

# PLEDGING GUIDANCE

## FOR COMPANIES



#MyWorldOurPlanet  
#EUClimatePact

This document introduces companies to pledging under the European Climate Pact.

The purpose of this document is to give a very brief overview of the different types of pledges and their respective ambition levels, provide a few illustrative examples, and point out the different channels through which companies can pledge under the Pact.

The examples of template pledges shown below are merely illustrative and not exhaustive. The current list of all template pledges can be found on the European Climate Pact website. Further tailored pledges can also be created via the Pact pledging platform.

### PLEDGE TYPES

**Solo pledge** A pledge made by a company alone, committing to actions relevant to their operations.

Examples - A company pledges to:

*Implement climate scenario analysis as part of their business strategy setting*

*Have an internal price on carbon*

*Have an employee engagement strategy to support and contribute to achieving the organisation's climate and environmental goals*

**Joint pledge** A pledge made by a company together with one or several other actors (e.g., with other companies, a city, an NGO, a school, employees, etc.) to collaborate towards meeting common objectives.

Examples:

*A company partners up with the city it is located in, by committing to install electric vehicle charging stations at its premises, to support the city's commitment to increase the percentage of charging stations in a city's jurisdiction by 50% in 2 years*

*An Energy provider and a city commit to have all the city's owned and occupied buildings operating at net zero carbon emissions by 2030*

*A company commits, jointly with its employees, to reduce emissions related to employees' commuting trips*

## PLEDGE AMBITION LEVELS

**North Star pledge** A promise to set a target at the highest level of ambition that is informed by climate and environmental science.

Examples - A company pledges to:

*Have an officially validated science-based emissions reduction targets aligned with a 1.5°C scenario in line with the [SBTi Criteria and Recommendations](#) – e.g. Company X commits to reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions 60% by 2030 from a 2017 base year. Company X also commits to reduce absolute scope 3 GHG emissions 47% by 2030 from a 2017 base year*

**Pathway pledge** a commitment to take concrete action with measurable impact on the planet, and to raise the ambition of such action over time.

Examples - A company pledges to:

*Have an absolute/intensity emissions reduction target with a 5-15 years' time frame and a 2.1% year-on-year reduction at a minimum*

*Improve water security beyond regulatory compliance*

*Have a publicly available forest policy, with well-defined goals and targets, that is used to inform internal decision-making*

## HOW TO MAKE A PLEDGE

Companies can pledge directly through the [Climate Pact website pledging form](#).

Contact details of a representative having the authority to pledge on behalf of a company will be requested in the process.

Companies can either pick from a list of actions developed by existing environmental pledging, reporting and organisational engagement structures (template pledges) or create new pledges.

Pledging topics include but are not limited to:



Forests



Emissions



Energy



Disclosure



Engagement



Mobility



Waste



Water

## For CDP disclosers

When companies are reporting their environmental actions yearly through CDP disclosure, they can opt-in to join the European Climate Pact before submitting their CDP questionnaires. This allows reporting companies to become part of the European Climate Pact in a seamless way, with minimal extra administrative and reporting burden. Joining the Pact is a great chance for companies to highlight key components of their transition journey to their peers in the EU and seize opportunities for collaboration with other actors towards common targets.

**CDP disclosers that wish to make further pledges outside of the parameters (i.e., timeline and content) of the CDP disclosure cycle are welcome to do so through the Climate Pact website pledging form.**

## REPORTING ON YOUR PLEDGE

**Reporting progress against your pledge is a key requirement of the European Climate Pact. During the process of pledging online, your company will be asked to provide a link where information on progress on your pledges is publicly available.**

Using publicly available data to monitor, report, and verify (MRV) your pledges ensures accountability and transparency of data provision, thereby adding legitimacy to your commitment and reducing the risk of greenwashing.

**Reporting data should be provided either via partner climate and environmental data reporting platforms (like CDP), or by providing regular updates to your pledge via publicly available data sources.**

## **For CDP disclosers**

Your yearly CDP disclosure also counts as reporting under the European Climate Pact. Complete reporting of your climate and environmental actions via the CDP corporate questionnaires (on climate change, forests, and water security, depending on your operational impact) on a yearly basis ensures your company will not face any additional reporting burden for Climate Pact pledges.

***For more information, visit the [Climate Pact website](#) or [reach out to our helpdesk](#).***