

ZEV Pledge for public fleets

Overview | July 2021

Ahead of COP26, we have an opportunity to drive action on clean road transport by sending a super-charged demand signal from major fleet owners and operators that zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) are the future. Cities, states, regions, national governments, and other public sector bodies around the world can join this movement through the ZEV Pledge for public fleets.

The role of fleets in accelerating ZEV uptake

Globally fleets make up a quarter of all vehicles on the road, yet contribute to two-thirds of road transport emissions. Businesses, governments and public sector bodies all have a role to play to build a cleaner, healthier future by switching their fleets to ZEVs.

The Climate Group's EV100 initiative provides a global platform for the private sector to make commitments and showcase leadership on ZEVs - currently there are over 100 business members committed to switching more than 5 million vehicles to electric. We believe there's an opportunity to encourage, support and profile public sector organisations that are also taking action.

With ambitious cities, states, regions, national governments, and other public sector bodies around the world setting ZEV fleet targets, we want to aggregate this demand to send a strong signal to investors and automakers, as well as inspire others to do more.

ZEV Pledge for public fleets

The ZEV Pledge for public fleets asks governments at all levels, as well as individual departments, agencies and public sector bodies, to pledge to convert their entire owned or leased fleets, where feasible, to zero emission vehicles¹. This should be achieved as soon as possible and no later than the following target dates:

- Buses by 2030

¹ Zero emission vehicles refer to vehicles powered by a battery electric powertrain or hydrogen fuel cell and excludes plug-in hybrids.

- Two and three wheelers by 2030
- Light duty vehicles (4+ wheels) by 2035
- Medium and heavy duty vehicles by 2040

Guidance: Vehicle specifications

Bus: Vehicle designed and constructed for the carriage of multiple passengers, typically serving the public on a fixed route. Includes passenger buses, school buses, and transit shuttles

Two wheeler: Vehicle with two wheels powered solely by a motorised powertrain. Includes motorcycles, scooters and mopeds, but excludes electrically assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes), electric kick scooters (e-scooters) and other micromobility services.

Three wheeler: Vehicle with three wheels powered solely by a motorised powertrain. Includes motorised tricycles and auto-rickshaws, but excludes electrically-assisted pedal cycles for cargo and passenger transit.

Light duty vehicle (4+ wheels): Any motorised vehicle with four or more wheels and a gross vehicle weight rating below or equal to 3.5 tonnes, used to transport passengers or cargo. Includes, but is not limited to, cars, and smaller vans or pickup trucks.

Medium and heavy duty vehicle: A motorised vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating above 3.5 tonnes (excluding buses). Includes, but is not limited to, goods vehicles, larger vans or pickup trucks, refuse trucks, tractors, and construction vehicles.

This means that all new vehicle purchases will need to be zero emission from an earlier date. The pledge asks that signatories commit to converting at least one of these vehicle categories, and ideally as many as possible.

Additionally, signatories may pledge to use public procurement to support a faster conversion of other (“public-adjacent”) fleets where they have some degree of control, for example through requirements in service contracts. These public-adjacent fleets can include vehicles serving public ports or transport hubs, providing public or municipal services, and similar fleets reliant upon public contracts.

The pledge also recognises the progress on fleets being made through the [C40 Green and Healthy streets](#) initiative. C40 cities that are signed up to Green and Healthy streets have the option to join the ZEV Pledge through this pathway.

The target dates draw on the [Race to Zero Breakthroughs](#) for transport. These set a threshold for ambition aiming towards 100% ZEV sales by bold target dates that are aligned with a pathway to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Why take action now?

Accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles is essential if we’re going to win the race to zero. As we move towards COP26, everyone has a role to play in this transition.

Taking place in Glasgow in November, COP26 offers a unique opportunity to demonstrate that the transition to zero emission vehicles is both inevitable and can be completed on an accelerated timescale. This is particularly the case given that the UK Presidency has set clean road transport as one of its key campaign themes.

The ZEV Pledge will be positioned as part of [RouteZero](#), a global platform to showcase ambitious commitments and bold action on zero emission vehicles, designed to support the UN Race to Zero Breakthroughs and the UK government's COP26 Presidency campaign on clean road transport. The Climate Group is leading the RouteZero campaign, working closely with the High-Level Champions and a range of partners.

Who can join?

The ZEV Pledge is open to governments of any level: state, regional, national, city and municipal governments. Public fleets include any vehicles such as buses, two and three wheelers, light duty vehicles, medium and heavy duty vehicles that are being owned, operated or leased for the government's use.

Commitments are also welcome from individual government agencies, departments and public sector bodies (e.g. central government departments, regional agencies etc) within a jurisdiction that have responsibilities for public fleets owning/leasing/operating no fewer than 50 vehicles.

Benefits of joining

Organisations that sign up to the pledge benefit from the following:

- **Leading by example:** Converting your fleets will help to raise awareness of the benefits of zero emission vehicles, influence citizens and companies to follow your example, and obtain practical insights that can help develop better informed policy decisions. ZEVs contribute to improved air quality and public health as well as lower emissions and cost savings.
- **Recognition for commitments and achievements:** In the lead up to COP26, there will be a variety of profiling opportunities through media engagement, events and social media. You will also receive a communications pack (with key messages, social media posts etc.) that you can use to showcase your participation. For the most ambitious signatories, there may be opportunities to feature in high profile international events, such as Climate Week NYC and COP26.
- **Contributing to global momentum on climate action:** Taking collective action through global networks means organisations can maximise the effect of their local actions. You can add your voice to a global effort, together with businesses and others, contributing to the action needed to accelerate the shift to zero emission vehicles and building momentum in the lead up to COP26.

Pledge requirements

- To make a commitment, signatories will fill out an online form, to be submitted by an official with the proper delegated authority.

- The pledge should cover at least one category (buses, two and three wheelers, light duty vehicles, medium and heavy duty vehicles, or C40 Green and Healthy Streets signatory). The target date should be as soon as possible but no later than the breakthrough target dates set for each vehicle category.
- Signatories are required to provide indicative numbers of the vehicles they currently have across the vehicle categories (owned and leased) they are pledging to transition to ZEVs. This will enable an aggregated number to be calculated ahead of COP26 and support the supercharged demand signal from fleet owners and operators.
- Signatories are required to provide information on current policies or future planned policies that support implementation of the fleets pledge.
- Signatories are requested to provide information on additional action that they are taking, or intending to take, to support accelerated ZEV adoption by other stakeholders within their own boundaries of influence, such as mandating standards for vehicles, or investing in charging infrastructure.
- We recognise that there is currently a small number of specialised vehicles or vehicle use cases where there is not a clear pathway for conversion to a zero emission alternative within the stated target dates. These can be exempted from the pledge if the overall commitment is still substantial.

Additional considerations

- Data provided by signatories may be used by the Climate Group and partner organisations for communications, media and promotional purposes in connection with the ZEV Pledge.
- At this stage, there is no ongoing reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism as part of the ZEV Pledge. We anticipate that this will be added at a later stage, pending resourcing and following detailed consultation with signatories, with all entities given a choice to opt into additional structures.