

Net Zero Futures.

States and regions leading
the way on net zero:
Catalonia



Country:

Spain

Net zero target year:

2050

Key legislation:

Catalan Climate Change
Law, 2017

Approach to net zero:

Voluntary measures that encourage stakeholder involvement used in conjunction with mandatory measures like carbon taxes





Catalonia



Catalonia is pursuing net zero by 2050 by targeting emissions reductions in smaller businesses that may not receive the same support as larger ones.

The Catalanian government believes small businesses play a crucial role in reaching net zero. Some methods that can help small businesses reach net zero are:

- Engaging in collaborative initiatives like the UN's Race to Zero; RE100; and SOS 1.5.
- Using tools like the SME Climate Hub, a one-stop-shop to make climate commitments and access tools and resources on reaching net zero emissions.
- Empowering small businesses through examples set by larger businesses that advocate ambitious climate policies and are accountable in reporting progress.

Catalonia employed voluntary measures like a Voluntary Agreement on GHG Emissions Reduction and a Voluntary Offsetting Program.

These programs are meant to encourage stakeholder engagement in the region. The measures strive to localize methodologies for calculating carbon credits in Catalonia, reduce confusion about offsetting, and fight the “pay to pollute” perception around carbon credits.

In addition to voluntary measures, Catalonia has introduced mandatory measures like carbon taxes.

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Challenges to net zero

- Small businesses face a large knowledge gap on how to reach net zero emissions due to a lack of time and resources. They require more support from regional governments in reaching their climate commitments than bigger businesses.
- There was some resistance to a carbon tax, but much less than anticipated.

Learn more about states, regions and net zero

Net Zero Futures is an initiative spearheaded by the Scottish Government, in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Climate Group.

The Under2 Coalition is an official partner of the Race to Zero campaign. For more information on how to join, please [click here](#).

