Session 1 summary:
Starting the journey - setting a regional net zero target and long-term vision

Net Zero Leader presenter: Scottish Government

Watch the session here (English) and here (Español).

Net Zero Futures.
May 2021
Key takeaways

- **The Scottish Government** opened the series and shared their approach for setting a long-term vision, including the operational features of their net zero target. They shared that an independent advisory body and the ability to adjust targets via secondary legislation are key.

- **The Under2 Coalition’s Pathways Framework** supports state and regional governments to develop a transformational process, or ‘pathway’, to reducing emissions.

The first step, building a vision, is a participatory process that guides the pathway design and achievement of long-term targets.

- Strong stakeholder engagement and high-level political buy-in are essential for high-quality participation.

- An effective long-term vision includes **interim emissions reduction targets**, **priority sectors**, as well as **socio-economic and sustainability targets**.

- **Legislated targets** more likely to survive changes in administrations and institutionalise the pathway.

**Net Zero Futures.**
What other states and regions wanted to know

• Can the Under2 Coalition team support states and regions move along the steps of the Pathways Framework? Yes, please reach out Jebi Rahman if you’re interested in receiving more guidance on how to use the Pathways Framework.

• How much progress has Scotland achieved so far? Scotland has achieved a 50% reduction on the 1990 baseline so far. Some challenges for the next 10 years are other large sectors such as transport, buildings, industry and agriculture.

• Are residual emissions or offsets included in the Scottish net zero target? Natural carbon sinks (forests) are counted towards the target, and more details on natural and technological carbon sinks is provided in the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032.
In Scotland we have already set ambitious targets, committing in law to achieve a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2045. However, that is just the first step, and we in Scotland – and other governments around the world – must continue to focus on achieving our targets.

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, The Scottish Government