



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP26 SPECIAL Jargon Busters

CLIMATE ACTION FOR ASSOCIATIONS



We've pulled together a COP26 Special Edition of CAFA jargon busters to help demystify the climate talks, support Associations to take climate action and to simply communicate with members.



1.5 Degrees C: The maximum global temperature rise above pre-industrial levels that we can allow before experiencing the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Absolute Zero: When no greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to an actor's activities across all scopes.

Adaptation: Adjusting to the actual or expected future climate. The goal however is to act now to reduce our future vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change.

Carbon Footprint: The level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to a country, company, yourself or maybe your neighbour.

Carbon Offset: Something you buy that is intended to cancel some or all of the carbon dioxide produced in the manufacture or use of that product.

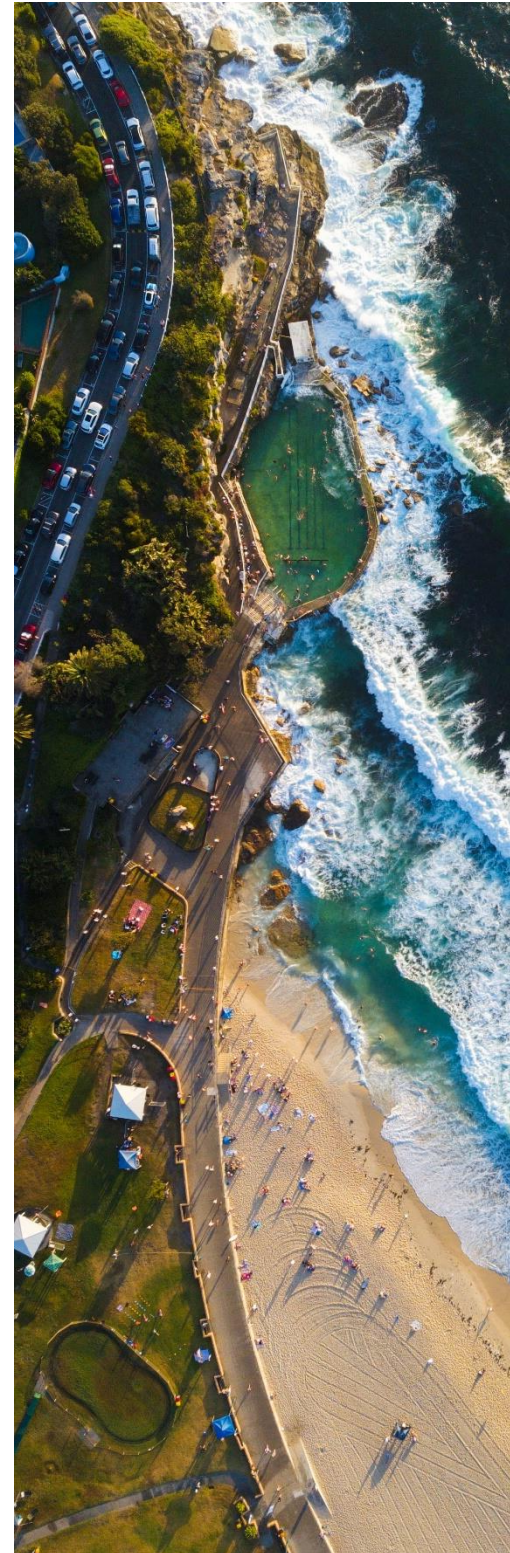
Carbon negative: When an actor's carbon removals, internal and external, exceed its emissions and any removals are "like for like." Must be specified over a declared time period, and whether removals and emissions are cumulative or represent only the time period specified.

Carbon neutral(ity): Net zero CO₂ emissions are achieved when anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are balanced globally by anthropogenic CO₂ removals over a specified period.

Circular Economy: A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. Basically, a system where nothing really gets thrown away, and everything is re-used and recycled. Also known as a 'closed-loop' economy.

Clean Energy Transition: Significant structural and clean change in an energy system.

Climate neutral(ity): A state in which human activities result in no net effect on the climate system. Achieving such a state would require balancing of residual emissions with emission (carbon dioxide) removal as well as accounting for regional or local biogeophysical effects of human activities that, for example, affect surface albedo or local climate.





Climate positive (net negative): When an actor's greenhouse gas removals, internal and external, exceed its emissions and any removals are "like for like." Must be specified over a declared time period, and whether removals and emissions are cumulative or represent only the time period specified.

Climate Resilience: Our ability to deal with climate change's effects.

Compensation: Reducing GHG emissions, or increasing GHG removals through activities outside of an actor's emissions inventory, in order to compensate for GHG emissions such that an actor's net contribution to global emissions is reduced. Compensation claims are only valid under a rigorous set of conditions, including that the reductions/removals involved are additional, not over-estimated, and exclusively claimed.

COP: COP stands for '**Conference of Parties**' and the Parties are the 197 nations and territories that have signed on to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They meet once a year to decide how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally, and tackle climate change.

COP26: This year is the 26th summit, hence the name COP26, and will be hosted by the UK in Glasgow in November 2021. This will be the most significant climate summit since COP21 in Paris 2015, when world leaders made a landmark commitment to restrict global temperature increases to 2°C and 'to pursue efforts' to limit warming to 1.5 °C.

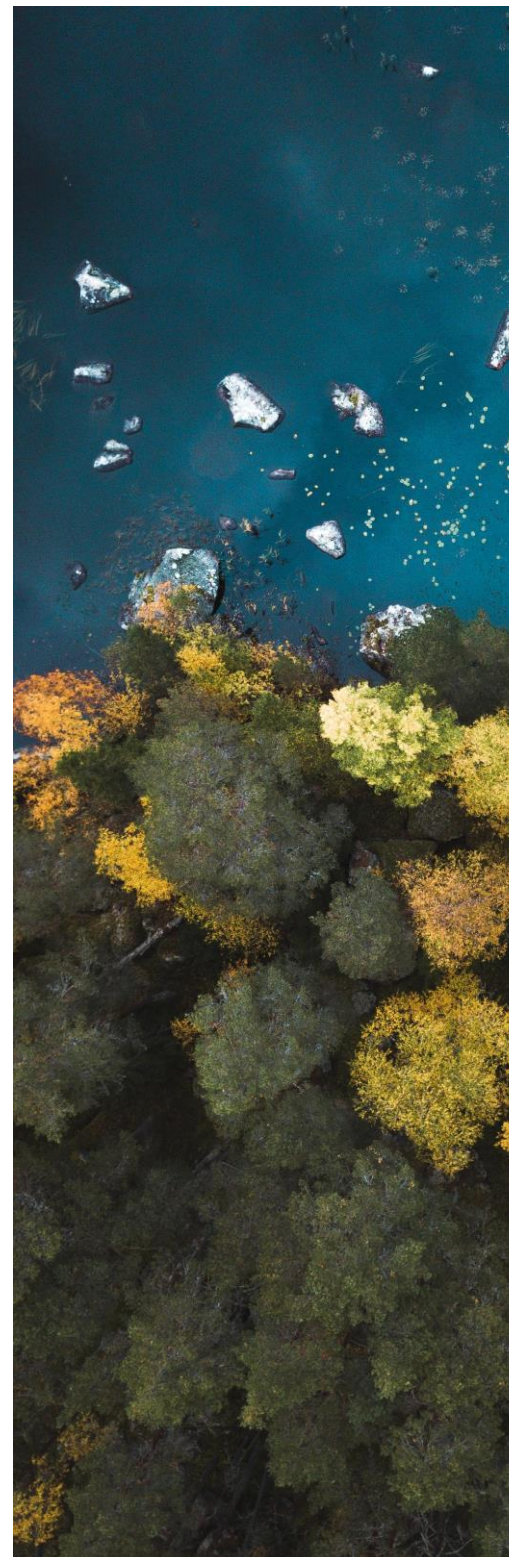
This commitment is known as the '**Paris Agreement**'. COP26 will be the first opportunity since Paris for countries to upgrade their pledges on tackling climate change at a summit - most importantly their emissions targets through to 2030

Environmental Justice: A phrase underscoring the broad idea that the people who did the least to cause climate change and pollution are often the most at risk from its consequences.

Green Recovery: Ensuring a cleaner, greener future is at the heart of plans to rebuild a strong economy after COVID-19.

Greenwashing: Greenwashing is when an organisation promotes themselves and/or their goods and services in a way that sounds more eco-friendly or environmentally safe than they actually are, so that consumers who care about the environment believe they are ethical, sustainable, and eco-friendly.

GHG reductions: Actions that reduce the quantity of GHGs attributable to an entity vis-avis a baseline.





GHG neutral(ity): Where GHG emissions attributable to an actor are fully compensated by GHG reductions or removals exclusively claimed by the actor, such that the actor's net contribution to global GHG emissions is zero, irrespective of the time period or the relative magnitude of emissions and removals involved.

GHG removals: Actions that remove GHGs from the atmosphere relative to baseline.

Insetting: Reducing GHG emissions (including through avoided emissions), or increasing GHG removals through an actor's scope 1, 2, or 3 emissions, in order to compensate for GHG emissions, such that an actor's net contribution to global emissions is reduced.

Just Transition: The shift to an economy that runs on renewable energy without killing jobs.

Like for Like: When a source of emissions and an emissions sink correspond in terms of their warming impact, and in terms of the timescale and durability of carbon storage.

Mitigation: Actions that reduce the volume of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Nationally Determined Contributions

(NDCs): An outline of what each country has resolved to do to reduce its emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, as part of the United Nations process for tackling climate change. These plans are submitted every five years.

Net Zero: A combination of emission reductions and an increase in carbon absorption strategies (such as tree planting or sequestration - capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide), resulting in net global emissions of zero.

Neutralization: GHG removals outside an actor's emissions inventory, that balance residual GHG emissions such that an actor's net contribution to global emissions is reduced or eliminated. Neutralization claims are only valid under a rigorous set of conditions, including that the reductions/removals involved are additional, not over-estimated, exclusively claimed, and like for like.





Paris-aligned: Targets are considered 'Paris-aligned' 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, with no or low overshoot.

Science-based: 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 preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C, with no or low overshoot.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. [Outlined here](#)

Business and industry contribute the majority of global carbon emissions.

CAFA calls on all trade associations and professional membership organisations to take radical climate leadership, influence and accelerate sectors and professions to reach net zero faster.

Sustainable development and climate change are interlinked. Business and industry hold the key to climate action and change.

Organisations and their people can do a lot on their own, but forward-thinking public and private sector partnerships are vital. Neither business nor government can achieve the needed emissions reduction by acting independently.

Helpful further links and information:

SME Climate Hub: <https://smeclimatehub.org/sme-climate-commitment/>

Race to Zero: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>

Science Based Targets: <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/net-zero>



CLIMATE ACTION FOR **ASSOCIATIONS**

www.climateactionforassociations.org

b2b are the official secretariat of Climate Action for Associations. Visit [here](#) for further information about b2b.

