

Global Framework Principles for the

Decarbonisation of Heavy Industry

Overall purpose

To accelerate and scale-up the decarbonisation of heavy industry to align with a 1.5°C global warming trajectory with urgency.

How to use this framework

The following framework has been developed by the Climate Group and Mighty Earth in collaboration with industry experts. Its aim is to provide clear guidelines to reduce emissions in heavy industries across the world, which will help to both strengthen economies and limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Overall, the framework is underpinned by core values for a just, accessible, regenerative and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Within this context, each principle represents an essential lever that policymakers can use to ensure the successful decarbonisation of steel, cement, chemicals and other heavy industries.

Framework Principle #1

Secure a truly green recovery by tying public financing for heavy industry to key measures aligned with corporate greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments and plans calibrated to a 1.5°C trajectory.

Framework Principle #2

Establish and strengthen policies and investments to ensure that industrial transformation protects biodiversity and human health and leads to a just transition.

Framework Principle #3

Institute policies to create demand for low-carbon, circular and resource efficient basic material products, supported by the use of standardised lifecycle carbon footprint labelling and performance incentives for end products (e.g. buildings) to engage the entire value chain.

Framework Principle #4

Develop and deploy at scale, financing policies and tools to incentivise and reward heavy industry companies that set science-based, time-bound, public climate targets calibrated to 1.5°C.

Framework Principle #5

Prioritise funding and investment for enhanced development and deployment of low, zero carbon technologies, including breakthrough technologies like hydrogen for industrial production and near-term carbon capture, to help phase out fossil fuel use.

Framework Principle #6

Ensure effective coordination and accounting between countries and regions, including the sharing of new impactful technologies, viable circular economy pathways, sunsets of the highest polluting technologies, and implementation of responsive trade policies to reduce emissions leakage between economies.

Why it matters

Industrial emissions account for nearly a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, which means this is a critical area to focus decarbonisation efforts to help limit global warming to 1.5°C. With COVID-19 economic recovery planning taking place around the world, we have a limited window to reinvent and reimagine our global industrial economy for the better, so time is of the essence to adopt this framework.

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