Climate Action Achievements

From COP21 Paris Agreement to Current (2015 - 2021)

**Municipal-level Action**

* Over 11,000 cities including 58 Canadian cities have now joined the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/) and are working towards resilient and low-emissions societies.
* In December 2018, [London](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/11/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-city-climate-emergency) voted to accelerate their climate commitment to become carbon neutral from 2050 to 2030. Bristol followed London’s lead and committed to the same target and Manchester committed to carbon neutral by 2038.
* The City of Edmonton was the [first municipality in North America](http://www.ssg.coop/edmonton-public-engagement-de-polarized-climate-action/) to commit to a carbon budget to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2018, Edmonton hosted a climate action summit to convene international Mayors. The summit led to the development of the [Edmonton Declaration](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/environmental_stewardship/change-for-climate-edmonton-declaration).
* In March 2020, the [Climate Action Planning Framework](https://cdn.locomotive.works/sites/5ab410c8a2f42204838f797e/pages/5ae2f92374c4837e195d0e00/files/20200324_C40_Climate_Action_Planning_Framework.pdf?1620380307) was released by [C40 Cities](https://resourcecentre.c40.org/) to support the developing of municipal climate action plans that align with the Paris Agreement. To develop the framework, C40 ran pilot programs in major cities including Los Angeles, Boston, New York City, Paris, London and Mexico City.
* Following the withdrawal from the Paris Agreement under President Trump, over 4,000 cities, states, businesses and other local groups joined [America’s Pledge](https://www.americaspledgeonclimate.com/) to show their commitment to reducing emissions and taking climate action.
* Launched in July 2021, [Cities Race to Resilience](https://citiesracetoresilience.org/) (a branch of the Race to Resilience campaign) urges cities to build climate resilience and take action to fight climate change according to their local context.
* Launched in 2021, [Cities Race to Zero](https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/cities-race-to-zero/) (a branch of the Race to Zero campaign) unites cities that support inclusive climate action that aligns with the Paris Agreement.

**National-level Action**

* In 2016, over 70 Canadian scientists developed a [roadmap](https://www.crcresearch.org/sites/default/files/imce/adale/ReEnergizing_Final.pdf) for how Canada can transition to a low carbon economy by 2050.
* In 2019, Trudeau pledged the creation of the [Just Transition Act](https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/07/canada-launches-just-transition-engagement.html) to ensure a fair and equitable transition to a low-carbon economy. It’s currently in the engagement process and receiving feedback from stakeholders, industry, Indigenous people and more.
* Launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, the [Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)](https://www.early-action-reap.org/who-we-are) was joined by over 40 countries to make 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.
* In June 2019, the House of Commons declared a national [climate emergency](https://globalnews.ca/news/5401586/canada-national-climate-emergency/) in Canada.
* In December 2019, the European Commission presents the [European Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/delivering-european-green-deal_en) to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
* In 2020, [Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050/canadian-net-zero-emissions-accountability-act.html) (Bill C-31) was enacted to legislate Canada’s target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
* In 2021, the government committed [$270 million](https://thenarwhal.ca/federal-budget-2021-canadian-farmers-carbon-emissions/) to support agricultural climate solutions including regenerative agriculture.
* In January 2021, the [Adaptation Action Coalition](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adaptation-action-coalition-an-overview) was formed and over 20 countries have joined. This builds on the 2019 [UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS)](https://www.adaptation-undp.org/adapting-now-resilient-future) [‘A Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience’](https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-images/call_for_action_on_adaptation_and_resilience_v_18_august_2021.pdf) endorsed by over 130 countries and 86 organizations.
* In April 2021, the UK set new targets to decrease emissions by [78% by 2035](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035) in their sixth Carbon Budget.
* In June 2021, Canada doubled its international funding to finance the cutting of emissions and coping with extreme weather. Canada has now pledged [$5.3 billion](https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2021/06/13/building-back-fairer-cleaner-and-more-prosperous-future-all) over the next five years. The US also announced it would also double its contribution to [$11.4 billion](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/09/21/biden-climate-finance/) by 2024.
* In June 2021, the [European Climate Law](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/european-green-deal/european-climate-law_en) entered into force. It legally binds the EU to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

**Multi-level and Multi-sector Action**

* Normalizing net-zero has its roots in the Paris Agreement. In June 2019, the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit released the report [Countdown to Zero: Plotting progress towards delivering net zero emissions by 2050](https://ca1-eci.edcdn.com/reports/ECIU_Countdown_to_Net_Zero.pdf). It stated that almost one-sixth (16%) of global GDP was covered by net zero emissions targets set by nations, regions and cities. Fifteen nations had declared the intention of reaching net-zero emissions before 2050.
* Launched at the [2021 Climate Adaptation Summit](https://www.cas2021.com/), the UN-backed global campaign, [Race to Resilience](https://racetozero.unfccc.int/join-the-race-to-resilience/) aims to build climate resilience by putting people and nature first. Over 2,000 businesses, investors, regions and cities have joined.
* Launched at the[2019 UN Climate Action Summit](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/2019-climate-action-summit), the [Race to Zero](https://racetozero.unfccc.int/join-the-race/) (sister campaign to Race to Resilience) aims to halve global emissions by 2030 towards achieving a net-zero society. The coalition is joined by 4,475 companies, 731 educational institutions, 250 financial institutions and over 3,000 hospitals from 45 healthcare institutions.
* In July 2020, the [Task Force for a Resilient Recovery](https://www.recoverytaskforce.ca/), an independent group of 15 finance, policy and sustainability leaders and a group of expert advisors, launched [5 Bold Moves for a Resilient Recovery](https://www.smartprosperity.ca/activities/5-bold-moves-resilient-recovery). The report outlines the steps needed to be competitive in the clean energy economy for a resilient future post-COVID.
* In September 2020, over 560 major companies including Walmart, Microsoft, IKEA, Hitachi and H&M called on governments to adopt policies to reverse nature loss in the [Business for Nature’s Call to Action](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d777de8109c315fd22faf3a/t/5f651910b71066357bd5bdc8/1600461074656/Business%2Bfor%2BNature%2Bnews%2Brelease%2B-%2BCTA%2Bsignatories_underembargo21Sept.pdf). Representing a combined revenue of $4 trillion US, the coalition of businesses stated that without nature-protecting policies, we won’t be able to meet the Paris Agreement or prevent biodiversity collapse.
* Under the [Science-based Targets initiative (SBTi)](https://sciencebasedtargets.org/companies-taking-action?target=1.5%C2%B0C&region=North%20America#table), 2,062 companies have set emission reduction targets to transition to zero-carbon operations including eBay, Netflix, Apple and Telus.

**Important Reports**

* [United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)](https://www.unep.org/) Emissions Gap Report ([2015](https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2015), [2016](https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2016), [2017](https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2017), [2018](https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2018), [2019](https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019), [2020](https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2020), [2021](https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2021)) “provides an overview of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avert the worst impacts of climate change.”
* [World Meteorology Organization (WMO)](https://public.wmo.int/en) The State of the Global Climate report ([2016](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3414), [2017](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=4453#:~:text=Global%20mean%20temperatures%20in%202017,by%20an%20El%20Ni%C3%B1o%20event.), [2018](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5789), [2019](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10211#:~:text=The%20global%20mean%20temperature%20for%202019%20was%20around%201.1%20%C2%B1,the%20second%20warmest%20on%20record.), [2020](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10618)).
* In October 2018, the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Crisis (IPCC)](https://www.ipcc.ch/) released the special report, [Global Warming of 1.5°C](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_HR.pdf) detailing the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It declared that if we want to keep climate change within acceptable limits, we need to bring global emissions to zero within 30 years.
* In 2019, more than 11,000 of the world’s scientists from 153 countries declared clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a [climate emergency](https://www.crcresearch.org/sites/default/files/imce/adale/Worldsciencewarning2019.pdf).
* In November 2019, the [Ecology Action Centre](https://ecologyaction.ca/) released a [major technical and modelling](https://www.crcresearch.org/sites/default/files/imce/adale/EAC%20Coal%20Phaseout%20Report%20-%20Final%20-%20191120.pdf) report for the low-carbon transition from coal and oil-fueled electricity to 91% renewable energy in Nova Scotia by 2030.
* In June 2021, the [Biodiversity and Climate Change: Scientific Outcomes](https://ipbes.net/events/launch-ipbes-ipcc-co-sponsored-workshop-report-biodiversity-and-climate-change) report was released by the IPCC and the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)](https://ipbes.net/). In the report, 50 experts found that biodiversity loss and the climate crisis must be addressed simultaneously if both are to be solved.
* In August 2021, IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/), was released. [Scientists concluded](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/09/what-is-ipcc-why-new-climate-report-different), “Only drastic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions this decade can prevent us from rising global temperatures to a disastrous extent.”

**Climate Conferences**

* UN Climate Action Summit (2014, 2019)
	+ At the latest [UN Climate Action Summit in 2019](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/2019-climate-action-summit), 75 countries committed to delivering 2050 net-zero emissions strategies by 2020. Investors committed to moving to carbon-neutral investment portfolios by 2050. 87 major businesses committed to reducing emissions and aligning business models with Paris Agreement goals.
* The US withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2020 under President Donald Trump, but in 2021, the newly-elect President Joe Biden formally [re-joined the climate accord](https://www.npr.org/2021/02/19/969387323/u-s-officially-rejoins-paris-agreement-on-climate-change).
* From 2016 to 2019, COPs 22, 23, 24 and 25 occurred and thrashed out the rule book for implementation.
* In June 2021, the science academies from each nation at the G7 Summit collectively released three priority areas requiring urgent action: climate change, biodiversity loss, and data accessibility and sharing during global health emergencies.
* [Youth4Climate](https://youth4climate.live/), a youth meeting pre-COP called on rich nations to fulfil their long-standing promise in climate funding to developing nations for adaptation to and minimizing the effects of climate change.

**Technological Innovation**

* Development of successful carbon capture technologies including [The Acorn Project](https://theacornproject.uk/about/) in Scotland and [Drax C-Capture Project](https://www.c-capture.co.uk/) in England.
* The price of renewable energy has dropped. In some places including the U.S., renewable prices have dropped to an [all-time low](https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2020/01/21/renewable-energy-prices-hit-record-lows-how-can-utilities-benefit-from-unstoppable-solar-and-wind/?sh=4f3fcf2e2c84).
* In November 2015, the prime ministers of India and France launched the [International Solar Alliance](https://isolaralliance.org/) (ISA) to promote solar energy amongst solar-resource-rich countries worldwide. At the launch, 120 nations announced their participation within the alliance.
* The further advancement and popularization of zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs). In 2019, the Government of Canada launched the [Zero-emissions Vehicles (iZEV) Program](https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/innovative-technologies/zero-emission-vehicles) to encourage Canadians to invest in ZEVs.
* In 2019, NGOs reported [fourfold increases](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/08/greta-thunberg-effect-driving-growth-in-carbon-offsetting) in investments in carbon-reducing projects in developing countries over an 18-month period.
* In June 2021, the Government of Canada launched a $964 million program known as the [Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program](https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/climate-change/green-infrastructure-programs/smart-renewables-and-electrification-pathways-program/23566), to support renewable energy and grid modernization projects.
* According to the [Global Energy Review 2021](https://www.iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2021/electricity#abstract), the global use of coal, gas and oil for electricity decreased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, while renewable energy grew. Wind power increased by 12% and solar power increased by 23% in 2020. Both are on the path to setting new records in 2021.

**Financial (including divestments and investments)**

* Nine philanthropic foundations have pledged [$5 billion](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/29/record-5bn-donation-to-protect-nature-could-herald-new-green-era-of-giving-aoe?utm_term=02fe2650535f5e1650d06af584c50e79&utm_campaign=GreenLight&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email) to be doled out over the next 10 years to conservation efforts. The aim is to finance the protection of 30% of land and ocean by 2030 - one of the goals in the [draft agreement](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) to be negotiated at the [UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15)](https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15).
* The City of Ithaca raised [$100 million through private investors](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/19/ithaca-new-york-raised-100m-climate-proof-buildings) to help reach its goal of offsetting carbon emissions by 2030 by decarbonizing residential and commercial buildings.
* Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec has committed to fully divesting in oil by the end of 2022, as part of their [new climate change strategy](https://www.cdpq.com/en/news/pressreleases/cdpq-announces-its-new-climate-strategy). Caisse has nearly [$4 billion](https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/caisse-climate-change-1.6191982) sunk into oil-related investments, but following the divestment, the pension giant intends to invest [$54 billion into “green assets” by 2025](https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/caisse-climate-change-1.6191982).
* Universities throughout Canada and the United States have committed to partially or fully divesting from fossil fuel including the [University of British Columbia](https://vpfo.ubc.ca/2020/04/ubc-moves-forward-with-divestment-plus/), [Harvard University](https://www.npr.org/2021/09/10/1035901596/harvard-university-end-investment-fossil-fuel-industry-climate-change-activism#:~:text=More%20Podcasts%20%26%20Shows-,Harvard%20University%20Moves%20To%20Divest%20From%20The%20Fossil%20Fuel%20Industry,to%20do%20so%20for%20years.) and [Boston University](https://www.bu.edu/articles/2021/boston-university-divest-from-fossil-fuel-industry/).
* In September 2019, the UN-convened [Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance](https://www.unepfi.org/net-zero-alliance/) was launched. Today, 60 institutional investors representing $10 trillion US in assets have joined the alliance and committed to transitioning their investment to net-zero by 2050.
* In September 2019, leading banks and the United Nations launched the [Principles for Responsible Banking](https://www.unepfi.org/news/industries/banking/130-banks-holding-usd-47-trillion-in-assets-commit-to-climate-action-and-sustainability/). 130 banks collectively holding $47 trillion US in assets committed to climate action and sustainability by aligning their business goals with the Paris Agreement.
* In 2019, the [European Investment Bank (EIB)](https://www.eib.org/en/index.htm), the world’s largest multi-lateral bank, announced it will phase out financing to fossil fuel projects within two years. In October 2021, the EIB [announced](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/28/european-investment-bank-to-close-loophole-allowing-it-to-lend-to-oil-and-gas-firms) it will no longer be financing low-carbon projects led by polluting companies from 2022 onward in an effort to align with the Paris Agreement.
* In 2020, the EIB released their [Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](https://www.eib.org/attachments/thematic/eib_group_climate_bank_roadmap_en.pdf), stating their intention to invest over $1.1 trillion US over the next decade to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and sustainable economy.

**Civil Action and Climate Literacy**

* Inspired by Greta Thunberg’s solo strike in 2018, the [Fridays for Future](https://fridaysforfuture.org/) movement has seen 7,500 cities participate and over 14 million protesters since its inception.
* [Extinction Rebellion](https://rebellion.global/about-us/) is an international civil disobedience movement to demand action on the climate and ecological emergencies. Since 2018, 1,201 Extinction Rebellion groups have formed in 84 countries.
* From September 20th -27th, 2019, the Global Climate Strikes were attended by over 7.6 million people across 185 countries. This is [one of the largest coordinated global protests](https://350.org/7-million-people-demand-action-after-week-of-climate-strikes/) documented in human history.
* In September 2019, an [international poll](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/18/climate-crisis-seen-as-most-important-issue-by-public-poll-shows) across 8 countries (UK, USA, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Poland and Brazil) found that three-quarters of the public believe we are facing a “climate emergency.” Overall, the poll showed that the public believes that climate breakdown is the most pressing issue in society.
* During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a [rise](https://cen.acs.org/environment/pollution/rise-environmental-justice/98/i32) in public awareness of environmental racism and justice issues.

Additions:

## **Amazon’s Jeff Bezos pledges $2 billion to reduce land erosion**

Bezos said the Bezos Earth Fund, which he founded last year to execute his $10 billion commitment to fund scientists, activists and non-profit organizations in the fight against climate change, was “eager to participate” to work on restoring natural environments in Africa.

He added Amazon aimed to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040, powering all of its operations with renewable energy by 2025 and converting its delivery fleet to electric vehicles.

Bezos is one of the world’s richest men, with a net worth of more than $191 billion according to Forbes’ real-time billionaire index.

Add CRC Driving to technological innovations