## **Adaptation and loss and damage**

There has been scant coverage of the subjects of doubling adaptation financing by 2025, loss and damage, which generated much controversy at COP26<sup>419</sup>, or the Santiago Network.

“Strong opposition from rich countries saw the issue [of loss and damage] largely delayed until next year, despite some progress in discussions around a new technical support body,” Carbon Brief reported.

Discussion in the press about adaption to climate change increased after unusually devastating floods on the eastern seaboard in April.

Some commentators saw the need for improved early warning systems to get people out of harm’s way in time, thorough maintenance of storm water networks and better enforcement of planning rules, to stop informal settlements developing in flood-prone areas.

South Africa adopted a climate change adaptation strategy<sup>420</sup> in 2020, but post-COP26 publicity about potential international finance for any of the measures has been hard to find.

The state research institute CSIR and international partners have created the Green Book<sup>421</sup>, which provides the authorities with online tools to plan ahead for climate related threats.

## **Finance**

South Africa appears to have avoided rushing to embrace a much-hyped international offer - announced at COP26 - to help decarbonise its power generation.

Britain, the US, France and Germany plus the EU announced that £6.2bn (\$8.5bn) would be made available to accelerate South Africa’s energy transition. The offer is presented as part of rich countries’ commitments to provide \$100bn funding to developing countries.

The offer was seen in some quarters as the most impressive thing to come out of COP26 for its potential to serve as a model to help other developed countries wean themselves off coal.

By some accounts it envisages the early retirement of coal plants, building cleaner energy sources and support for coal-dependent regions.

However, there still appears to be little clarity about what will be covered and how it will be funded – by grants or loans. President Cyril Ramaphosa has now appointed a former deputy central bank governor to lead a task force to negotiate an appropriate deal.

Public enterprises minister Pravin Gordhan has expressed doubt<sup>422</sup> about the international partners’ willingness to deliver on their offer.

He also said the government needed to guard against corruption.

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419 <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop26-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-glasgow>

420 [https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalclimatechange\\_adaptationstrategy\\_ue10november2019.pdf](https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/nationalclimatechange_adaptationstrategy_ue10november2019.pdf)

421 <https://greenbook.co.za/>

422 <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2022-02-21-pravin-gordhan-wary-of-strings-attached-to-85bn-climate-funding/>

“We have just started to recover from state capture, how do we now guard against rent-seeking to make sure [climate funding] goes to places where it will be spent properly and that it doesn’t just make a few people extremely rich,” he asked.

## Delivery

Burning fossil fuels for electricity production accounts for the largest share<sup>423</sup> of South Africa’s carbon emissions, followed by transport and industry. Coal makes up 75% of the country’s primary energy supply<sup>424</sup> and South Africa is among the top 15 largest per capita emitters in the world.<sup>425</sup> A move away from coal is therefore seen as urgent.

South Africa didn’t join the more than 130 countries which pledged<sup>426</sup> to halt and reverse deforestation.

Nor did it promise to cut methane or phase down coal.

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423 <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/ghg-emissions-by-sector?time=latest&country=%7EZAF>

424 <https://www.dmr.gov.za/news-room/post/1946/remarks-by-the-honourable-minister-of-mineral-resources-and-energy-mr-gwede-mantashe-on-the-occasion-of-the-coal-colloquium>

425 <https://www.statista.com/statistics/271748/the-largest-emitters-of-co2-in-the-world/>

426 <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

# TURKEY

## Overview

Turkey's Environment Minister Murat Kurum has been vocal about the government's plans for "green development" since COP26, organising a major conference in February 2022 to establish a roadmap.

Turkey ratified the Paris Agreement right before COP26, becoming the last G20 country to do so. However, it has yet to update its NDCs, with environmental activists urging new "assertive" targets and highlighting a need to phase out coal.

The country is expected to implement a national climate law this year, according to Kurum.

Pro-government outlets have promoted Turkey as an ideal location for green investments, while government officials have highlighted the need for more funding.

Controversy remains over Turkey's status at the UNFCCC, with Ankara saying it should be listed as a developing country, and not a developed one.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

Turkey submitted its 2015 NDCs in October 2021 but has not updated them since ratifying the Paris Agreement.<sup>427</sup>

State-funded Anadolu Agency reported in October 2021<sup>428</sup> that Turkey's NDCs would include reducing emissions in the "energy, waste, transportation, building and agriculture" sectors.

During COP26 in Glasgow, Turkey signed declarations on forests, aviation emissions and the sale of zero-emission cars, the economy-focused Dunya newspaper reported. The report also said Turkey signed the Breakthrough Agenda, planning to bring its energy, transportation, steel and hydrogen sectors in line with the Paris Agreement goals until 2030.<sup>429</sup>

It is unclear when Turkey will update its NDCs.

Turkey's chief climate change negotiator Mehmet Emin Birpınar told the BBC's Turkish Service<sup>430</sup> in October that "at least a year is needed" to make changes to the NDCs. Environment Minister Murat Kurum later said they would update the NDCs for 2030 before the end of 2022.<sup>431</sup>

Anadolu Agency reported in January that Turkey is expected to submit its updated NDCs at COP27.<sup>432</sup>

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<sup>427</sup> <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/turkey/>

<sup>428</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/gundem/paris-anlasmasi-sonrasi-turkiye-ulusal-katki-beyanlarini-guncelleyecek/2385309>

<sup>429</sup> <https://www.dunya.com/kose-yazisi/turkiye-cop26da-4-taahhude-imza-atti/639989>

<sup>430</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-59071163>

<sup>431</sup> <https://www.iklimhaber.org/bakan-kurum-ulusal-katki-beyanini-bu-yil-icerisinde-guncelleyecekiz/>

<sup>432</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/turkiyes-climate-decisions-this-year-to-pave-road-for-2053-net-zero-target/2471972>

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged in September 2021 to achieve net zero by 2053.<sup>433</sup> As of April 2022, the target year remains the same. Turkey has also pledged to reduce its natural gas emissions by 21% in 2030.<sup>434</sup>

However, Climate Action Tracker has said Turkey's policies and actions for such a target are "critically insufficient".<sup>435</sup>

A climate council meeting in the central province of Konya in February discussed the roadmap for 2030 and 2050. Discussions were held on science and technology, local administrations, "abiding by climate change", reducing greenhouse gas emissions, green financing and carbon pricing, and migration, fair transition and other social policies.<sup>436</sup>

Some 217 decisions were taken at the end of the meeting and 76 were deemed priorities, Birpınar said.<sup>437</sup>

However, opposition newspaper Birgün highlighted that the council decided to continue the use of coal, natural gas and nuclear energy.<sup>438</sup> A column in the paper said the presidential programme contradicted the pledges made at COP26, noting it mentioned "bringing natural gas to every house".<sup>439</sup>

Environment-focused news website Yesil Gazete said the climate council showed it was "far" from the understanding of "a new era".<sup>440</sup> And environmental activists said Turkey needs to review its NDCs and be "more assertive" in its 2030 target.<sup>441</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

There has been very limited coverage regarding adaptation and loss and damage in the Turkish media. Turkish officials have not publicly addressed the situation either.

Environment-focused news website İklim Haber said the latest IPCC report in March "reignited" debate on loss and damage for many developing countries, saying it is "unclear" where the funding will come from.<sup>442</sup>

## Finance

Turkey, a G20 country, ratified the Paris Agreement as a developing country,<sup>443</sup> although it has been listed by the UNFCCC as a developed (Annex I) country.<sup>444</sup>

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433 <https://yesilekonomi.com/turkiye-2053-icin-net-sifir-emisyon-hedefi-getirecek/>

434 [http://halicevre.com/images/PDF/The\\_INDC\\_of\\_TURKEY\\_v\\_15\\_19\\_30-EN.pdf](http://halicevre.com/images/PDF/The_INDC_of_TURKEY_v_15_19_30-EN.pdf)

435 <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/turkey/>

436 <https://ab.csb.gov.tr/turkiye-nin-ilk-iklim-surasi-konyada-toplandi-haber-267396>

437 <https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/turkiye-2053-vizyonu-dogrultusunda-gelecegini-planliyor-ilk-iklim-surasi-gerceklestirildi,q21b57lrQk2JXSuQNmBEwQ>

438 <https://www.birgun.net/haber/komuru-birakmaliz-380801>

439 <https://www.birgun.net/haber/hayaller-net-sifir-gercekler-yerli-komur-364905>

440 <https://yesilgazete.org/ankaranin-iklim-gundemi-1-paris-anlasmasi-bir-samimiyet-testi/>

441 <https://www.dunya.com/kose-yazisi/aktif-bir-iklim-politikasi-ile-turkiyenin-milli-geliri-7-artar/634624>

442 <https://www.iklimhaber.org/son-ipcc-raporu-kayip-ve-hasar-tartismalarini-yeniden-alevlendirdi/>

443 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/turkey-criticizes-categorization-of-countries-at-climate-talks/2414607#:~:text=Turkey%20ratified%20the%202015%20Paris,a%20statement%20approved%20by%20parliament.>

444 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/turkey-criticizes-categorization-of-countries-at-climate-talks/2414607>

It has made several proposals to the UNFCCC to amend its categorisation<sup>445</sup> but remains on the Annex I list.<sup>446</sup>

Pro-government news website Daily Sabah highlighted Turkey's criticism of its categorisation in March. It quoted chief climate negotiator Birpınar as saying that "as a developing country, [Turkey] has repeatedly emphasised the need for climate justice in the provision of climate finance".<sup>447</sup>

He has also said the country is "the right address" for climate investments.<sup>448</sup>

In October 2021, President Erdogan said Turkey signed a memorandum to receive \$3.2bn in loans on financing its Paris Agreement goals from a deal funded by the World Bank, France and Germany.<sup>449</sup>

Daily Sabah said that, in addition to the \$3.2bn loans, Turkey needs "larger amounts of finance" to reach its targets, including the 2053 net zero one.<sup>450</sup>

Separately, UK Export Finance (UKEF) will lend Turkey €2.1bn (\$2.3bn) for the construction of a "sustainable" railway between the Turkish capital Ankara and the western province of Izmir, Turkish outlets reported.<sup>451</sup>

"We also desire to be among the active and important players of the rapidly growing green finance market," Finance Minister Nureddin Nebati was quoted as saying, following the deal.<sup>452</sup>

## Delivery

Turkish officials have been vocal about their plans on fighting climate change, but critics say concrete steps remain insufficient.

Environment Minister Kurum said on 31 March 2022 that Turkey would soon have a climate law based on "a realistic target".

During an OECD meeting on climate change in Paris in March, Kurum said Turkey has increased its recycling rate to 22.4%, and aims to increase this to 35% by 2023, and 60% by 2035.<sup>453</sup>

He said solid waste storage plants "saved" cities from significant pollution and the goal is to end domestic waste by 2050 through this storage method.

He said "all buildings" would be climate-friendly and energy-sufficient by 2030, adding that Turkey is also boosting its investments in renewable energy.

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445 <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-convention/history-of-the-convention/proposal-to-amend-annexes-i-and-ii-to-remove-the-name-of-turkey-and-to-amend-annex-i-to-add-the-name>

446 <https://unfccc.int/node/61221>

447 <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/turkeys-strong-bid-for-a-boost-in-climate-finance>

448 [https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/prof-dr-mehmet-emin-birpinarturkiye-iklim-finansmani-icin-dogru-adres-olmaya-devam-edecek,FJda5QUdFEgcIOZO\\_wUgAQ](https://www.ntv.com.tr/turkiye/prof-dr-mehmet-emin-birpinarturkiye-iklim-finansmani-icin-dogru-adres-olmaya-devam-edecek,FJda5QUdFEgcIOZO_wUgAQ)

449 <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/erdogan-says-turkey-signed-32-bln-green-climate-fund-deal-2021-10-27/>

450 <https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/turkeys-strong-bid-for-a-boost-in-climate-finance>

451 <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/uk-turkey-agree-clean-transport-deal-worth-2-3-billion-172301>

452 <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/uk-turkey-agree-clean-transport-deal-worth-2-3-billion-172301>

453 <https://www.cnntrk.com/turkiye/bakan-kurum-iklim-kanununu-cikaracagiz>

The minister said they implemented “regional and local climate change action plans”, while the national strategy and action plan would be implemented “based on the 2050 aims”, without specifying a date.

Based on the 2053 net zero goal, Turkey will have a “green transformation”, increasing forestry areas, Kurum said.

He added that Turkey would set up an emission trade system, funding “clean production” and “green investments” with income earned from the carbon pricing mechanism. Climate negotiator Birpınar said the pilot would be implemented in 2024.<sup>454</sup>

For critics, such steps are not enough.

Climate expert Onder Algedik noted that 2021 was the “fourth” hottest year in Turkey, criticising the government’s use of fossil fuels and construction-heavy economy for “changing the climate” of the country.<sup>455</sup>

Environmentalists and opposition outlets urge Turkey to phase out coal.

Birgun newspaper has noted that unlike the 23 European countries that set up a schedule to phase out coal, Turkey does not have such a timetable. The report called the government’s fight against climate crisis “insincere”.

Citing scientists, climate experts and activists, Yesil Gazete said Turkey needs to set a date to stop the use of coal and new fossil fuel exploration activities.<sup>456</sup>

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<sup>454</sup> <https://www.gazetevatan.com/gundem/prof-dr-birpınar-turkiye-iklim-finansmani-icin-dogru-adres-olmaya-devam-edecek-2031098>

<sup>455</sup> <https://www.gazeteduvar.com.tr/2021-iklimde-rekorlarin-yili-oldu-2022nin-telafisi-yok-makale-1557349>

<sup>456</sup> <https://yesilgazete.org/ankaranin-iklim-gundemi-1-paris-anlasmasi-bir-samimiyet-testi/>

# UNITED KINGDOM

## Overview

Since hosting COP26, the UK has largely kept on with business as usual: the country has a few ambitious climate targets, but a majority of commentators, experts and parliamentary groups say there is a significant lack of policies to ensure those targets are actually reached.

The UK announced several climate aspirations before hosting COP26 but has done less since the conference ended. A new energy strategy has been criticised for lacking insulation measures, and the government has been accused of “pausing” a mining development over COP26 and of approving a new oilfield license even though a report, commissioned by the UK itself, advised against such actions.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted media reports of Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling for a ‘climate change pass’, so that the West could free itself from dependency on Russian petroleum. Meanwhile, political disagreements within the Prime Minister’s own party have prompted a small group of politicians to launch a campaign to question the cost of the country’s commitment to net zero.

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

The UK aims to meet net zero emissions by 2050.<sup>457</sup>

The country’s latest Nationally Determined Contribution, submitted in December 2020, commits it to reducing economy-wide domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.<sup>458</sup> But the Climate Change Committee, an advisory group to the government, said in December 2021 that even though the UK’s NDC “has one of the most ambitious 2030 targets for reducing emissions in the world”, the country “does not yet have all the policies in place to deliver this ambition”.<sup>459</sup>

In April 2022, the government revealed a new energy security strategy, which hopes offshore wind and nuclear power will help the country produce 95% of its electricity from low-carbon sources by 2030 and reduce its global market vulnerability.<sup>460</sup> The strategy received a lot of attention in the media, most of it negative for various reasons. Far from all of these reasons were related to climate change.

“The strategy has been criticised for its lack of focus on reducing energy demand through measures such as insulating homes, with critics saying it will not help families struggling with bills for the coming winters,” Sky News reported, adding that the chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy committee said the government’s plan was “yet another missed opportunity”.<sup>461</sup>

According to the Financial Times, energy groups and specialists were “dismayed” at the energy security strategy’s “lack of fresh funding to improve the energy efficiency of the UK’s housing stock, which ranks among the worst in Europe”.

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457 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf)

458 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-nationally-determined-contribution-communication-to-the-unfccc>

459 <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2021/12/02/cop26-must-launch-a-reinvigorated-uk-effort-on-climate-change/>

460 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy>

461 <https://news.sky.com/story/energy-security-strategy-boris-johnson-pledges-to-do-more-to-ease-cost-of-living-crisis-as-energy-security-strategy-criticised-12584281>



Another decision in the strategy, to hold the first UK North Sea licensing round since 2020 later this year, was also criticised. But Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it “fitted in with the UK’s net zero target”, adding that “in meeting net zero by 2050, [the UK] may still use a quarter of the gas that [the country] uses now”. The Climate Change Committee “praised the strategy’s targets for offshore wind, nuclear and hydrogen”, the FT added.<sup>462</sup>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Almost nothing has been mentioned in British media about adaptation or loss and damage over the last few months. The few online mentions come from one or two climate change groups and from a few government communications.

In a reply to the International Development Committee, which urged the government to “ensure the operationalisation and adequate funding of the Santiago Network” in January, even though it acknowledged the “challenges in accomplishing” a “separate funding stream for loss and damage”, the government stated it “partially” agreed. The government added that the UK would “use [its] Presidency [of the COP] year to help ensure the timetable for further development of the... Santiago network, including submission by Parties on their views on various aspects of the arrangements for the Santiago network by 15 March 2022”.<sup>463</sup> Not much was mentioned in the media about these submissions by the time of the deadline though.

COP26 President Alok Sharma stated similar aims in various speeches.

In February 2022, the UK, Egypt and the UNFCCC issued a joint statement in response to the IPCC report just released, saying: “We must also act with urgency to put in place the technical and financial support to deal with loss and damage, including through the Santiago Network and Glasgow Dialogue.”<sup>464</sup>

In March 2022, Climate Home News reported that Zac Goldsmith, the UK’s international climate minister, agreed with Ugandan activist Vanessa Nakate at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi that victims of the climate crisis deserved others’ help, but did not commit to providing finance.<sup>465</sup>

## Finance

The UK has not pledged any new money since its pledges at COP26.

## Delivery

In February 2022, The Guardian reported that green campaigners were concerned that the push for net zero emissions had been “undermined” by government actions. The daily reported that ministers and government bodies were considering extending a coalmine in Wales, and that they had approved a new oilfield in the North Sea, among other things.

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462 <https://www.ft.com/content/e78f8178-b230-45d6-86d5-49b1e5b37ac4>

463 <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmintdev/1008/report.html#heading-0>

464 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-uk-egypt-and-unfccc-in-response-to-ipcc-working-group-2-report>

465 <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/03/08/vanessa-nakate-confronts-rich-worlds-ministers-over-loss-and-damage/>

“The Abigail oilfield licence was approved... last month, despite a UK-commissioned report from the International Energy Agency last year that found no new oil and gas exploration could take place if the world was to limit global heating to 1.5°C,” The Guardian said. It added that the issue of a mine in Cumbria, paused “while ministers hosted COP26” was “still live and... expected to be resolved soon”.<sup>466</sup>

In March 2022, the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee said the government still had “no clear plan for how the transition to net zero will be funded”. Dame Meg Hillier, chair of the Public Accounts Committee, said: “Two years after enshrining the ‘net zero’ by 2050 target in law, the government has unveiled a plan without answers to the key questions of how it will fund the transition.”<sup>467</sup>

Two days later, the House of Lords’ industry and regulators committee called for the government to “act urgently to explain how the transition to net zero will be funded”. A report from the committee said the target has not been matched by policies or “clarity over financial incentives”.

Lord Hollick, committee chair, said: “There is no point planning a carbon-free energy future if you haven’t got a clue how you will get there or how it will be paid for.” The report also called for energy security, nuclear and gas plans and a “greater exploitation of [the UK’s] own national gas resources” – something addressed in the government’s energy security strategy a month later, as discussed above.<sup>468</sup>

Also in March 2022, the BBC’s Reality Check team produced an article headlined: “Climate change: Is the UK on track to meet its targets?” It painted a varied picture. Two challenges mentioned were gas-boiler heating systems and poor insulation. “Earlier this year, the government scrapped its Green Homes Grant scheme to help people with the cost of insulating their homes,” the BBC said.

The government also says that people can keep flying, the BBC reported, claiming that “technology yet to be developed” should eventually allow flights to become fully or almost fully emissions free. The BBC also said that the government wants to increase capacity on hydrogen, a low-carbon fuel, but that that the hydrocarbon industry is “in its infancy” and that this ambition “is pretty hard to gauge”.<sup>469</sup>

In March 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine affected the UK’s climate work. “Boris Johnson believes the West should be given a ‘climate change pass’ to help wean the EU off Russian gas supplies as he faces mounting pressure over the government’s 2050 net-zero target,” The Times reported.<sup>470</sup>

“Boris Johnson rips up [the] climate rulebook as he moves to replace [the] Russian supply of oil and gas,” said Sky News. “Pressure to guarantee the country’s energy security means Boris Johnson is putting aside a key commitment to the planet.”<sup>471</sup>

“Boris Johnson says cutting off North Sea oil and gas production would be ‘crazy’ and expose UK to Vladimir Putin’s ‘blackmail’,” reported i News, adding that the Prime Minister said that “one of the best ways of standing up to [Vladimir Putin] was for the UK to invest in domestic oil and gas production

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466 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/09/campaigners-fear-net-zero-could-be-a-casualty-of-boris-johnsons-weakness>

467 <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/127/public-accounts-committee/news/161405/uk-net-zero-2050-government-without-answers-to-key-questions-on-costs-or-funding-target-set-in-law/>

468 <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/517/industry-and-regulators-committee/news/161468/uk-will-miss-net-zero-target-without-urgent-action-warns-lords-committee/>

469 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/58160547>

470 <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/boris-johnsons-call-to-relax-green-target-jbtvrfklx>

471 <https://news.sky.com/story/pm-rips-up-climate-rulebook-in-drive-for-oil-and-gas-to-replace-russian-supply-12566997>

as well as nuclear energy, so it could be more self-sufficient”, and that he believed “it was still possible for the UK to honour its climate change commitments while continuing to rely at least partly on oil and gas”.<sup>472</sup>

Forbes, however, focused on another part of the Prime Minister’s message in a piece headlined “Boris Johnson: UK must ‘double down’ on green energy to weaken Putin”. Quoting an article in the Daily Telegraph written by Johnson, Forbes said that the Prime Minister argued that renewable energy offered “the best path” to achieve independence from Russian oil and gas and starving Putin of cash, and that he said the UK would “double down on new wind power” and “do more to exploit the potential of solar”, which is “remarkably cheap and effective”.<sup>473</sup>

Another issue affecting the delivery of British climate goals is political disagreement. AP News reported on 27 March 2022 that “some within the... Conservative Party and the wider political right want the British government to retreat on its commitment to reach net zero”.<sup>474</sup>

“The Net Zero Scrutiny Group [is] a group of about 20 MPs and peers who want to curb or reverse the government’s commitment to reaching net zero emissions,” explained The Guardian in February 2022.<sup>475</sup>

In March 2022, Politico said that the “backlash against Boris Johnson’s plan to cut Britain’s carbon emissions [which is] gaining prominent backers in the UK... shares many of the same key figures — and tactics — as the successful bid to get Britain out of the EU”.

It called the Net Zero Scrutiny Group “a small but well-established caucus of Conservative MPs who argue they have no beef with the goal of fighting climate change but question where the costs will fall”. “They’ve now been joined by none other than Nigel Farage, the former MEP, who invites voters to ‘take back control of our energy policies and prices’ – a clear callback to a key slogan of the pro-Brexit drive,” Politico said.<sup>476</sup>

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472 <https://inews.co.uk/news/scotland/boris-johnson-north-sea-oil-gas-production-would-crazy-expose-uk-vladimir-putins-blackmail-1526962>

473 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidrvetter/2022/03/15/boris-johnson-uk-must-double-down-on-green-energy-to-weaken-putin/>

474 <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-climate-boris-johnson-business-germany-e13e47b5c3784fa26e61d49502797295>

475 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/09/campaigners-fear-net-zero-could-be-a-casualty-of-boris-johnsons-weakness>

476 <https://www.politico.eu/article/britains-net-zero-skeptics-reach-for-the-brexiteer-playbook/>

# USA

## Overview

The US sets lofty climate targets that are hampered by the need to satisfy energy security, business and political needs, now perhaps with an even heavier slant toward the latter.

There are new initiatives seeking to deliver on NDCs and a 2050 net zero target, such as a Long Term Strategy and a net zero order signed by the president. But it is also becoming clear many actors in the US have conflicting interests. Most experts quoted in the media over the last few months view the big Build Back Better legislation packet as necessary for the US climate pledges. It is currently stuck in the Senate.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has bolstered interest in increasing domestic US oil and gas production. A fear of legislation that would further increase high gas prices, and alienate the electorate before the 2023 midterm elections, may also be holding back progress, according to the media.

One of the key findings of the recent March IPCC report was that a major barrier to climate action in North America is the undermining of climate science. “Strong party affiliation and partisan opinion polarization” are contributing factors, it said. “Vested economic and political interests have organized and financed misinformation and ‘contrarian’ climate change communication.”

## New NDCs and net zero commitments

The US has not updated its NDCs or its 2050 net zero target since COP26. But it has acted to deliver on targets set previously. At COP26, the US revealed a so-called Long Term Strategy for reaching the net zero goal.

It says that achieving net zero relies on “five key transformations”, including decarbonising electricity and reducing methane and other non-CO2 emissions.<sup>477</sup> In December 2021, President Joe Biden signed a net zero order<sup>478</sup> saying the government will cut emissions by 65% by the end of this decade, before reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Most experts quoted in the US media view the big Build Back Better legislation packet, currently stuck in congress, as necessary for the US climate pledges to work. It is “an enormous package that experts believe will make or break Biden’s environmental ambitions”, said ABC News.<sup>479</sup> CNN stated that “multiple independent analyses have found President Joe Biden simply can’t hit his goal of cutting greenhouse gases by 50% by the end of the decade without... Build Back Better”, and that the goals were “ever more out of reach”.<sup>480</sup> Both CNN and other media outlets noted that as long as Build Back Better is stuck, one of the only courses of climate action available for Biden is executive orders, of which he has issued several. But most indicated this will not be enough on its own.

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477 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/US-Long-Term-Strategy.pdf>

478 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/08/fact-sheet-president-biden-signs-executive-order-catalyzing-americas-clean-energy-economy-through-federal-sustainability/>

479 <https://abcnews.go.com/US/year-bidens-climate-record-mix-progress-inconsistency/story?id=82354202>

480 <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/12/21/politics/biden-climate-goals-build-back-better/index.html>

## Adaptation and loss and damage

Neither adaptation, loss and damage nor the related Santiago network have been mentioned much in US mainstream media over the last few months.

The Financial Times reported in February 2022 that African climate and economic experts “criticised the US climate envoy John Kerry for not taking the issue [of loss and damages] seriously” as Kerry visited Egypt.<sup>481</sup> The paper noted he was cited saying that “focus on a loss and damage facility ‘could delay our ability to do the most important thing... achieve mitigation sufficient to reduce the level of adaptation’”.

## Finance

The US’s 2022 budget bills were approved in Congress on 9 March 2022<sup>482</sup>, with \$1bn allocated to international climate finance – just 2% of its “fair share” (based on the size of the country’s economy and historical emissions) according to Climate Change News.<sup>483</sup> Several US media outlets highlight that even though the US’s planned international climate funding has been increased quite a few times, the ambitious proposals never get approved in Congress.

In his proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget<sup>484</sup>, released in March, President Biden allocated \$11bn for international climate funding. “If approved by Congress, the budget would deliver on Biden’s pledge, made in September 2021, to provide \$11.4bn in climate finance per year by 2024 — and it would do so one year early,”<sup>485</sup> the World Resources Institute commented. “But as last year’s appropriations cycle showed, this is easier said than done.”

USA Today cited Derek Walker, vice president for climate at the Environmental Defence Fund, commenting that “While not as sweeping as Biden’s ambitious but stalled Build Back Better social spending and climate policy legislation, the proposed budget is part of a ‘solid and reasonable’ answer to climate change... If the administration can also pass a much-diminished Build Back Better bill, ‘it will move the ball substantially down the field toward resolving the climate crisis’.”<sup>486</sup>

## Delivery

At COP26, the US committed to ending deforestation and cutting methane emissions, but not to quitting coal.<sup>487</sup> The US and China also announced a joint ambition to reduce methane emissions, tackle deforestation, and regulate decarbonisation.<sup>488</sup>

On 19 April 2022, the White House finalised the first part of a plan to restore requirements for the National Environmental Policy Act, which regulates government agencies’ evaluations of the

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481 <https://www.ft.com/content/cdb18bdb-6028-44f0-9142-677ae088ccda>

482 <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/delauro-introduces-government-funding-legislation>

483 <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/03/11/betrayal-us-approves-just-1bn-climate-finance-for-developing-countries-in-2022/>

484 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2022/03/28/fact-sheet-the-presidents-budget-for-fiscal-year-2023/>

485 <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/2022/03/29/biden-budget-climate-change/7194380001/>

486 <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/2022/03/29/biden-budget-climate-change/7194380001/>

487 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/14/infographic-what-has-your-country-pledged-at-cop26>

488 <https://www.state.gov/u-s-china-joint-glasgow-declaration-on-enhancing-climate-action-in-the-2020s/>

environmental impacts of their work. The requirements were previously removed by President Donald Trump.<sup>489</sup>

“The president is wedged between critics who largely oppose climate commitments and those who think the agreement reached at the recent summit did not go far enough,” USA Today said in November 2021.<sup>490</sup> “His administration's efforts abroad are already setting up potential future conflicts [at home] with disappointed environmental groups and lawmakers in fossil fuel producing states. ... Some of Biden's climate goals, like ending subsidies for fossil fuel production, would require congressional approval. Such a proposal would no doubt run into opposition from lawmakers in states that produce fossil fuels... and could have lasting effects on Biden's chances at re-election.”

“One year in, Biden's climate record is a mix of progress and inconsistency,” said ABC News in January 2022.<sup>491</sup> “Advocates credit Biden for setting an historically bold agenda... but for others, the honeymoon has ended. While experts say the Biden administration has made meaningful progress on climate issues ranging from emissions standards to fossil fuel extraction, environmentalists also see inconsistencies – actions from the administration that seem to undermine the president's own pledges and rhetoric.”

The war in Ukraine, and the world's dependency on Russian gas, has changed the climate change policies landscape in the US. “President Joe Biden's focus on trying to ease the pain at the gas pump has left his green supporters... divided,” said news site Politico in April 2022.<sup>492</sup>

Like USA Today a few months earlier, and many other outlets, Politico said that the upcoming US midterm elections, where the Democrats may lose their majority in congress, may affect the political agenda.

“Administration officials have [tried to] encourage reticent drillers and their investors to boost production as the US and Europe seek to ditch Russian energy exports... It's left Biden officials struggling to straddle Americans' kitchen table concerns about high domestic prices while keeping the support of climate-minded voters who the administration needs to show up at the polls in November,” it said.

“GOP lawmakers call for US to ramp up energy production amid Russia-Ukraine crisis”, reported Fox Business in February 2022.<sup>493</sup> “House Minority Whip Steve Scalise said... Biden should ‘immediately reverse his war on American energy so that the United States and our allies can have access to affordable and secure energy, while taking away a critical source of leverage and funding Putin is using to carry out his unprovoked attack on Ukraine.’”

“As gas prices soar, Biden's climate ambitions sputter,” said the New York Times in April 2022. “Experts say that it is now impossible for Mr Biden to meet his pledge to... cut [US] emissions in half by 2030.”<sup>494</sup> “The apparent dual track of federal actions comes amid Americans' continued concerns about both gas prices and the climate,” said CNN.<sup>495</sup>

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489 <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/2022/04/19/biden-trump-climate-change-environmental-law/7366575001/>

490 <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2021-11-15/cop26-climate-summit-reveals-challenges-for-biden-administration>

491 <https://abcnews.go.com/US/year-bidens-climate-record-mix-progress-inconsistency/story?id=82354202>

492 <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/04/13/biden-gas-supply-climate-change-00024776>

493 <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/gop-lawmakers-call-for-us-to-ramp-up-energy-production-amid-russia-ukraine-crisis>

494 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/01/climate/biden-climate-change.html>

495 <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/22/politics/biden-climate-gas-prices/index.html>

Finally, one of the findings of the 2021-22 IPCC report is that “rhetoric and misinformation on climate change and the deliberate undermining of science have contributed to misperceptions of the scientific consensus... Strong party affiliation and partisan opinion polarization contribute to delayed mitigation and adaptation action, most notably in the US... Vested economic and political interests have organized and financed misinformation and ‘contrarian’ climate change communication.”