

Join the Race to Zero

What is the Race to Zero initiative?

The Race to Zero is the UN-backed global campaign rallying non-state actors – including companies, cities, regions, financial and educational institutions – to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer zero carbon world in time. All members are committed to the same overarching goal: **reducing emissions across all scopes swiftly and fairly** in line with the Paris Agreement, with transparent action plans and robust near-term targets. Led by the High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action – **Nigel Topping** and **Gonzalo Muñoz** – Race To Zero mobilises actors outside of national governments to join the **Climate Ambition Alliance**, which was launched at the UNSG's Climate Action Summit 2019 by the President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera.

The Under2 Coalition is a partner of the [Race to Zero](#) campaign. As a partner to the Race to Zero, the Under2 Coalition Secretariat – the Climate Group supports individual states, regions, provinces, prefectures and other subnational 'actors' to join Race to Zero.

The Under2 Coalition's [Net Zero Futures](#) initiative offers subnational governments an opportunity to be highlighted as a Net Zero Leader, be submitted to the Race to Zero, and have access to the latest knowledge, science, and international expertise on net zero target setting and long-term decarbonisation pathways. The [Net Zero Futures](#) Initiative is designed to bridge ambition and knowledge while providing a simple process for states and regions to become a part of the Race to Zero.

All states and regions taking part in [Net Zero Futures](#) are supported to join the Race to Zero, which is intended to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. The Under2 Coalition is working to ensure that individual states and regions are Net Zero Leaders in their own right and meet the minimum criteria to be included in the Race to Zero. Refer to the sections below to learn how to join the Race to Zero.

Join the Race to Zero:

In order to join the Race to Zero, states, regions, provinces and all subnational governments and other stakeholders need to meet a set of [minimum criteria](#). These criteria represent the “starting line” for the race, so meeting them reflects that actors have begun the process.

These ‘meta-criteria’ are known as the Four ‘P’s:

1. **Pledge:** Pledge at the head-of-organisation (for state/regional governments, this reflects a pledge at the Governor, Premier, First Minister, Chief Minister or other Minister) level to reach (net) zero GHG emissions as soon as possible, and by midcentury at the latest, in

line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects maximum effort toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO₂ by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

Note: The interim target must be set within 12 months from the point of joining the Race to Zero, if not shared already at the time of the pledge.

2. **Plan:** Within 12 months of joining, explain what actions will be taken toward achieving both interim and longer-term pledges, especially in the short- to medium-term.
3. **Proceed:** Take immediate action toward achieving (net) zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified.
4. **Publish:** Commit to report publicly both progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as the actions being taken, at least annually. To the extent possible, report via platforms that feed into the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal.

To understand these criteria in more depth, please see the [Interpretation Guide](#). You can also use the [Race to Zero Lexicon](#) to understand how various terms are defined.

Key steps for a state, region or province to join the Race to Zero

1. Make a public commitment at the head of government level with 2050 and 2030 targets in line with the Race to Zero criteria – this can be through legislation or through an announcement/statement, preferably backed with strong legislation or plans for legislating the target by COP26.
2. Submit evidence of the public commitment to net zero to the Under2 Coalition Secretariat through the Under2 Coalition Ambition Tracker, including any updates to the target including new plans, documents, papers and progress figures to be re-submitted through the survey when released. Governments included in the Race to Zero campaign must continue to report their progress annually through this form to continue meeting the required criteria.
3. Take part in [Net Zero Futures](#) project, participate in the dialogue series and receive profile as a state and regional Net Zero Leader, as well as profile through the Race to Zero campaign.
4. The Under2 Coalition Secretariat will assess pledges and submit governments to the Race to Zero database. Once the state/region is in Race to Zero, the Under2 Coalition Secretariat will share the Race to Zero Member Toolkit to guide their announcements and communications.

For any questions, guidance or support please contact Nehmat Kaur, Head of Global Government Relations at nkaur@theclimategroup.org or your regional Under2 Coalition representative.

Note: All state and regional governments that meet the minimum criteria can join the Race to Zero, and being a member of the Under2 Coalition is not a precondition to joining the Race to Zero campaign.

Race to Resilience:

The [Race to Resilience](#) is a global campaign – the sibling to Race to Zero – catalysing a step-change in global ambition for climate resilience, putting people and nature first in pursuit of a resilient world where we don't just survive climate shocks and stresses but thrive in spite of them. The campaign aims to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks, by 2030.

Through a partnership of initiatives, the campaign focuses on helping frontline communities to build resilience and adapt to impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise.

Join the Race to Resilience

Similar to the criteria to join Race to Zero, state and regional governments are invited to join the Race to Resilience by meeting the following criteria:

- **Pledge:** To translate new and existing targets, directly or indirectly, into the numbers of people from vulnerable groups and communities who will be made more resilient to climate risks.
- **Plan:** To use the best knowledge and scientific evidence, and share a clear plan by COP26 to take action towards this commitment with interim targets and milestones.
- **Proceed:** To take immediate action to pursue commitment in support of Race to Resilience, and has an active and functional secretariat able to request and monitor members.
- **Publish:** Agree to report back on progress annually starting at COP26.

States and regions interested in joining the Race to Resilience, can do so by contacting [RegionsAdapt](#) - a partner to the Race to Resilience and working to place climate resilience at the centre of the global climate agenda, putting people and nature first, and empowering local and regional action on adaptation.

The [RegionsAdapt](#) initiative, launched at COP21 in Paris, is a global initiative that supports the acceleration of climate adaptation by subnational governments. With over 70 signatory regions, [RegionsAdapt](#) aims to inspire and support regional governments to take concrete action, collaborate and report on climate adaptation. By joining the initiative, regions commit to report on the progress of their adaptation actions and goals on an annual basis. [Regions4](#) is the network that supports the initiative through its Secretariat and by involving members from the five continents.



Regions wishing to be part of this global effort and the Race to Resilience can contact Mayra García-Blásquez, RegionsAdapt Project Officer at mgarcia@regions4.org

For more information, please visit www.regions4.org #RegionsAdapt #RegionsVoice