Global states and regions commit to net-zero carbon buildings

Our buildings help define our lives. They are where our citizens live, work, study and play. These buildings are also one of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and a significant source of air pollution. Currently, half a million people die each year due to outdoor air pollution caused by energy used in buildings. Delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement, which science tells us we must, requires urgent and dramatic action to cut emissions from buildings.

Net-zero carbon buildings are green and healthy buildings. They use energy ultra-efficiently and are supplied by renewables. They are comfortable homes where money isn't wasted on energy bills, productive workplaces insulated from extreme temperatures, and healthy schools free from dirty air.

Action is needed today, because most buildings will be standing for generations to come. Missing this opportunity locks in the problem for our children and grandchildren, but delivering on this commitment will provide benefits for our citizens to enjoy long into the future. From lower energy bills for all, including our most vulnerable citizens, to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and cleaner air, the positive impacts of action are undeniable. Due to its scale and cross-industry impact, state and region driven climate action has the opportunity to foster collaborative innovation and macro-level change necessary to transition to a fossil fuel free future.

As the leaders of state and regional governments around the world, we will introduce regulations or planning policies to deliver on the highest ambition of the Paris Agreement and develop the net-zero carbon buildings of the future. We want to work with cities, who also play a crucial role in setting standards for buildings and we welcome the leadership of those who have already committed to net-zero carbon buildings. The private sector is another essential player in creating green and healthy buildings. We congratulate the businesses that have signed the World Green Building Council's Net Zero Carbon Building Commitment. We look forward to our collective commitment inspiring the same level of ambition and action from national governments, who play a critical role in setting standards for buildings.

> **We pledge to enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure new buildings operate at net-zero carbon by 2030 and all buildings by 2050[1].**

To meet this commitment, we will:

- Establish a roadmap for our commitment to reach net-zero carbon buildings,
- develop a suite of supporting incentives and programmes,
- report annually on progress towards meeting our targets through the CDP States & Regions Platform, and
- evaluate the feasibility of reporting on emissions beyond operational carbon (such as refrigerants).

In addition to these public policies and programs, we will also partner with the businesses, investors, and citizens that will play the lead role in seizing this century-defining opportunity, and will share lessons learned and best practices with our global peers in the Under2 Coalition.

Lead agency for this challenge:

Contact details:

[1] within our jurisdictional power

[STATE AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CAN ADDITIONALLY MAKE A COMMITMENT ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, AS FOLLOWS]

Additionally, in many of our jurisdictions, our government buildings represent a significant proportion of our building emissions, and they offer a large opportunity for rapid action. We can use them to pilot innovations, build capacity in our local markets, and inspire others to follow our leadership.

> **We commit to owning, occupying and developing only assets that are net-zero carbon in operation by 2030.**

To meet this commitment, we will:

- Evaluate the current energy demand and carbon emissions from our government buildings, and identify opportunities for reduction,
- establish a roadmap for our commitment to reach net-zero carbon government buildings,
- report annually on progress towards meeting our targets through the CDP States & Regions Platform, and
- evaluate the feasibility of reporting on emissions beyond operational carbon (such as refrigerants).

Lead agency for this challenge:

Contact details: