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## Climate Leadership Now: New We Mean Business Report Provides the “How” for a Net Zero-Carbon Transition

Strong climate leadership is the crucial ingredient needed to transition the world to a net zero-carbon economy at the pace and scale required. A new Report from We Mean Business, launched during Climate Week New York in September 2020, shows the world how this can be achieved.

Since its inception in 2014, the We Mean Business coalition has spearheaded business action to address climate change. In particular, the coalition has heeded the call from customers, employees and investors for guidance on systemic change by acknowledging that a changing climate culminates in dire economic impacts on businesses across the globe. The incremental transition to a low-carbon and ultimately net zero-carbon economy no longer works, the science and prevalence of global natural disasters indicates that climate action needs to happen at a far greater scale and pace.

While global corporate action tackling climate change has been notable, businesses continue to grapple with the “how”. The We Mean Business *Climate Leadership Now* Report addresses this “how” by providing tools that companies can adopt to fast-track the transition to a resilient and sustainable economy. This informative new Report provides key guidelines and frameworks on climate mitigation and adaptation based on international best practice as well as unpacking progress on emission reductions from leading global businesses. Core action steps identified are:

- How businesses can raise **ambition** in mitigating climate change
- How businesses can take **action** to achieve targets
- How climate **advocacy** can spark wider change at a rapid pace

These steps are summarised in the infographic below:

Ambition: to shape and commit to a zero-carbon future	Action: transform unsustainable business practices	Advocacy: inform and advocate for a just and inclusive net-zero transition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set short and long-term scientific emission reduction targets aligned with halving emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050</li> </ul> <p><b>Businesses have started by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing plans to combat emissions across the value chain</li> <li>• Prioritizing by initially focusing on where decarbonization gains are the largest</li> </ul> <p><b>Business can sign up to:</b></p> <p><a href="#">The Science Based Targets initiative</a></p> <p><a href="#">Business Ambition for 1.5</a></p> <p><a href="#">Climate Action in the Value Chain</a></p> <p><a href="#">The SME Climate Hub</a></p> <p>(see links below)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rethink standard operating practices in areas such as governance, procurement, investment and implement strategies integrating climate plans into corporate strategy</li> <li>• Innovative mindset unlocking new green products and markets will result in a competitive advantage</li> </ul> <p><b>Businesses have started by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the use of and exposure to fossil fuels</li> <li>• Increasing energy efficiency</li> <li>• Scaling up R&amp;D</li> <li>• Engaging with suppliers to curb their emissions</li> <li>• Investing in natural carbon sinks</li> </ul> <p><b>Business can sign up to :</b></p> <p><a href="#">RE100, EV100, EP100</a></p> <p><a href="#">Transform to net-zero</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)</a></p> <p><a href="#">B-Team Just Transition Guidance</a></p> <p>(see links below)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and support new green economy and just transition policies</li> <li>• Collective action mobilizing other businesses and sectors to call for and support change</li> </ul> <p><b>Businesses have started by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joining coalitions and participating in public discussions campaigning for change</li> <li>• Calling out government to set more ambitious policies that foster the scaling up of businesses action on climate change</li> <li>• Utilizing existing advertising and marketing capabilities to promote and support a zero-carbon future</li> </ul> <p><b>Business can sign up to:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Ceres Blueprint for Responsible Policy Engagement on Climate Change</a></p> <p><a href="#">Influence Map</a></p> <p><a href="#">Corporate Leadership Group</a></p> <p>(see links below)</p>

Through the We Mean Business coalition partners' Initiative, approximately 1300 companies across the globe have committed to climate-compatible growth by aligning business strategy with achieving carbon-neutrality and meeting the SDGs:

<p>960+ companies have committed to set science-based targets</p> <p>260+ companies committed to 100% renewable energy</p> <p>80+ companies committed to transitioning fleets to electric vehicles</p> <p>100+ companies committed to doubling energy productivity</p>		
<p>World's largest companies (incl. Amazon, Microsoft, Walmart)</p>	<p>10 Biggest consumer goods companies (incl. P&amp;G, Unilever, Nestle)</p>	
<p>World's leading automotive manufacturers (incl. BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Renault)</p>	<p>40% are companies from leading industrial sectors such as Novozymes and Thyssenkrup</p>	<p>30% are European power utilities</p>

We Mean Business is a global coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors, with the **National Business Initiative (NBI)** as their regional network partner. NBI member companies that have committed to climate action include:

Science-Based Targets Initiative	EP100	Carbon Pricing	Responsible corporate engagement on climate change	TCFD
Growpoint Properties	Sasol Limited	Eskom	Exxaro Resources Limited	Exxaro Resources Limited
Sappi Ltd.	Woolworths Holdings Ltd		Firststrand Limited	Firststrand Limited
The Spar Group Ltd.			Pick n Pay Stores Ltd	MTN Group
Woolworths Holdings Ltd			Sasol Limited	Pick ‘n Pay Stores Ltd
			Tiger Brands	Sasol Limited
			Tongaat Hulett Ltd	Tiger Brands
			Transnet	Tongaat Hulett Ltd
				Transnet
				Woolworths Holdings Ltd

Your company can become a climate leader by bolstering your journey to sustainability in line with the **Report’s** recommendations to 1) set ambitious targets, 2) take action and 3) advocate for change.

As the local partner, the NBI has taken up this call for fostering greater ambition amongst our members. Working with the Alliances for Climate Action (co-convened by the WWF and C40) we have developed a leadership platform for companies, cities and other non-state actors to commit to a net zero-carbon economy by 2050 (<https://www.alliancesforclimateaction.co.za/>).

We follow a similar approach of 1) take action (commit), 2) advocate for change and 3) tell your stories. Furthermore the NBI, in partnership with Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) - drawing on the international experience of We Mean Business - is working with companies across South Africa to develop a business perspective on what it would take to get the South African economy to net zero-carbon by 2050.

The *Climate Leadership Now* Report demonstrates that systemic change on the scale required is not only possible, but also attainable within the necessary time-frames, by following the steps laid out.

**For more information on the We Mean Business company commitments, or to get started with climate action, please contact Reitumetse Molotsoane: [Reitumetsem@nbi.org.za](mailto:Reitumetsem@nbi.org.za) or Bhavna Deonarain: [Bhavnad@nbi.org.za](mailto:Bhavnad@nbi.org.za)**

**Useful links:**

**Ambition: To Shape and Commit to A Zero-Carbon Future**

[The Science Based Targets initiative](#)

[Business Ambition for 1.5](#)

[Climate Action in the Value Chain](#)

[The SME Climate Hub](#)

**Action: Transform Unsustainable Business Practices**

[RE100, EV100, EP100](#)

[Transform to net-zero](#)

[The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures \(TCFD\)](#)

**Advocacy: Inform and Advocate for a Just and Inclusive Net-Zero Transition**

[Ceres Blueprint for Responsible Policy Engagement on Climate Action](#)

[Influence Map](#)

[Corporate Leadership Group](#)



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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela.

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