

SCIENCE  
BASED  
TARGETS

The Net-Zero  
**STANDARD**

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

## WHY IS THE NET-ZERO STANDARD NEEDED?

The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C was a stark warning that global emissions must reach net-zero by 2050 to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Since then, the concept of net-zero has moved from relative obscurity to the center stage.

In 2019, net-zero pledges covered 16% of the global economy. Now, 90% of global GDP is covered by net-zero targets. But not all net-zero targets are equal. The definition of net-zero and the path to get there varies and is often inconsistent.

Business leaders need a common, robust, science-based understanding of net-zero. Otherwise, they risk following a pathway that may not be consistent with addressing the climate crisis and keeping warming to 1.5°C.

## WHAT IS THE NET-ZERO STANDARD?

The SBTi Net-Zero Standard is the world's first science-based standard for setting corporate net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping global warming to 1.5°C. The Net-Zero Standard provides a robust and science-based understanding of net-zero, giving business leaders clarity and confidence that their near- and long-term decarbonization plans are aligned with climate science.

FOUNDING PARTNERS



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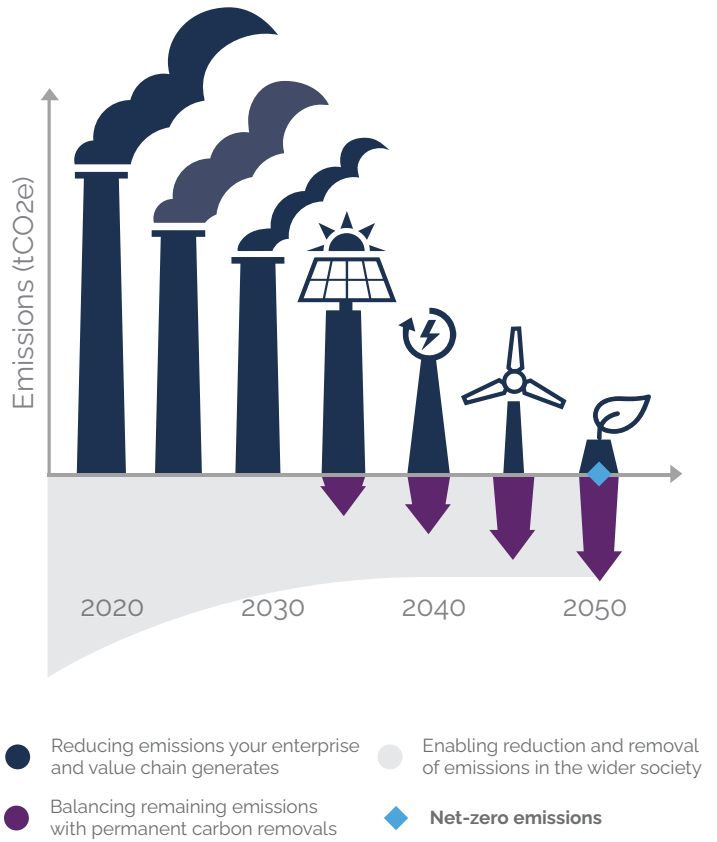
IN COLLABORATION WITH




# WHAT DO COMPANIES COMMIT TO?

- 1 Set near-term science-based targets:**  
5-10 year emission reduction targets in line with limiting warming to 1.5°C.
- 2 Set long-term science-based targets:**  
Most companies will reduce emissions by at least 90% by no later than 2050.\*
- Beyond value chain mitigation:**  
Companies are expected to take action to mitigate emissions beyond their value chains. E.g. by purchasing high-quality, jurisdictional REDD+ credits or investing in direct air capture.
- 4 Neutralize residual emissions:**  
Any remaining emissions — the 10% — must be neutralized with permanent carbon removals.


\*Companies in the forest, land and agriculture sectors will need to reduce emissions by at least 72%.






**Completeness**

The target covers all material sources of emissions across company value chains.




**Early action**

The near-term target delivers short-term action in line with climate science.




**Ambition**

The target leads to mitigation consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C in line with robust climate scenarios.



**Timeframe**

The target aims to reach net-zero within a timeframe by 2050 at the latest, consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.



**Accountability**

The target will be subject to a robust and independent accountability framework.

## COMMIT TO NET-ZERO NOW

More than 600 companies worldwide have already committed to reach science-based net-zero before 2050 through the SBTi's [Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign](#). Companies that commit to the Net-Zero Standard will automatically join the Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign and the UNFCCC Race to Zero. Join now on the [SBTi website](#).

