



# THE 1.5°C BUSINESS PLAYBOOK

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**Reduce your  
own emissions**

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# PILLAR 1. REDUCE YOUR OWN EMISSIONS



To be aligned with a 1.5°C ambition, the minimum requirement is to halve your own emissions at least every 10 years. These emissions are referred to as scope 1 and 2 emissions of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.<sup>5</sup> They include emissions from in-house sources such as furnaces, vehicles or leakage from refrigerants, and also from purchased electricity, cooling, heating and steam. It is

also recommended to include emissions from business travel in pillar 1 even though they are formally part of scope 3, since they are directly controlled by the company. Your own emissions may represent a small part of your total emissions but can normally be reduced more easily since they are under the company's direct control.

## ACTIONS

- Map out your own greenhouse gas emissions, if you haven't already done so. Make sure you include the main sources of emissions – your hot spots – and that your plans focus on how to mitigate these.
- Decide on your base year. A base year is the year when reductions start and will be used as a comparison to show progress.
  - » Set the base year no more than two years back in time.
  - » Historical emissions reductions deserve acknowledgement and can be highlighted,\* but they cannot be a part of your next halving.
- Set a target within three months of making your commitment and decide on the target year.
  - » Your minimum pace should be to halve absolute emissions every ten years, but preferably faster. Halving in ten years means a 7% year-on-year reduction. Halving in five years will mean 13% emissions reductions and halving in three years will mean a 21% annual emissions reduction rate. Break down your plans into yearly targets and milestones.

\* Companies that have significantly reduced emissions historically will benefit from being able to disclose a lower and better carbon intensity performance value in benchmarks (total emissions divided by net revenue) but should still strive to halve total emissions at least every decade.

- Decide in which order to eliminate emissions and develop a plan on how to reach the targets.
  - » Start immediately with the “low-hanging fruit” which are economically attractive and bring other co-benefits. Energy efficiency, shifting to renewable energy, building space, transportation and business travel emissions are often good candidates.
  - » We recommend setting specific targets for hot spot areas, for example 100% renewable energy and halving business travel emissions.
- Disclose your company’s own carbon emissions, plans to reduce them and emissions reductions as part of your annual public reporting. Clearly explain and motivate any slower pace than halving every decade.\*
- Evaluate results, take corrective actions and update your plan on a yearly basis.

\* Fast growing companies that provide solutions which avoid or remove emissions as their core business do not have to commit to halving their absolute emissions, but should halve their intensity (as a minimum) and show that their growth is 1.5°C compatible.

## KEY REDUCTION MEASURES

- Immediately start the transitioning to renewable energy, fuel and electricity for all possible processes, buildings and sites with the goal to reach 100% as soon as possible.
  - » Consider buying renewable energy through power purchase agreements and collaborate to accelerate adoption.
  - » Consider generating your own renewable electricity.
- Improve energy efficiency for buildings through retrofitting and digital automation.
- Demand and implement low-carbon cooling, heating, ventilation and refrigerants for all building sites you operate in.
- Optimise the use of building space in all operations and enable employees to work from home, in order to reduce emissions and costs.
- Move towards a very low emissions vehicle fleet, and implement a low-emission policy requirement for owned and leased company cars.
- Require very low emissions buildings and clean grid energy when expanding or establishing new businesses in a region.
- Systematically reduce energy, resource and material waste in all operations.
- Set up a plan to reduce emissions from business travel by shifting to low-carbon travel (for example a “train first” policy over air travel) and use digital meeting technologies to avoid unnecessary travelling.

This is an offprint from the 1.5° Business Playbook.

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