

OVERVIEW

SME CLIMATE HUB

December | 2020



Our Mission

The SME Climate Hub seeks to mobilise and support millions of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to take climate action, build business resilience and gain a competitive advantage.

Why are we focused on SMEs?

SMEs make up 90% of businesses worldwide and employ over two billion people – the backbone of our communities and our economy.

SMEs are essential for the provision of goods and services around the world as well as for the innovation and scaling of next generation green solutions required for global decarbonisation.

One of the most pressing existential threats to SMEs is climate change - and with 40% to 60% of small businesses never reopening after a disaster, building business resilience has never been so important.

What is the SME Climate Hub?

The SME Climate Hub is a one-of-a-kind international platform that provides a one-stop-shop for small and medium-sized businesses to:

- make an internationally recognised climate commitment
- access best-in-class tools and resources
- benefit from incentives and opportunities with commercial value



Future-proof your business today

Where small and medium-sized businesses come to curb emissions and gain a competitive edge.

[GET STARTED](#)

How it works – overview



COMMIT

While you are not yet certain how to reduce your carbon emissions, you are ready to commit and take your first steps towards halving your emissions before 2030 and striving to achieve net zero emissions before 2050.

[Make the commitment >>](#)



TAKE ACTION

Once you have signed the SME Climate Commitment, start browsing tools and resources that have been tailored to support your efforts.

Coming soon!

[Go to tools >>](#)



ACCESS INCENTIVES

By making the SME Climate Commitment, your business will be recognized by the United Nations Race to Zero campaign, giving your business visibility in the community and with your clients. Financial and policy incentives *coming soon!*

[Get recognised today >>](#)

How it works – step 1

Making the SME Climate Commitment is the first step!



COMMIT

While you are not yet certain how to reduce your carbon emissions, you are ready to commit and take your first steps towards halving your emissions before 2030 and striving to achieve net zero emissions before 2050.

[Make the commitment >>](#)

The SME Climate Commitment

Recognising that climate change poses a threat to the economy, nature and society-at-large, our company commits to take action immediately in order to:

- **Halve our greenhouse gas emissions before 2030**
- **Achieve net zero emissions before 2050**
- **Disclose our progress on a yearly basis**

In doing so, we are proud to be recognised by the United Nations Race to Zero campaign, and join governments, businesses, cities, regions, and universities around the world that share the same mission.

How it works – step 2



TAKE ACTION

Once you have signed the SME Climate Commitment, start browsing tools and resources that have been tailored to support your efforts.



From there, we will help you to get started.

We have partnered with Oxford University's Net Zero Climate Research and Engagement team to provide small and medium-sized businesses with a database of practical tools and resources to curb emissions and build business resilience.

These tools have been tried and tested by climate experts and business leaders to help you make good on your commitment.

How it works – about the tools & resources

The tools and resources will allow SMEs to:

- Measure and manage emissions
- Increase resource efficiency
- Track and communicate progress
- Access resources and services
- Gain insights into best practices
- Learn more about climate science

How it works – step 3



ACCESS INCENTIVES

By making the SME Climate Commitment, your business will be recognized by the United Nations Race to Zero campaign, giving your business visibility in the community and with your clients. Financial and policy incentives *coming soon!*

[Get recognised today >>](#)

Unlock incentives and benefits that make the journey well worth it.

Every business that makes the SME Climate Commitment will be recognised by the:

- United Nations Race to Zero campaign
- 1.5°C Supply Chain Leaders
- SME Climate Hub

We are working on financial and policy incentives too.

About the United Nations Race to Zero

The United Nations Race to Zero is an international campaign that brings together an unprecedented coalition of real economy actors and governments committed to achieve net-zero emissions by no later than 2050.

The SME Climate Hub is an exercise in radical collaboration that opens the gates for SMEs to join the United Nations Race to Zero campaign.

1.5°C Supply Chain Leaders support the SME Climate Hub

“We will support SMEs globally through the SME Climate Hub with tools, knowledge and best practice for implementing a robust climate strategy, to support broad action. We plan to make climate related targets and performance a key supplier purchasing criteria within one year. We aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through action and collaboration, while looking to inspire others to do the same.”

[1.5°C Supply Chain Leaders >>](#)



ERICSSON



Telia Company



Unilever

What's in it for my business?

Taking climate action is proven to be a key competitive advantage for companies and can also help businesses to reduce overheads, enhance access to capital, secure customers and provide unique growth opportunities.

What's in it for my business?

1. GAIN A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Supply chain leaders, investors, shareholders, consumers and employees are increasingly looking to business to adopt ambitious climate-related targets, with some supply chain leaders now formalising climate action in their procurement policies. Stay ahead of the curve.

What's in it for my business?

2. MANAGE BUSINESS RISK

Left unchecked, climate change represents material risk to business cash flow and economic growth, by increasing operating costs, limiting resource availability, causing shifts in demand, disrupting supply chains and forcing business closures. Prepare for tomorrow, today.

What's in it for my business?

3. IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE COSTS

Businesses that look to use and manage resources more efficiently can tangibly reduce their operating costs and increase profitability, while improving business preparedness. Begin to take steps today that are good for your business and the climate.

What's in it for my business?

4. ENHANCE ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND AFFORDABLE INSURANCE

Investors and insurers are increasingly linking business exposure from natural disasters with climate change. Take steps to keep your insurance fees affordable and secure your loan, grant and investment worthiness.

What's in it for my business?

5. GROW YOUR BUSINESS AND YOUR BRAND

The SME Climate Hub represents a global network of like-minded businesses seeking to improve themselves, their community and the planet. Being part of this network offers far reaching collaborative and commercial opportunities to grow your business and be a leading brand, as market trends shift to a low-carbon economy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What qualifies as an SME?

A: For the purposes of the SME Climate Hub, any company with less than 500 employees can make the SME Climate Commitment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How have the target dates been selected?

A: In order to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and avoid the worst effects of climate change, the science is clear – we must halve emissions before 2030 and achieve net zero emissions before 2050.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I make the SME Climate Commitment if my company is fast growing and provides solutions which helps avoid or remove emissions (“green solutions”)?

A: Yes! Fast growing SMEs that provide solutions which avoid or remove emissions as their core business do not have to halve their absolute emissions, but should halve their intensity (e.g. CO₂e/net revenue) as a minimum and show that their growth is aligned with the 1.5°C ambition.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I make the SME Climate Commitment today, how can I get started on taking action?

A: Visit the tools page of the SME Climate Hub and follow the steps outlined – whether you are just starting your climate journey or want to go the extra mile, there are practical tools and resources on the SME Climate Hub that will help you future proof your business.

Future-proof your business today

We hope you will take your first step today by making the SME Climate Commitment.

We will continue to work hard to bring you the best tools, resources and incentives to support you along your journey because small and medium-sized businesses matter to us and to our collective future.

www.smeclimatehub.org

ABOUT SME Climate Hub

The SME Climate Hub is an initiative of the [International Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Exponential Roadmap Initiative](#), the [We Mean Business coalition](#) and the [United Nations Race to Zero campaign](#).

The SME Climate Hub has also joined forces with Oxford University's [Net Zero Climate Research and Engagement](#) team to provide small and medium-sized businesses with a database of practical tools and resources to curb emissions and build business resilience.

It is our belief that **climate action is everyone's business.**

