

# PLEDGING GUIDANCE



# FOR STATES AND REGIONS



#MyWorldOurPlanet  
#EUClimatePact

This document provides guidance on how states and regions<sup>i</sup> can pledge under the Climate Pact. For guidance on city pledging please see the relevant document on the Climate Pact website.

## PLEDGE TYPES

**Joint pledge** A pledge made by a state or region together with one or more other actors (e.g., with other region, cities, a business, an NGO, a school, citizens, etc.) to collaborate towards meeting common objectives.

Joint pledges are an essential element of the Pact. They are a channel to create innovative, impactful, collective action. By joining forces actors can activate their ecosystem, magnify their impact, and inspire others.

Pledging together is also a way of finding complementary knowledge, expertise, and resources to meet a common goal.

Examples - A state/region could make a joint pledge with:

*A railway company, to increase the percentage of trains used in intra-regional transport that are powered by renewable energy by 50% by 2030.*

*A university, to conduct research to quantify and report all GHG emissions from sources located within the state/region*

*An NGO, to participate in, or endorse, global initiatives or conventions on forest protection or conservation*

**Solo pledge** A pledge made by a state or region alone, committing to actions relevant to their jurisdiction.

Examples – A state/region could pledge to:

*Have an up-to-date region-wide emissions inventory*

*Have a state/region-wide plan that addresses deforestation, forest degradation and/or forest restoration*

*Increase the share of Hydro, Biomass, Wind, Geothermal and Solar energy sources in the electricity mix*

*Have a state/region-wide Water Management Strategy*

*Take action to reduce socio-economic impacts that the region faces as a result of climate-related risks.*

## 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 state/region could pledge to:

*Reduce deforestation within the state/region's boundaries*

*Have a GHG emissions state/region-wide reduction target of 5% per year*

*Have a region-wide renewable energy / electricity target of 100%*

**Pathway pledge** A commitment that represents a step forward in their climate and environmental action journey.

Examples - A state/region could pledge to:

*Actively support the development of local/sustainable food businesses.*

*Develop a climate change action plan for reducing region-wide GHG emissions*

## HOW TO MAKE A PLEDGE

**States and regions can pledge directly through the Climate Pact website pledging form.**

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

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

States and regions can also streamline their pledging process by translating the data they already report to partner climate and environmental data reporting platforms (e.g., CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System) into Pact pledges.

Pledging topics include but are not limited to:



Adaptation



Emissions



Energy



Fair transition



Food



Health



Transport



Waste



Water



Forests

All pledges should include a description and key details where possible, including specific targets, activities, and related timelines.

## REPORTING ON YOUR PLEDGE

**During the process of pledging online, your state/region will be asked to provide a link where information on progress on their pledge is publicly available.**

Using publicly available data to monitor, report, and verify (MRV) your pledges ensures accountability and transparency of data provision as well as avoiding greenwashing.

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

***If you have any questions, please visit our [FAQ on the Climate Pact website](#) or [write to our helpdesk](#).***

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<sup>i</sup> Please note that this guidance refers to states as unities of a federal system, not as in nation states or sovereign states. The European Climate Pact does not yet offer the possibility of national government (country) pledging. For purposes of the European Climate Pact, a state/region is defined as any **sub-national government that is NOT** a Local government area within a greater city / metropolitan area, City / Municipality, Independent city, Special city, Federal district, Sovereign city-state, Metropolitan area, Province/County, Independent province, Intercommunality, or Sub-municipal district.