

THE AMBITION CALL

The Ambition Call provides country recommendations for immediate climate action in response to the UN Secretary-General's request for countries to:

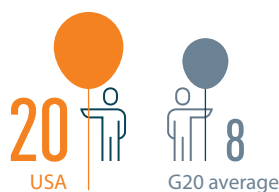
- present concrete, realistic plans that are compatible with the latest IPCC Special Report on global warming of 1.5°C
- enhance their NDCs by 2020 and
- reduce GHG emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero by 2050.¹

The 2019 Summit in Osaka saw the G20 countries (with the exception of the USA) reaffirming their commitments to fully implement the Paris Agreement.² Many have already announced their willingness to increase their mitigation targets, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050.

USA

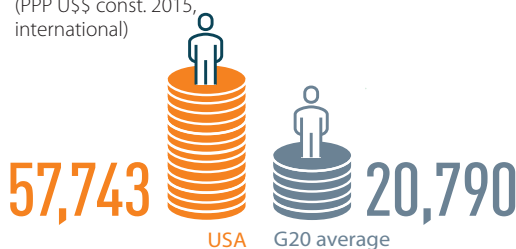


GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS
(INCL. FORESTRY) PER CAPITA
(tCO₂e/capita)



Data from 2015 | Source: PRIMAP 2018

GDP PER CAPITA
(PPP US\$ const. 2015,
international)



Source: World Bank 2017

HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
INDEX



Data from 2017 | Source: UNDP 2018

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

#1

Adopt goal of net-zero
GHG emissions by 2050
at the latest.

#2

Commit to achieve
100% sales of emission
free cars by 2030.

#3

Stop export policy for
liquid natural gas.



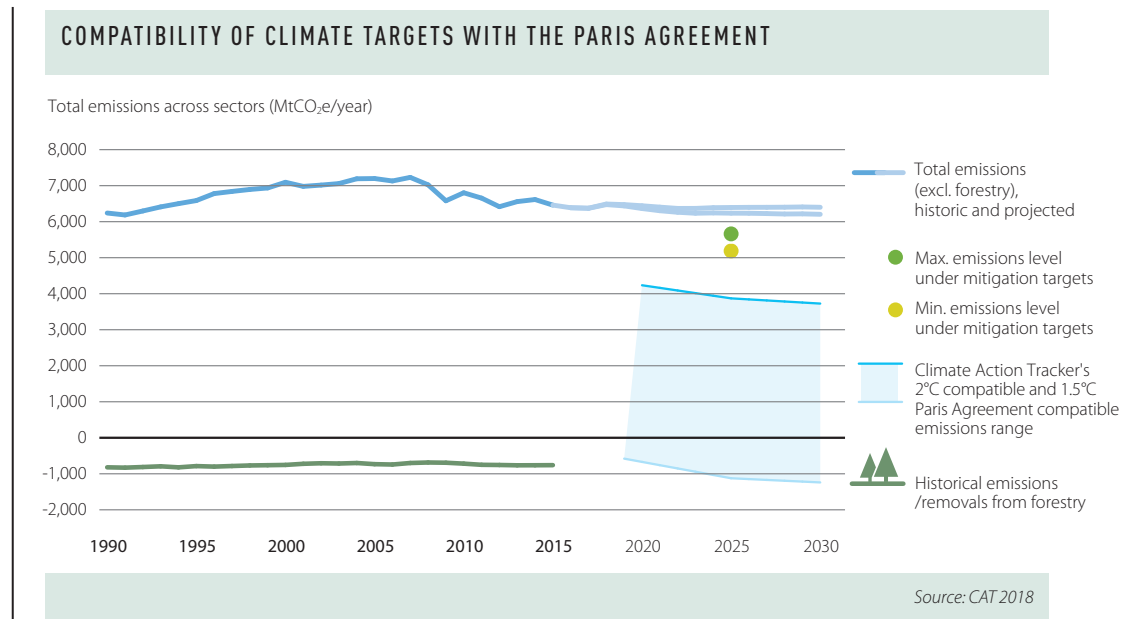
Climate Transparency is a global partnership with a shared mission to stimulate a 'race to the top' in G20 climate action and to shift investments towards zero carbon technologies through enhanced transparency. Climate Transparency is made possible through support from the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), through the International Climate Initiative, ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank Group.

<https://www.climate-transparency.org/>

Adopt goal of net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest

#1

Based on current policies, GHG emissions in the US are projected to reach between 6.2 – 6.3 GtCO₂e by 2030 (excluding forestry).³ This emission pathway is not compatible with the IPCC Special Report's recommendation that global CO₂ emissions must reach net zero around 2050 to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. While various countries are already adopting net-zero targets, the US is lagging behind in the adoption of ambitious long-term goals, despite being one of the major contributors of global GHG emissions. The country's unambitious NDC, combined with the reiterative intention of the Trump Administration to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and various climate policy rollbacks, indicates a need for the US to adopt a GHG emission target by 2050. In this context, the "Green New Deal" (GND) has recently been



introduced. This resolution to congress aims to compel the US to adopt a long-term strategy to help the transition to a zero-carbon economy.



What does this mean?

If the US were to enact legislation in line with the framework proposed in the GND, it would be a major step towards aligning the country with the recommendations of the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C. However, it does not currently propose a specific timeframe to reach net-zero GHG emissions. Non-state and subnational actors have committed to push

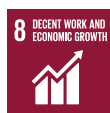
the US to meet the targets, many times leading by the example. One such case is that, in 2018, the state of California announced a target of full carbon neutrality by the year 2045, aiming to reduce global warming, with a focus on the many environmental and human health co-benefits for their communities.

Additional development benefits



SDG 3

Substantially reducing emissions when moving to a carbon-neutral economy will reduce air pollution from reduced fuel use as well as associated diseases like respiratory problems.



SDG 8

Development of a new carbon-neutral industry supports employment opportunities through the creation of safe and decent jobs.



SDG 9

Development and integration of new clean technologies supports sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure upgrading.



SDG 11

Switching to a carbon-neutral economy will contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities by reducing the amount of GHG and air pollutants from cities.



SDG 12

Switching to a carbon-neutral economy requires sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Good practice in other countries

In June 2019, the **UK** government has placed a law in front of parliament to move the UK to net zero emissions by 2050.



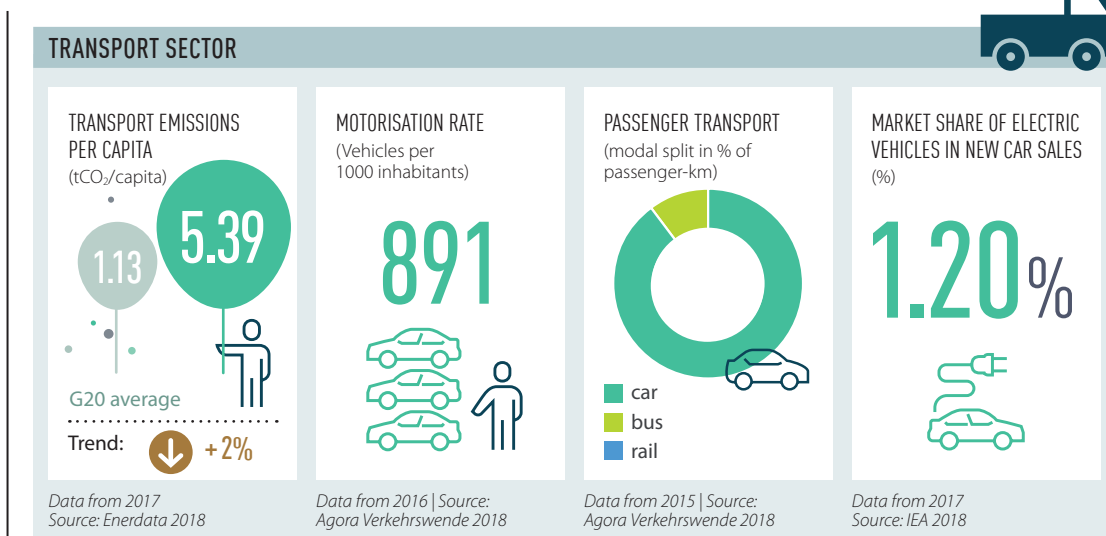
In 2018, **Denmark** set the goal to build a "climate-neutral society" by 2050. Accordingly, the Danish government updated its 2030 to -70% below 1990 (which is cutting emissions in half from today's levels).



Commit to achieve 100% sales of emission free cars by 2030

#2

In recent years, transportation was the largest source of GHG emissions in the US.⁴ According to recent research, the entire transportation sector needs to be decarbonised by mid-century to be in line with the Paris Agreement temperature increase limit, which requires the implementation of stringent vehicle emission standards in the short term and a swift uptake of zero-emissions vehicles.⁵ Controversially, the Trump Administration announced, in August 2018, that it would revoke the country's clean vehicle standards and freeze efficiency standards for cars and trucks at 2020 levels.⁶ Fourteen states have



vowed to keep enforcing the stricter rules to reduce emissions in the transport sector⁷ but a nation wide target of 100% sales of zero-emissions cars by 2030

is needed to redirect the evolution of the transport sector, considering that only 2% of all new cars sold in the US are EVs.



What does this mean?

The goal of 100% sales of emission free cars by 2030 would be a major step for the transport sector in the US, as it challenges current harmful policies and provide strong signals to guide the uptake of cleaner transport alternatives. It will also result in significant emission reductions in the sector, setting the US on a pathway to the goal of limiting global

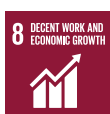
warming to 1.5°C. While the economic viability of zero-emissions vehicles has been questioned, some studies indicate that, in the US, EV cost parity with conventional cars will occur before 2025.⁸ This could lead to reductions of GHG emissions from the transport sector sooner than expected.

Additional development benefits



SDG 3

Switching to zero emissions vehicles reduces air pollution by lowering fuel use and improves mental health and well-being by reducing noise.



SDG 8

Shifting to zero-emissions vehicles increases resource efficiency by reducing fossil fuel use and contributes to decoupling growth from environmental degradation. Having new vehicle and fuel types contributes to technological and infrastructure upgrading and economic diversification.



SDG 9

Development and integration of zero carbon vehicles and associated infrastructure (e.g. charging networks) supports sustainable industrialisation, the adoption of clean technologies and infrastructure upgrading.



SDG 11

Shifting to zero carbon vehicles increases access to safe, sustainable transport systems for all and significantly reduces air pollution in cities.



SDG 12

Switching to zero carbon vehicles increases resource efficiency, reduces air pollution and can support adoption of sustainable practices, such as encouraging users to reduce their transport related emissions.

Good practice in other countries

In its National Transport Plan 2018-2029, published in 2016, **Norway** announced that cars and light vans will be zero-emission vehicles by 2025.

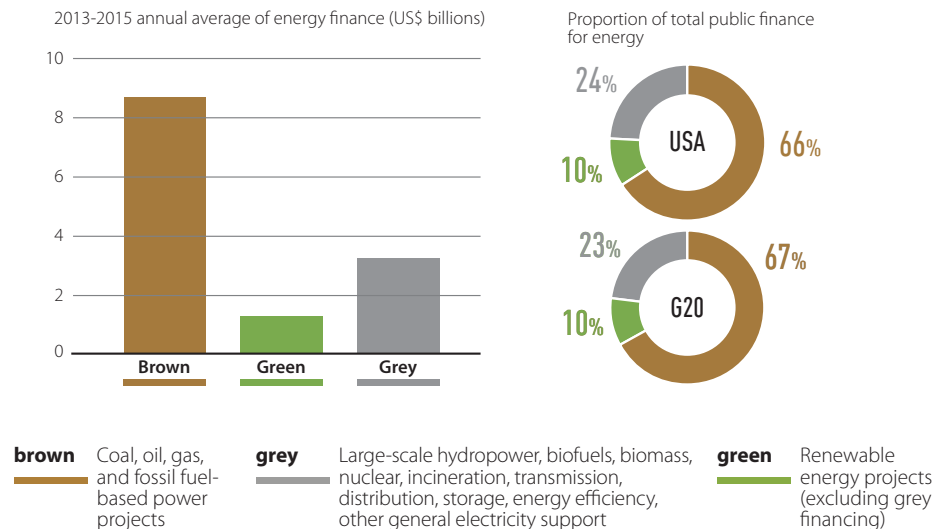


Many **cities** have set targets for CO₂ free transport: Bangalore (bus fleet by 2023), Rotterdam (bus fleet by 2029), Paris (cars and buses by 2025), Rome (cars by 2024), London (buses by 2025), Los Angeles (car fleet by 2050) and 30+ cities in China (bus and taxi fleet by 2022).

Stop export policy for liquid natural gas

Natural gas production and consumption have significantly increased since the mid-2000s. In 2018, gas was the main energy source and represented over 30% of the US energy mix.⁹ That year, the volume of natural gas exports (specifically, LNG), reached a record high, making the US the world's largest producer of natural gas and potentially the third largest LNG exporter in 2019.¹⁰ The use of natural gas in the power and industry sectors could reduce their carbon intensity by displacing dirtier fossil fuels, but it is not a long-term solution for deep decarbonisation. Continued investments in natural gas risk breaching the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal by locking all energy sectors into a gas-dependent development in the coming decades. In many countries, renewables are already the lowest-cost source of new power generation¹¹ while gas infrastructure is capital-intensive, especially LNG ports and pipelines. To exit natural gas, the US should stop the export policy of LNG, establishing an alternative long-term strategy to reach carbon-neutrality and offer a just transition.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FINANCE FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR



Source: Oil Change International 2017

What does this mean?

If the US stops its LNG export policy, besides the large-scale deployment of competitive renewable energy in the power sector, the development of a renewable-based hydrogen industry is an attractive alternative to enhance climate ambition. The existing infrastructure/expertise on LNG trading can leverage the development of hydrogen production, transportation and export industries. Australia, another

big LNG exporter, have started developing their hydrogen export industry, with its first export in 2019.¹² Installation of renewable energy facilities and the need for new skills and infrastructure in the hydrogen industry will spur investment in local communities and generate jobs.

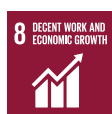


Additional development benefits



SDG 3

Moving away from gas to carbon neutral energy sources will significantly reduce air pollution as well as associated diseases like respiratory problems.



SDG 8

Development of a new carbon-neutral industry will support employment opportunities through the creation of safe and decent jobs.



SDG 9

Development and integration of new clean technologies supports sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure upgrading.



SDG 11

When renewables and other zero carbon technologies displace the use of fossil fuels, such as gas, they help reduce the environmental impact of cities by reducing GHG and air pollutants from their activities.



SDG 12

Switching to a carbon-neutral technology for energy requires and contributes to the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Good practice in other countries

In 2017, **France** symbolically committed to ban all new gas and oil exploration as of that year, along with gas and oil production across all its territories by 2040.



In November 2018, **New Zealand** banned new offshore oil and gas exploration projects. The country has the fourth-largest exclusive economic zone on the planet.



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