



Climate commitments of subnational actors and business

A quantitative assessment of their emission reduction impact



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Acronyms



ACCO	Association of Climate Change Officers	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ADP	Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action	IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ACEC	Africa Clean Energy Corridor	ITF	International Transport Forum (of the OECD)
ASEI	Asia Solar Energy Initiative	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
BAU	Business As Usual	LNG	liquefied natural gas
BEI	Baseline Emission Inventory	Mt	megaton
BELC	Business Environmental Leadership Council	NAZCA	Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	NGO	non-governmental organization
CCAC	Climate and Clean Air Coalition	nrg4SD	Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
CCBA	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
cCR	carbonn Climate Registry	PDC	Portfolio Decarbonisation Coalition
CDP	(formerly) Carbon Disclosure Project	REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
CISL	Cambridge Institute of Sustainable Leadership	R20	Regions of Climate Action
CoM	Covenant of Mayors	SBT	Science Based Targets
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalent	SEAD	Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment
COP	Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)	SEAP	Sustainable Energy Action Plan
CSI	Cement Sustainability Initiative	SEII	Solar Europe Industry Initiative
C2ES	Center for Climate and Energy Solutions	SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
C40	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group	SLCP	short-lived climate pollutant
EERE	US Department of Energy	TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
FIA	Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile	UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
GBPN	Global Buildings Performance Network	UITP	International Association of Public Transport
GCF	Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force	ULCOS	Ultra-Low CO ₂ Steelmaking
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GFEI	Global Fuel Economy Initiative	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GGFR	Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership	UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
GHG	greenhouse gas	WBCSD	World Business Council on Sustainable Development
Gt	gigatonne	WEO	World Energy Outlook
ICCT	International Council on Clean Transportation	WMCCC	World Mayors Council on Climate Change
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives	WRI	World Resources Institute
IDFC	International Development Finance Club	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
IEA	International Energy Agency		
IEA ETP	IEA Energy Technology Perspectives		
IGO	intergovernmental organization		

Glossary



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Additionality:

A criterion sometimes applied to projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It stipulates that the emission reductions accomplished by the project must not have happened anyway had the project not taken place.

Business-as-usual:

A scenario that describes future greenhouse gas emission levels in the absence of additional mitigation efforts and policies (with respect to an agreed set).

Carbon dioxide equivalent:

A way to place emissions of various radiative forcing agents on a common footing by accounting for their effect on climate. It describes, for a given mixture and amount of greenhouse gases, the amount of carbon dioxide that would have the same global warming ability, when measured over a specified time period. For the purpose of this report, greenhouse gas emissions (unless otherwise specified) are the sum of the basket of greenhouse gases listed in Annex A to the Kyoto Protocol, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents assuming a 100 year warming potential.

Extensification:

Development of a more extensive production system in agriculture, i.e., one which utilizes large areas of land, but with minimal inputs and expenditures of capital and labour.

Intensification:

An increase in agricultural production per unit of inputs.

Non-state climate initiatives:

Initiatives outside of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by, for example, promoting actions that are less greenhouse gas intensive, compared to prevailing alternatives. Cooperative initiatives also involve national and subnational partners (they are often referred to as, simply, 'cooperative initiatives').

Pledges:

For the purpose of this assessment, pledges include Annex I targets and non-Annex I actions, as included in Appendix I and Appendix II to the Copenhagen Accord, and subsequently revised and updated in some instances.

Regions:

Areas in a country. Often, but not always, self-governing. Also called provinces or states.

Sensitivity:

A technique used to determine how different values an input variable will impact the results of a calculation under a given set of assumptions.

State actors:

Any national or subnational government. In this context, non-state actors refer to parties outside any formal government structure.

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Executive Summary



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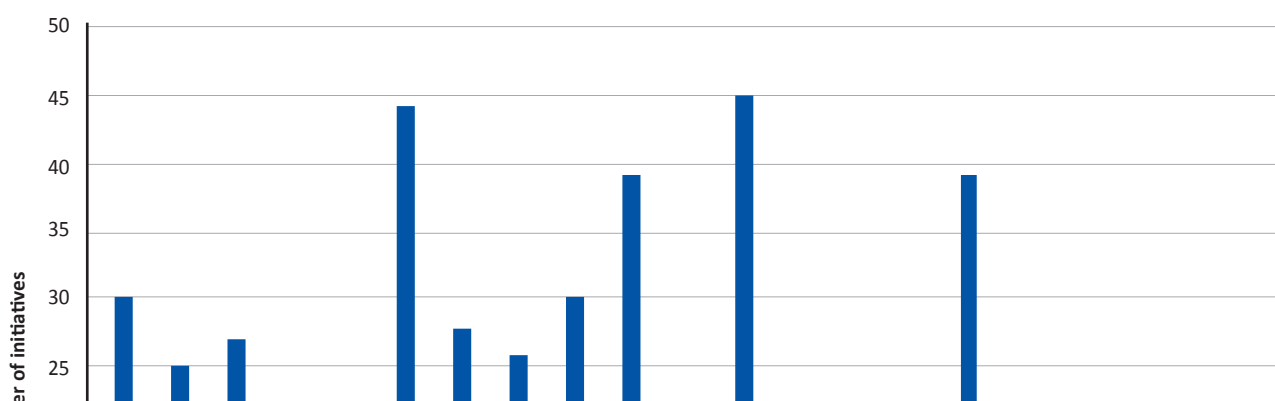
Initiatives which catalyse climate action are now recognised increasingly as playing an important role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and bridging the global emissions gap. The number and range of these initiatives is growing rapidly. There are several open questions about these initiatives at a global scale, including what contribution they can make to closing the emissions gap, but also what makes a successful initiative and how can this be replicated and scaled up. This paper focuses on the first of these questions.

Quantifying the emission reduction contribution these initiatives can (or are likely to) make is now critically important to understanding their overall impact on international climate mitigation efforts. By demonstrating what is already being achieved through these initiatives, such analysis could also play an important role in encouraging national governments to pledge more ambitious commitments through the international negotiations. In this report, we present a quantitative assessment of the total GHG emissions mitigation impact in 2020 of current important non-state climate action.

1. What are non-state initiatives?

Non-state climate initiatives is the name given to the set of initiatives that are driven by other actors than central governments: cities, regions, companies, NGOs, etc. The aims and activities of initiatives range from high level political or technical dialogue to concrete mitigation objectives and actions. There is a wide variety of initiatives across many sectors. These initiatives often deliver emission reductions on a short term – in many cases ahead of government action – and also deliver other benefits linked to sustainable growth. We concentrate in this analysis on co-operative initiatives, that are international in nature, which involve groups of actors working together in a structured way. In addition to these co-operative initiatives, many individual actors, such as cities, regions, companies, NGOs, but also citizen collectives, have committed to action on their own.

By April 2015, more than 180 co-operative initiatives had been identified and included in the Climate Initiatives Platform, with more than 20,000 participant organisations (including NGOs, IGOs, companies, research institutions, national and subnational governments as well as international



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