

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 \(Español\)](#).

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May 2021

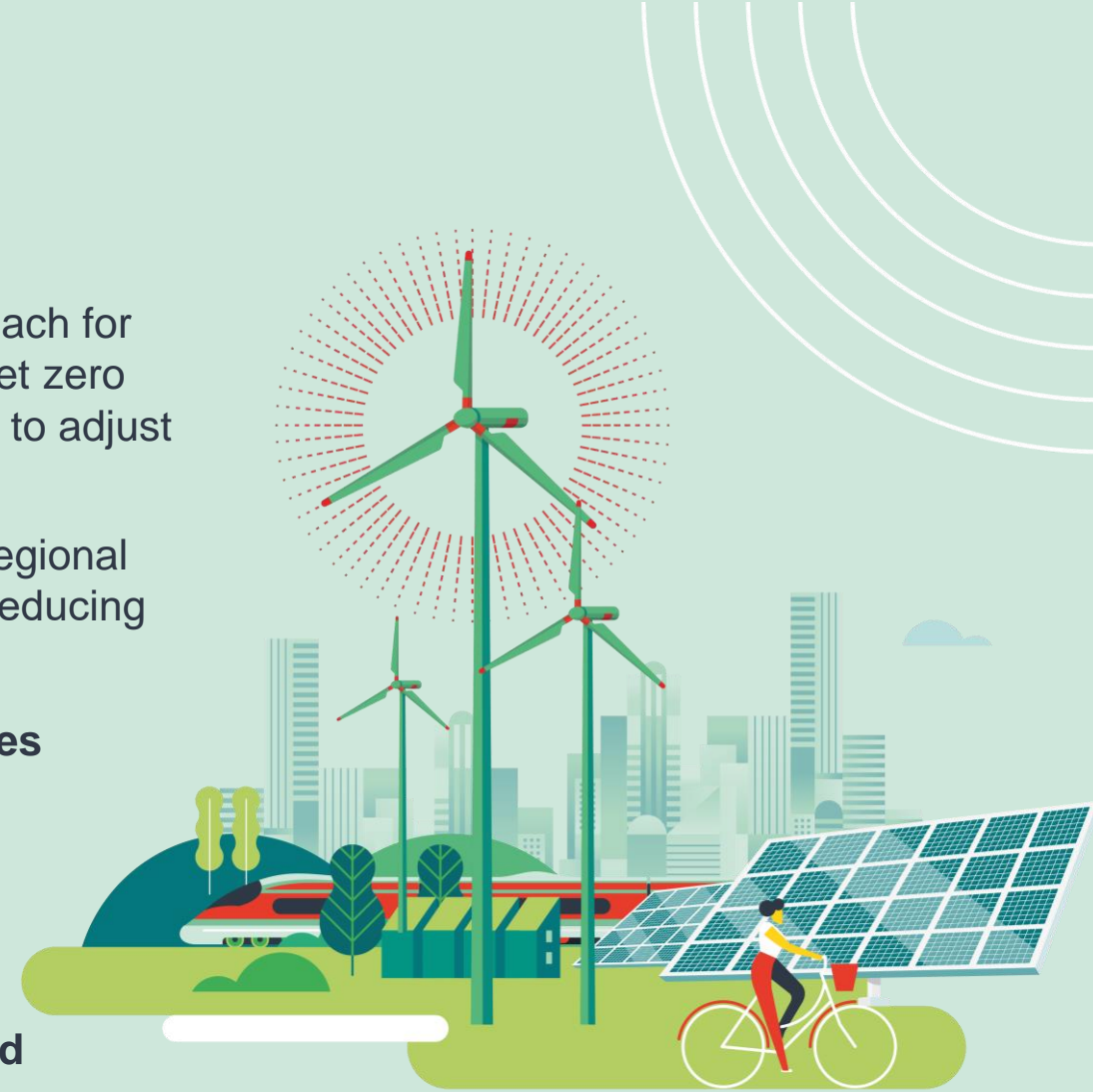
Key takeaways

- **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.

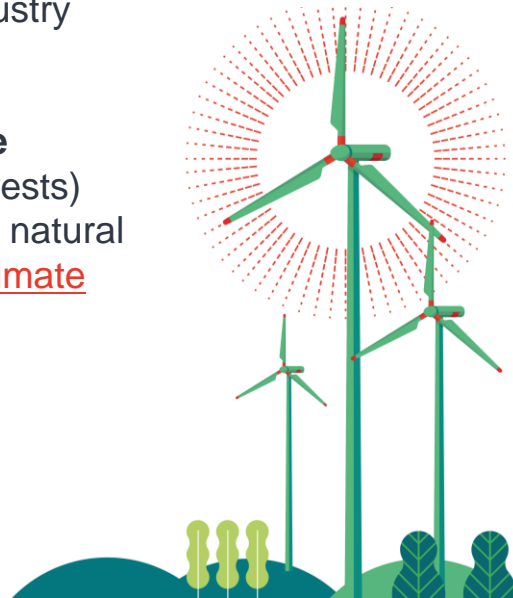
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What other states and regions wanted to know

- **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](#).

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“ 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

