



CLIMATE AMBITION ACCELERATOR



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the Climate Ambition Accelerator?

A: The Climate Ambition Accelerator is a six month accelerator programme that will equip companies with the knowledge and skills they need to accelerate progress towards setting science-based targets aligned with the 1.5°C pathway and help them create a clear path to address their organization's transition to net-zero.

Led by the United Nations Global Compact with support from Patrons Ørsted and Natura & Co and sponsored by En+ Group, the Climate Ambition Accelerator aims to scale-up credible climate action across companies of all sizes, sectors and regions, enabling them to set and deliver on meaningful commitments to reduce emissions at scale.

No matter where companies are in their sustainability journey, the Climate Ambition Accelerator will equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to accelerate progress towards setting science-based emissions targets aligned with the 1.5°C pathway. Through the Global Compact Local Networks around the world, participating companies will gain access to global best practices, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, capacity building sessions and on-demand training.

Q: What is SBTi?

A: The [SBTi](#) is a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The SBTi call to action is one of the We Mean Business Coalition commitments.

Science-based targets provide a clearly-defined pathway for companies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, helping prevent the worst impacts of climate change and future-proof business growth.

Targets are considered 'science-based' if they are in line with what the latest climate science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement—limiting global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Find out more about the SBTi [here](#).

Q: How is the Climate Ambition Accelerator connected to the Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign?

A: The Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign is led by the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi), a partnership of CDP, UN Global Compact, WRI and WWF, in partnership with the We Mean Business coalition. Find out more about the campaign [here](#).

The goal of the Climate Ambition Accelerator is, among others, to amplify the Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign across countries and sectors. While almost 500 companies from 47 sectors and 45 countries have joined the campaign, many organizations face challenges when preparing to commit or developing their science-based target.

This is where the Climate Ambition Accelerator comes in: Through the accelerator programme, companies will be given the knowledge and skills they need to align their climate targets with a net-zero future and to set science-based targets in alignment with a 1.5°C warming scenario. At the completion of the accelerator programme, participants will have the opportunity to sign on to the SBTi Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign.

OUR OBJECTIVE

All companies to engage in climate action and align their targets with a 1.5°C compliant business model—through robust mitigation and adaptation measures—for a just transition to a net-zero future.

Q: How is the Climate Ambition Accelerator connected to other UNGC Climate activities?

A: The Climate Ambition Accelerator aims to amplify the [global work](#) of the UN Global Compact, covering the development and execution of the initiative at the global level in view of implementing the activities at the country level. The Climate Ambition Accelerator will build upon current UN Global Compact climate programmes including the [Science-Based Targets initiative](#), [the Business Ambition for 1.5](#) and -its partner initiative- the [Race to Zero](#) campaign, the [Caring for Climate](#) as well as the ongoing work of the [Action platform on “Climate Ambition”](#), especially the Ambition Loop concept.

Q: What activities are included in the Climate Ambition Accelerator?

A: The Climate Ambition Accelerator aims to scale-up credible climate action across companies of all sizes, sectors and regions, enabling them to deliver on meaningful commitments to reduce emissions at scale.

The Climate Ambition Accelerator consists of three modules.

1. Foundations

Take a deep dive into the methodology and approach of science-based targets (SBT) setting. From GHG accounting basics for companies starting their journeys to discussions about the net-zero concept for advanced stakeholders, this module will give you the foundational knowledge you need to set a solid strategy towards ambitious science-based targets.

2. Business Case

This module will focus on the business case for setting science-based targets. In this module, you will learn how to drive climate change ambition internally and build internal buy-in and engagement for ambitious climate action at the management and board level. This module will also cover the business benefits of setting SBTs, internal KPIs and engagement opportunities for internal stakeholders and decision-makers.

3. Implementation

In this module, participants will learn how to manage their global emissions and the different emission reduction strategies and initiatives that they can implement to meet ambitious targets. They will also learn how to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions and engage their value chain to reduce indirect emissions, scope 3.

Through the Global Compact Local Networks around the world, participating companies will gain access to:

- On-demand training
- Technical capacity building sessions
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Global sessions featuring climate best practices

Q: What is the Climate Ambition Accelerator duration?

A: The 6-month accelerator will start in June 2021 and will run until December 2021, with the on-demand sessions being available online during that period. Global Compact Local Network will provide a detailed schedule of activities for companies participating in the “In-Country” track.

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: Over the course of the accelerator programme, companies will participate in on-demand self-learning sessions, online workshops and peer-learning opportunities, and global sessions featuring global case studies on climate action. On average, participants may expect around 7 hours of self-learning on-demand content and 6 hours of facilitated group sessions. Participants will also be invited to attend global events. In total, participants should plan to dedicate 25 to 30 hours to the Climate Ambition Accelerator over 6 months.

Q: What is the outcome of the programme?

A: Companies are constantly being asked by investors and clients to reduce emissions and set ambitious targets, but there is still a knowledge gap regarding what to do and how to do it.

The Climate Ambition Accelerator will equip companies with the knowledge and skills they need to set science-based targets aligned with the 1.5°C pathway, setting them on a path towards net-zero emissions by 2050. No matter where companies are in their sustainability journey, the Climate Ambition Accelerator will help them get started and make progress towards setting ambitious emission targets.

Q: What will you gain?

A: Through the Global Compact Local Networks around the world, participating companies will gain access to global best practices, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, capacity building sessions and on-demand training. Participants will learn:

- The methodology and approach of science-based targets (SBT) setting
- The foundational knowledge you need to set a solid strategy towards ambitious science-based targets
- How to drive climate change ambition internally and build internal buy-in and engagement for ambitious climate action at the management and board level
- How to manage your global emissions and the different emission reduction strategies and initiatives that they can implement to meet ambitious targets
- How to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions and engage your value chain to reduce indirect emissions, scope 3

Q: What are the programme benefits?

A: Participant benefits include:

- Learn how to set science-based emission reduction targets to achieve net-zero by 2050
- Motivate investors, leadership, employees and shareholders with an emission reduction plan that sets your organization apart in the market
- Gain a clear understanding of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and the net-zero concept, including methodologies, requirements, processes, benefits and applicability
- Hear from peers and share insights in group sessions
- Take advantage of on-demand learning that enables you to work at your own pace
- Get access to industry experts and networking opportunities
- Benefit from local delivery combined with global insights and best practices

Q: What are the eligibility criteria?

A: The UN Global Compact invites companies everywhere to join the Climate Ambition Accelerator. To take part, companies are required to be a participating company (Participant and Signatory level) of the UN Global Compact and to meet the following criteria:

- Currently engaged with a Global Compact Local Network in your region or willing to join
- Interested in setting ambitious emissions reduction targets aligned with climate science at the pace and scale required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Willing to appoint two representatives to participate in the programme activities and events and an executive-level representative to follow programme developments, provide support and participate in high-level events

Q: Who from our company should participate in the Climate Ambition Accelerator?

A: All participating companies are asked to nominate two representatives (one primary and one alternate representative) to actively participate in the programme on behalf of the company. This includes attending Climate Ambition Accelerator workshops, completing online sessions and coordinating with colleagues across the organization to advance climate action. Only one representative is expected to join the sessions.

Ideally, the representative will be responsible for GHG emissions accounting, management and/or reporting (i.e., from Sustainability or Environmental departments).

In addition to the representatives mentioned before, all participating companies are expected to nominate an executive-level contact to follow Climate Ambition Accelerator developments, provide support to the company representatives as needed, and represent the company at high-level events that are part of or related to Climate Ambition. The executive-level representative should have a direct line of communication to the CEO (e.g., Member of the C-Suite or Board). The company's CEO may also decide to take on the role of Climate Ambition executive-level representative.

Q: Is there an extra cost for my company to participate?

A: A small cost-covering fee may apply. Please contact your Global Compact Local Network for further information.

Q: What countries are offering the in-country track of the Climate Ambition Accelerator?

A: The in-country track of the programme is currently being offered by Global Compact Local Networks in the following countries:

- Austria
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Norway
- Portugal
- Russian Federation
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

Q: My company already has emissions reduction targets. Why should we join the Climate Ambition Accelerator?

A: Participating companies that already have emissions reduction targets are welcome to join the initiative in order to further develop their current commitments and increase their climate ambition.

The Accelerator will equip companies with the knowledge required to advance in terms of climate ambition and set science-based emissions reduction targets aligned with the 1.5°C scenario of the Paris Agreement, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

Q: Is the Climate Ambition Accelerator suited for SMEs (small and medium enterprises)?

A: The Climate Ambition Accelerator welcomes participants from different sizes, from multinational companies to SMEs. The private sector as whole has a key role to play in sending strong market signals and scaling innovative solutions to present concrete, realistic plans towards a zero-carbon economy while advocating for a green recovery.

The Accelerator will offer a track designed for companies that are starting their journey towards ambitious science-based emissions reduction targets, this track set strong foundations covering the greenhouse gas accounting concepts and building upon that towards emissions management and ambitious climate action.

Q: What is the difference between the local and the global track of the Accelerator?

A: Local track: The local track is available in 26 countries, where the program will be run in collaboration with Global Compact Local Networks around the world. This track will be facilitated in the local language and local time zones. It will offer a series of live and on-demand sessions, and peer-to-peer networking. Companies will be grouped with participants from their own country. Participants of local track also get access to global sessions that will take place over the course of the program.

Global track: The global track will be facilitated in English, and it will offer the same curriculum content as the local track delivered through a series of global live and on-demand sessions. This global track will be available in countries where a local track is not available.