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# Zero Carbon Buildings for All

Buildings operations account for 28% of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally, making them among the largest contributors to climate change. The good news is that improving buildings also offers the biggest, most cost-effective climate mitigation solution available. But the global buildings sector is showing insufficient progress toward keeping the world under 1.5°C warming.

To meet any reasonable carbon reduction or resilience goals, **we need to decarbonize the world's building stock**. Doing so on an acceptable timeline will require dramatically enhanced ambition and execution.

Zero Carbon Buildings for All will realize this ambition by leveraging the leadership of government, industry and civil society to tap low-cost efficiency opportunities in buildings and help drive a renewable energy future by

- (1) **Securing national commitments to decarbonize new buildings by 2030 and existing buildings by 2050**, through reflection in 2020 NDCs and other climate-related policies, and
- (2) **Mobilizing US \$1 TRILLION in Paris-compliant buildings investment** in developing countries by 2030.

Zero carbon buildings are cost-effective, technically achievable, and politically feasible. They are one of the best near- to midterm solutions we have in the fight against climate change, and align strongly with other efforts like near-zero energy buildings and power sector decarbonization. What has been missing is appropriate ambition by world leaders, and, as a result, the policy frameworks that unlock market development and investment.

## EXPECTED IMPACTS

It's clear that all buildings must be net zero carbon by 2050 to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, but fewer than 1% of buildings are today. Zero Carbon Buildings for All is the first major initiative to scale up solutions that will bridge this gap.

If Zero Carbon Buildings for All succeeds in the ten countries targeted for participation, avoided emissions by 2030 would add up to **432 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>e annually**. This is **5% of today's global energy-related emissions from just ten countries**. Additional reductions would be achieved with greater participation.

## ENGAGED INSTITUTIONS

Discussions with national governments are underway, and the **United Arab Emirates** has already committed.

Many **private sector leaders** (e.g. the World Economic Forum, Ingersoll Rand, Johnson Controls) and **financial institutions** (e.g. the International Finance Corporation, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank) have committed as well, and stand ready to provide expertise and assistance to governments pioneering net zero carbon building policy and marketplace development.

## DEEP TECHNICAL & ADVISORY SUPPORT FOR COMMITTING NATIONS

Each committing country will establish its own policy roadmaps and action plans to realize a decarbonized building sector, supported by a network of local and international experts, an international secretariat to coordinate technical and financial resources, and (as resources permit) on-the-ground expert staff.

Pending in-depth scoping and resourcing discussions with participating countries and stakeholders, the UN's Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) has been identified as a model for Zero Carbon Buildings for All's execution.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has invited a proposal for an initial multi-million dollar source of funding to support implementation based on the success of the BEA. Additional sources of funding have been identified.

The World Resources Institute, which leads the BEA, is expected to coordinate Zero Carbon Buildings for All in collaboration with other partners, as appropriate, such as the World Green Building Council, the World Economic Forum, IFC, the Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings, the Global Alliance for Building and Construction, or others.

## COMMIT TO NET ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS FOR ALL

Zero Carbon Buildings for All represents a step change in the ambition of policymakers, financiers, and the private sector related to buildings-related climate mitigation and resilience.

**National Governments, Investment and Financial Institutions and Industry Leaders** can commit to Zero Carbon Buildings for All by drafting and signing *a statement of intent* and publicly announcing their commitment at the **2019 UN Climate Action Summit**.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO GET INVOLVED

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## SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS (SELECTED)



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