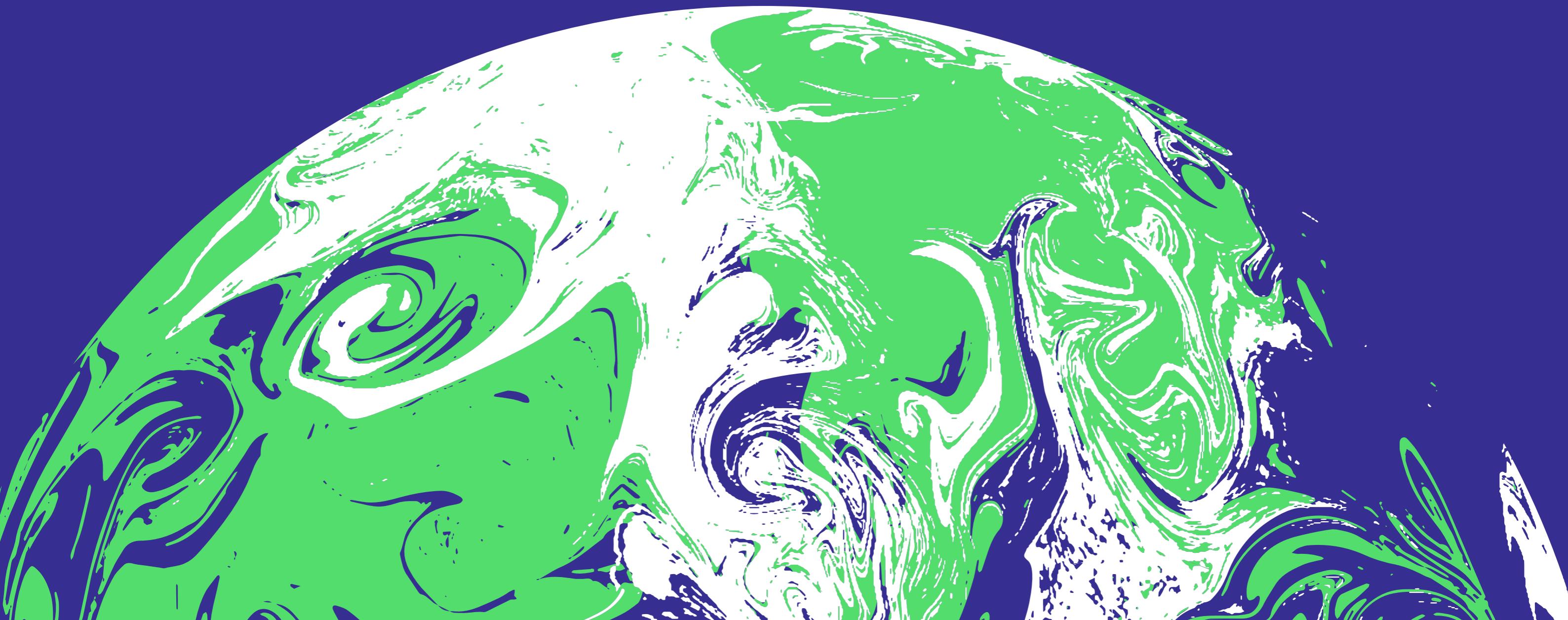


UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP26 EXPLAINED





"Securing a brighter future for our children and future generations requires countries to take urgent action at home and abroad to turn the tide on climate change. It is with ambition, courage and collaboration as we approach the crucial COP26 summit in the UK that we can seize this moment together, so we can recover cleaner, rebuild greener and restore our planet."

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

BORIS JOHNSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boris Johnson".



FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought devastation to millions around the world, disrupting many parts of the global economy. Governments, including our own, have stepped up to protect lives and livelihoods. But climate change has continued, and it ultimately threatens life on earth.

As countries begin to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, we must take the historic opportunity to tackle climate change at the same time – to build back better, and greener. We can deliver green recoveries across the globe that bring in good jobs, trillions in investment and ground-breaking new technology. And we must. To keep the temperature of the planet under control – limiting its increase to 1.5 degrees – the science dictates that by the second half of the century, we should be producing less carbon than we take out of the atmosphere. This is what reaching ‘net zero’ means.

The journey is already underway. Despite the pandemic, the direction of travel is changing. Around 70% of the world economy is now covered by net zero targets, up from less than 30% when the UK took on the Presidency of COP26. The world is moving towards a low-carbon future. Clean energy, like wind and solar, is now the cheapest source of electricity in most countries; many of the world’s car makers are shifting to make only electric and hybrid models; countries around the world are starting important work to protect and restore nature; cities, states and regions across the world are also committing to reduce emissions to zero.

Our country, the UK, is leading the way – over the last 30 years British governments have grown our economy by 78% while cutting emissions by 44%. That shows green growth is real. In 2012, 40% of our electricity came from coal. That figure is now less than 2%. That shows that change is possible. The UK was the first country to pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, we will completely phase out coal power

by 2024 and will end the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030. We are introducing legally binding targets to restore nature and radical reforms to agricultural subsidies. The Prime Minister has set out a Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution to help us reach our climate commitments whilst creating thousands of highly skilled jobs and already, many more Brits earn their living from clean green jobs.

Around the world we are also seeing progress. Together with the United Nations, Italy, France and Chile we hosted the Climate Ambition Summit which brought together 75 leaders from around the world. It was a major stride forward, with new commitments on climate announced by every leader who joined. It’s an important indicator that we are all serious about getting carbon emissions down now. Even so, we’re going to need much more. We cannot wake up in 2029 and decide to slash our emissions by 50% by 2030. That’s why the next six months will see the UK push others not to flinch from the big policy decisions: ending coal power, phasing out polluting vehicles, making agriculture more sustainable, tackling deforestation and supporting developing countries with finance.

Unfortunately reducing emissions is not enough. For many nations, the picture is far bleaker. I was born in India and for a time I served as the UK government’s minister responsible for international aid – I have real sympathy with less developed countries that feel it’s for the developed industrial nations to help sort out a problem largely of their making. Indeed, one of the reasons we are determined to hold COP26 in person is to ensure the voices of these countries are heard and acted on.

For those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change –

who are already seeing their homes disappear under water and their crops decimated by drought – COP26 simply can’t be another talking shop. In 2009, rich countries promised they would work towards raising \$100bn each year by 2020 to help these countries tackle climate change. Donors need to demonstrate that the target will be met and surpassed. As COP President Designate, I am determined that we will.

There is no viable pathway to net zero emissions that does not involve protecting and restoring nature on an unprecedented scale. If we are serious about holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees and adapting to the impacts of climate change, we must change the way we look after our land and seas and how we grow our food. This is also important if we want to protect and restore the world’s biodiversity, upon which all life depends.

At COP26, we will work with partners to take forward action on protecting and restoring forests and critical ecosystems, and we will champion the transition towards sustainable, resilient and nature positive agriculture.

COP26 needs to be decisive. Whether future generations look back at this time with admiration or despair, depends entirely on our ability to seize this moment. Let’s seize it together.



ALOK SHARMA
COP PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE



INTRODUCTION

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE GREATEST RISK FACING US ALL.

Around the world storms, floods and wildfires are intensifying. Air pollution sadly affects the health of tens of millions of people and unpredictable weather causes untold damage to homes and livelihoods too. But while the impacts of climate change are devastating, advances in tackling it are leading to cleaner air, creating good jobs, restoring nature and at the same time unleashing economic growth.

Despite the opportunities we are not acting fast enough. To avert this crisis, countries need to join forces urgently.

In November, the UK, together with our partner Italy, will host an event many believe to be the world's last best chance to get runaway climate change under control. For nearly three decades the UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits - called COPs - which stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority. This year will be the 26th annual summit - giving it the name COP26. With the UK as President, COP26 takes place in Glasgow.

In the run up to COP26 the UK is working with every nation to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change. More than 190 world leaders are expected to arrive in Scotland. Together with tens of thousands of negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks. Not only is it a huge task but it is also not just yet another international summit. Most experts believe COP26 has a particular urgency.

To understand why, it's necessary to look back to another COP. COP21 took place in Paris in 2015. For the first time ever, something momentous happened: every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees, to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and to make money available to deliver on these aims. The Paris Agreement was born. The commitment to aim for 1.5 degrees is important because every fraction of a degree of warming results in the tragedy of many more lives lost and livelihoods damaged.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries committed to bring forward national plans setting out how much they would reduce their emissions - known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or 'NDCs'. They agreed that every five years they would come back with an updated plan that would reflect their highest possible ambition at that time.

The run up to this year's summit in Glasgow is the moment (delayed by a year due to the pandemic) when countries update their plans for reducing emissions. But, the commitments laid out in Paris did not come close to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, and the window for achieving this is closing. The decade out to 2030 will be crucial. So as momentous as Paris was, countries must go much further to keep the hope of holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees alive.

International climate summits are complex. Here in the UK COP26 team we want to make it as easy as possible for you to understand what COP26 is and what the UK team is working to achieve. In this introduction you'll find the summary of our goals; explanations of the processes, a glossary for technical phrases and perhaps most importantly, ways for you to get involved.



THE UK'S LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE

The UK has a lot to be proud of when it comes to acting on climate change. We have shown that climate action can go hand-in-hand with economic growth. Between 1990 and 2019, we achieved record clean growth. In that time, our economy grew by 78% and our emissions decreased by 44% over this time, the fastest decline in the G7.

- We have decarbonised our economy faster than any other country in the G20 since 2000
- We were the first major economy to put into law that we will reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- We are the largest producer of offshore wind energy in the world
- We will end direct government support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas
- We are doubling our international climate finance to help developing nations with £11.6bn over the next five years up to 2025/2026
- We have announced the end of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030, putting the UK on course to be the fastest G7 country to decarbonise cars and vans
- We will spend at least £3bn of our international climate finance in the next 5 years on nature and nature based solutions

- We are planting trees on 30,000 hectares of land per year by 2025
- We have announced plans that put farmers at the forefront of reversing environmental decline and tackling climate change
- We will make climate-related disclosures mandatory across the economy by 2025, with most requirements coming in by 2023
- The low carbon sector and supply chain provides over 460,000 jobs in the UK. Our ambition is for up to 2 million green jobs by 2030

As the world looks to recover from the impact of coronavirus on our lives, livelihoods and economies, we have the chance to build back better. Our Ten Point Plan will help deliver a green industrial revolution - by investing in clean energy, transport, nature and innovative technologies - creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process.

Leading the world in tackling and adapting to climate change is a major economic opportunity for the UK, that will create new skilled jobs across the country as well as export opportunities for our firms.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO ACHIEVE AT COP26?

SECURE GLOBAL NET ZERO BY MID- CENTURY AND KEEP 1.5 DEGREES WITHIN REACH.

Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets (NDCs) that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to accelerate the phase-out of coal, encourage investment in renewables, curtail deforestation and speed up the switch to electric vehicles.

ADAPT TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL HABITATS.

The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects. At COP26 we need to work together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to protect and restore ecosystems, build defences, put warning systems in place and make infrastructure and agriculture more resilient to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and lives.

MOBILISE FINANCE.

To realise our first two goals, developed countries must deliver on their promise to raise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year. International financial institutions must play their part and we need to work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.

WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER.

We can only rise to the challenges of climate change by working together. At COP26 we must finalise the Paris Rulebook (the rules needed to implement the Paris Agreement). And, we have to turn our ambitions into action by accelerating collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society to deliver on our climate goals faster.

SECURE GLOBAL NET ZERO AND KEEP 1.5 DEGREES WITHIN REACH.



THE WORLD IS CURRENTLY NOT ON TRACK TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING TO 1.5 DEGREES.

The targets announced in Paris would result in warming well above 3 degrees by 2100 compared to pre-industrial levels. If we continue as we are, temperatures will carry on rising, bringing even more catastrophic flooding, bush fires, extreme weather and destruction of species.

We have made progress in recent months to bend the temperature curve closer to 2 degrees; but the science shows that much more must be done to keep 1.5 degrees in reach. The world needs to halve emissions over the next decade and reach net zero carbon emissions by the middle of the century if we are to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees.

As part of the Paris Agreement, every country agreed to communicate or update their emissions reduction targets - their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - every five years to reflect their highest possible ambition and a progression over time. These targets set out how far countries plan to reduce emissions across their entire economy and/or in specific sectors.

2020 marked the first of these five year cycles. This means that countries are expected to update their 2030 targets before we meet in Glasgow. We are calling on all countries to update them so that they are in line with holding temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. It is especially important that developed countries and the largest emitters take the lead.

While targets are important, they must translate into action, fast. Which is why developed countries must rapidly phase out coal power, and all countries should commit to not opening or financing any new coal-fired power stations across the world.

At the same time, we must work together to provide developing countries with better support to deliver clean energy to their citizens.

Forests play a vital role in removing carbon from the air. Protecting them is critical if we are going to meet our climate goals, and right now they are still being lost at the rate of a football pitch every few seconds. We are encouraging countries to work together to reform the global trade in agricultural commodities (like beef, soy and palm oil) so that sustainable production is rewarded, helping farmers to make a better living while forests are protected.

And finally, we need to clean up our air and reduce carbon emissions by switching to driving zero emission cars, vans and trucks. The UK will end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030. Countries with major car markets should follow our lead. If we send a strong signal to the industry, investment will shift more quickly to new, clean technologies, and all countries will be able to enjoy the benefits sooner.



ELIZABETH WATHUTI

WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS

Around **70%** of the world's economy is now **committed to reaching net zero emissions**, up from 30% when the UK took over as incoming COP Presidency.

More than **80 countries** have formally updated their NDCs, and all **G7** countries have announced **new NDC targets** that put them on the path to net zero emissions by 2050.

Accounting for around half the global economy, all the countries that make up the **G7 have updated their 2030 targets** to put them on a pathway to net zero by 2050.

Solar and wind are now cheaper than new coal and gas power plants in two thirds of countries of the world.

WE HAVE TO ACT URGENTLY

"COP26 presents an opportunity for the world to take immediate action to end the fossil fuel era and start regenerating nature while ensuring that all our remaining natural ecosystems stay intact. As nations look to rebuild their economies in the wake of COVID19, we have seen an emphasis on 'building back better' through a green recovery. More and more countries, businesses, and investors are also coming forward with commitments to decarbonize by 2030 or 2050. But while these long-term commitments send a very important signal, it is the decisions we make today that really matter. What we say yes to. What we say no to and where we choose to invest our human and financial capital right now and not in years to come. The eyes of the young people are on COP26 and beyond and every day, minute, and hour that passes without urgent action translates to failing future generations. The climate crisis is already causing loss and damage for so many people and while we may all be in the same storm; we are definitely not all in the same boat. COP26 is an opportunity and a time to move from commitments to real urgent action."

ELIZABETH WATHUTI

GLOBAL SOUTH CO CHAIR OF THE COP26 CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE FOUNDER OF THE GREEN GENERATIONAL INITIATIVE



LORD ZAC GOLDSMITH

PRIORITISE NATURE

"We need to back nature with the same energy we have seen in relation to the clean technology revolution. As governments plan their economic recoveries from Covid-19, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reconcile our economies with the natural world and deliver a greener, safer and more prosperous future."

LORD ZAC GOLDSMITH

MINISTER FOR PACIFIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT



URGENTLY ADAPT TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL HABITATS.

PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD ARE ALREADY LIVING WITH DEVASTATING EXTREME WEATHER HEIGHTENED BY THE CHANGING CLIMATE.

Even as we work tirelessly to reduce emissions, further change is inevitable. We know that the most vulnerable are at the greatest risk from climate change, and that they have done the least to cause it. Action to address this and build resilience is needed now, before more people lose their lives or livelihoods.

The international community must unite and support people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of the changing climate. We need more action to avert, minimise and address the loss and damage that is already occurring from climate change. Plans and more finance need to be put in place to improve early warning systems, flood defences, and build resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid further loss of life, livelihoods and natural habitats.

Protecting and restoring habitats is a powerful way to boost resilience to the impacts of the changing climate. They help to build natural storm and flood defences, whilst flourishing ecosystems contribute to sustainable farming and support billions of lives worldwide.

All countries should produce an 'Adaptation Communication', which is a summary of what they are doing and planning to do to adapt to the impacts of the changing climate, challenges they face and where they need help. These plans will help us learn together and share best practice between countries.

The UK has co-developed the Adaptation Action Coalition, in partnership with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, the Netherlands, Saint Lucia and the United Nations Development Programme. The coalition is bringing countries together to find solutions to some of the most challenging impacts of climate change, and we are inviting all countries to join us.



ANNE-MARIE
TREVELYAN

WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER

"In my role, I am acutely aware of the need to listen to and work with countries on the frontline of climate change to drive forward global action on adaptation to the impacts and avert, minimise and address loss and damage. With the impacts of COVID-19, it is vitally important we work together to scale up finance from all sources and improve access (to finance). We must push for all countries to have National Adaptation Plans in place and to produce Adaptation Communications sharing best practice to help turn ambition into action."

ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN

UK INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION ON ADAPTATION
AND RESILIENCE FOR THE COP26 PRESIDENCY



WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS

Over 20 countries have joined the **Adaptation Action Coalition**, building on the 2019 Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience signed by over 120 countries.

1500+ businesses, investors, regions & cities have joined the **Race to Resilience** all are committed to take action on adaptation to build a resilient future.

Over 40 countries and organisations have joined the **Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership** committing to make 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.

TO ACHIEVE OUR CLIMATE GOALS, EVERY COMPANY, EVERY FINANCIAL FIRM, EVERY BANK, INSURER AND INVESTOR WILL NEED TO CHANGE.

Countries need to manage the increasing impacts of climate change on their citizens' lives and they need the funding to do it. The scale and speed of the changes we need to make will require all forms of finance: public finance for the development of infrastructure we need to transition to a greener and more climate-resilient economy; private finance to fund technology and innovation, and to help turn the billions of public money into trillions of total climate investment.

Developing countries in particular need support. Developed countries must deliver on their promise to raise at least \$100 billion every year in climate finance to support developing countries. The OECD estimates that \$78.9bn of climate finance was mobilised in 2018. This must include building new markets for adaptation and mitigation and improving the quantity, quality and access to finance to support communities around the world to take action on the changing climate.

The UK is doubling our International Climate Finance commitment to at least £11.6 billion between 2021 and 2025. We want as many countries as possible to follow our lead and increase their commitment through to 2025.

Ahead of COP26, we must work to unleash the trillions in private finance that are needed to power us towards net zero by the middle of the century. To do this, every financial decision needs to take climate into account. This includes all private investment decisions, but also all spending decisions that countries and international financial institutions are making as they roll out stimulus packages to rebuild economies from the pandemic.

Companies need to be transparent about the risks and opportunities that climate change, and the shift to a net zero economy pose to their business. Central banks and regulators need to make sure that our financial systems can withstand the impacts of climate change and support the transition to net zero. It also means banks, insurers, investors and other financial firms committing to ensuring their investments and lending is aligned with net zero.



MOBILISE FINANCE.



WE HAVE TO CHANGE

"Right now our species is undermining and destabilising the very foundations that are necessary for life on earth to thrive. We know that things are changing, and COP26 is one of our last and most crucial opportunities to make sure it is humanity that has to change, and not the planet."

BELLA LACK

GLOBAL NORTH YOUTH CO-CHAIR OF THE COP26 CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

GLASGOW FINANCIAL ALLIANCE FOR NET ZERO

To deliver on the Paris Agreement the whole global economy needs to shift. Companies, banks, insurers and investors all have to adjust their business models and develop credible plans for the transition to a net zero economy and implement them.

To encourage the financial sector to do more, the COP Presidency, the UN High Level Climate Champions and Mark Carney have launched the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ). This already unites over 160 firms, together responsible for assets in excess of US\$70 trillion, from the leading net zero initiatives across the financial system to accelerate the transition to net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. These initiatives must all be accredited by the Race to Zero, which means using science-based guidelines to reach net zero emissions and setting 2030 interim targets. GFANZ includes 43 banks representing \$28.5 trillion through the Net Zero Banking Alliance, 87 asset managers representing \$37 trillion through the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative, and 37 asset owners representing \$5.7 trillion through the Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance. GFANZ will drive and raise the ambition of the financial sector towards COP26 and beyond.



MARK CARNEY

"Finance is essential to accelerating the transition to net zero and achieving the full ambition of the Paris Agreement. Over the past year, the public and private sectors have been working hard to put the plumbing in place to ensure that every financial decision takes climate change into account. In the final 6 months to COP26, we must build on that foundation through commitments to net zero from the world's major private financial institutions and with new markets that help meet the needs of the developing world."

MARK CARNEY

THE PRIME MINISTER'S FINANCE ADVISER FOR COP26

WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS

The OECD estimates that **\$78.9bn of climate finance** was mobilised in 2018.

Multilateral development banks estimated that **\$41.5 billion** was provided to developing countries in 2019.

The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero represents over **\$70 trillion** of assets committed to net zero by 2050.

Over **2000 organisations** around the world support the Taskforce for Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

17 central banks have committed to stress testing their financial system against climate risks.

REACHING AGREEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS OUR FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY AS THE PRESIDENCY OF COP26.

Doing so will help deliver on our other three goals and show everyone that the world is moving to a resilient, net zero economy.

A focus for the negotiations is finalising the rules needed to implement the Paris Agreement, called the 'Paris Rulebook'. We must find solutions so that carbon markets can enable greater ambition in mitigation and adaptation actions. We must resolve the issues around transparent reporting to build confidence in the system and support all countries to meet their commitments. And we must broker an agreement that drives ambition from governments over the coming years to keep 1.5 degrees alive.

The UN negotiations are consensus-based, and reaching agreement will depend on leaving no issue behind and making sure everyone's voice is heard. Which is why we are working hard to remove barriers that prevent everyone from participating in COP26 and championing the voices of communities vulnerable to climate change, including indigenous peoples and communities grappling with the transition from high carbon activities.

However, finalising the Paris Rulebook on its own will not deliver net zero. This decade is decisive and we need to turn ambition into action. Governments, business and civil society (sometimes called 'non-state actors') need to work together to transform the ways we power our homes and businesses, grow our food, develop infrastructure and move ourselves and goods around. Which is why we are working hand in glove with the UN High Level Champions on Climate Action to catalyse transformation in the global economy.

By committing to work together in this way we are laying the foundations for faster progress in the decade to come.

WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER.





NIGEL TOPPING



MICHELLE SCRIMGEOUR

WE WANT TO DELIVER

"States and non-state actors alike are galvanizing behind the guiding star of net zero emissions before 2050, but we are running out of time. We must urgently pivot to delivering the halving of our emissions by 2030, with robust short term plans and longer term strategies, if we want to deliver the promise of the Paris Agreement."

NIGEL TOPPING

UN HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

INACTION IS NOT AN OPTION

"To create a better future we need to harness collective agreement to focus on net zero commitments. Our purpose is unequivocal in protecting both society and future generations from the consequences of climate change."

This is also the investment opportunity of our lifetime. Coming together as business leaders, in the countdown to the COP26 Summit, we can align our influence and financial might to the net zero ambition and so produce positive sustainable economic and environmental returns. This is inclusive capitalism in action - inaction is not an option."

MICHELLE SCRIMGEOUR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LEGAL & GENERAL
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, CO-CHAIR, COP26
BUSINESS LEADERS GROUP

THE ROAD TO COP26

We are already on the road to COP26 and there are several important events along the way where we are working hard to deliver on the goals of the UK COP Presidency.

Glasgow will be the culmination of tireless work by the UK Presidency over the course of 2020 and 2021, which will continue until at the end of 2022. Where we hand over the Presidency at COP27 to an African country. As is dictated by the UN's system of regional orientation.

CLIMATE AMBITION SUMMIT

12 December 2020

In December 2020 the United Nations, United Kingdom and France co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit, in partnership with Chile and Italy. The Summit brought together 75 leaders from around the world. It was a major stride forward, with new commitments announced by every leader, including 28 new and enhanced NDCs at or just before the event.

CLIMATE & DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL

30 March 2021

The UK COP26 Presidency brought together countries and partners to discuss the challenges and priorities for implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in the countries most vulnerable to climate change.

LEADERS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE

22-23 April 2021

The Leaders Summit on Climate was convened by US President Biden and brought 40 world leaders together to encourage stronger climate ambition. The US and Japan made ambitious commitments to reduce emissions by 2030, coming out of the summit every country in the G7 had an NDC putting them on the path to net-zero 2050.

PETERSBERG CLIMATE DIALOGUE

6-7 May 2021

As incoming COP President the UK co-hosted the Petersberg Climate Dialogue with Germany, bringing together Ministers from around 40 countries to work together to accelerate progress on negotiations in advance of Glasgow.

P4G

30 - 31 May 2021

The P4G Seoul Summit will unite Heads of State, CEOs, investors and civil society leaders and focus on developing public-private partnerships at scale to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

12TH CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL (CEM) - 6TH MISSION INNOVATION MINISTERIAL

31 May - 6 June 2021

The annual CEM Ministerial meeting brings together Ministers from major economies to share best practice and promote policies and programs that encourage and facilitate the transition to a global clean energy economy.

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE - SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

31 May - 17 June 2021

The UN Climate Change Conference Subsidiary Bodies session convenes all Parties and Observers of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to make progress on negotiations in advance of COP26 in Glasgow.

G7 LEADERS SUMMIT

11 - 13 June 2021

Prime Minister Boris Johnson will gather leaders of G7 nations, the EU and guest countries to unite leading democracies to help the world fight and then build back better from COVID-19, and create a greener, more prosperous future.



FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC-54) AND WORKING GROUP I ASSESSMENT REPORT 6 APPROVAL PLENARY

26 July - 6 August 2021

The IPCC is currently producing its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). The contribution from Working Group I assesses the physical science basis of climate change. It will provide a key input into the negotiations at COP26.

76TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

14 September 2021

UNGA brings together leaders of the UN Member States to discuss global challenges including recovery from COVID-19 and tackling climate change. It will provide a critical moment for countries to come together and raise their ambition on climate ahead of COP26.

CLIMATE WEEK NYC

20 - 26 September 2021

Climate Week brings together business and government leaders to showcase climate action and discuss how to do more, and will provide a key moment for businesses to make commitments ahead of COP26.

YOUTH4CLIMATE: DRIVING AMBITION

28 - 30 September 2021

400 young climate leaders from across the world, aged 15-29 will convene in Milan this September to discuss pressing climate change issues and develop a declaration which will be shared with Ministers attending Pre-COP.

PRE-COP26

30 September - 3 October 2021

The Pre-COP is a preparatory meeting for COP26, bringing together ministers from a representative group of countries to discuss and exchange views on key political aspects of the negotiations, to find solutions to outstanding issues and set the tone for COP26.

UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

11 - 24 October 2021

The Conference will bring together the Parties and Observers to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China to discuss the action needed to reverse biodiversity loss and its impact on ecosystems, species and people.

WORLD BANK GROUP / INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ANNUAL MEETINGS

15 - 17 October 2021

The Annual Meetings bring together Governors representing the shareholders on issues of global concern, including the world economic outlook, poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness.

GLOBAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT: BUILDING A GREEN FUTURE TOGETHER

19 October 2021

The Summit will showcase the UK's leading global position, commitment to net zero and the investment opportunities that this provides across the whole of the UK to catalyse billions of pounds of investment for the Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH (COY16)

28 - 31 October 2021

Organised under the banner of YOUNGO (official youth constituency to the UNFCCC), this conference is in its sixteenth year and serves as a space for capacity building and policy training for young climate leaders from across the globe. The conference will culminate in a policy document shared during the UN climate change negotiations. COY16 will be held in Glasgow just before COP and is endorsed by the UK COP26 Presidency, UNFCCC and UN Secretary General's Youth Envoy.

G20 LEADERS' SUMMIT

30-31 October 2021

The G20 brings together the world's major economies to address shared challenges. It will focus on recovering from the pandemic and addressing climate change to ensure an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery.





HOW TO GET INVOLVED

CITIES, REGIONS, BUSINESSES, INVESTORS & UNIVERSITIES

At the 2015 COP in Paris, governments formally recognised that it is only by everyone working together that we can rise to the challenge of climate change. They decided to appoint two people referred to as the High-Level Champions to work with cities, regions, businesses and investors.

The current UN High Level Champions for Climate Action are from Chile (Gonzalo Muñoz) and the UK (Nigel Topping), representing the current and incoming Presidency countries of the COP. Together Gonzalo and Nigel are working with people and organisations that do not represent national governments (non-state actors) to build momentum ahead of COP26.

Race to Zero is the UN High Level Champions' global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions and investors to build a healthy, resilient, zero

carbon economy. Every member of the Race to Zero is committed to halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions as soon as possible - and by 2050 at the latest.

Cities, Regions, Businesses, Investors and Universities can join the Race to Zero and take action to reach net zero emissions. Race to Zero brings together net zero commitments from a range of leading networks and initiatives, including the [Business Ambition for 1.5°C](#) campaign for corporations, the [Net-Zero Asset Managers Initiative](#), the [UN-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance](#) and the [UN-convened Net Zero Banking Alliance](#) for financial firms, the [Under2Coalition](#) for states and regions and [Global Universities and Colleges for the Climate](#) and many more.

Non-state actors can also join the Race to Resilience, the UN High Level Climate Champions' global campaign to encourage businesses, investors, cities and civil society to take action to strengthen the resilience of people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks.

RACE TO ZERO

2300+ BUSINESSES
700+ CITIES
160+ INVESTORS
600+ EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS
20+ REGIONS

Race to Zero is the world's largest net zero alliance, with over 3,800 members, representing over 15% of the global economy, 1 billion people, and 21% of the world's biggest companies.

Are committed to halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions as soon as possible – and by 2050 at the very latest as part of the Race to Zero.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.

We will be working with broadcaster and natural historian Sir David Attenborough, as 'COP26 People's Advocate' to inspire everyone to take action on the road to COP26.

In the run up to the summit we will be working with people from across the UK to tell your stories about taking action. From the engineers working on the offshore wind farms that power our homes and businesses to local initiatives encouraging children and parents to walk to school, we want to show the hidden momentum being created by people just like you as we all act on climate change together.

We recently ran a process to invite organisations from across the UK to submit their ideas for events, exhibitions and workshops to take place in Glasgow, and have received many thousands of inspiring entries. These will help to make coming to COP26 an exciting experience for everyone. We have also worked closely with Glasgow City Council to recruit volunteers to support COP26 and had an overwhelming response, with over 10,000 applicants.

Budding writers can take part in our Blue Peter competition Our Planet Now. Children from across the UK are invited to write a poem or story about something that is affecting our planet today. The winning entry will be transformed into a short animated film by Aardman Animations, and premiered at COP26 to set the scene for world leaders to take urgent climate action.

We want to make it as easy as possible for UK schools, MPs, local authorities and religious groups to act on climate change in advance of COP26. Whether you want to help people understand what the summit is for or to galvanise action in your local area, we will have something for you. We will be releasing a number of toolkits with branding, ideas and resources to help. Keep an eye on the Together for our Planet website for more information.

Follow @COP26 on Twitter and Instagram for updates on how you can get involved.

"I am greatly honoured to be given the role of People's Advocate. There could not be a more important moment that we should have international agreement. The epidemic has shown us how crucial it is to find agreement among nations if we are to solve such worldwide problems. But the problems that await us within the next 5 - 10 years are even greater. It is crucial that these meetings in Glasgow, COP26, have success, and that at last the nations will come together to solve the crippling problems that the world now faces."

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH



WHAT IS COP26?

COP26 IS THE 2021 EDITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANNUAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE.

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. Parties are the signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994 which has 197 Parties (196 countries and the EU). The 2021 conference, hosted by the UK, together with our partners Italy, in Glasgow, will be the 26th meeting of the Parties, which is why it's called COP26.

United Nations climate change conferences are among the largest international meetings in the world. The negotiations between governments are complex and involve officials from every country in the world as well as representatives from civil society and the global news media.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT HAPPENS AT A COP?

Activity at a COP takes place in two different zones - the Blue Zone and the Green Zone.

The Blue Zone is for people registered with the UN body tasked with coordinating the global response to the threat of climate change - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In the Blue Zone you might be part of a national delegation, work for the United Nations and related organisations & agencies or be a member of the media or non-profit observer organisation.

In the Blue Zone, delegates from countries meet for both formal negotiations and informal consultations. They may also take part in meetings with other delegations to clarify their position and interests with the aim of reaching agreement or overcoming a negotiating deadlock. The UNFCCC will also host a range of events, including technical briefings, to support the negotiations process.

The Green Zone is for the general public. There will be a wide range of events, including workshops, art exhibitions and installations, as well as presentations, demonstrations of technology and musical performances for everyone to attend.

WHAT IS THE PARIS AGREEMENT?

The Paris Agreement was agreed at COP21 in 2015. For the first time ever it saw almost every country around the world enter into a legally binding commitment to reduce emissions.

It was 'top down' in that every country – no matter how big or small – signed up to cutting carbon emissions to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and ideally to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels; and it was 'bottom up' in that it left room for each individual country to decide how they would get there. These were called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Paris Agreement also set out ambitious goals on adaptation and on finance, recognising that many people around the world are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, and that support – financial, technical and capacity building – would be needed.





WHY DOES LIMITING TEMPERATURE RISE TO 1.5 DEGREES MATTER?

At 2 degrees of global warming, there would be widespread and severe impacts on people and nature. A third of the world's population would be regularly exposed to severe heat, leading to health problems and more heat-related deaths.

Almost all warm water coral reefs would be destroyed, and the Arctic sea ice would melt entirely at least one summer per decade, with devastating impacts on the wildlife and communities they support. We cannot rule out the possibility that irreversible loss of ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic could be triggered, leading to several metres of sea level rise over centuries to come.

At 1.5°C, the impacts would be serious, but less severe. There would be lower risks of food and water shortages, lower risks to economic growth and fewer species at risk of extinction. Threats to human health from air pollution, disease, malnutrition and exposure to extreme heat would also be lower. That is why every fraction of a degree of warming matters, and why we are dedicated to keeping the prospect of holding temperature rises to 1.5 degrees alive.

WITH THANKS TO OUR PRINCIPAL PARTNERS





United Nations
Climate Change



UN CLIMATE
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UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



UK Government