The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on 1.5°C was a stark warning that global emissions must reach net-zero by 2050 to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Since then, the concept of net-zero has moved from relative obscurity to the center stage.

In 2019, net-zero pledges covered 16% of the global economy. Now, 90% of global GDP is covered by net-zero targets. But not all net-zero targets are equal. The definition of net-zero and the path to get there varies and is often inconsistent.

Business leaders need a common, robust, science-based understanding of net-zero. Otherwise, they risk following a pathway that may not be consistent with addressing the climate crisis and keeping warming to 1.5°C.

WHAT IS THE NET-ZERO STANDARD?

The SBTi Net-Zero Standard is the world's first science-based standard for setting corporate net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement’s goal of keeping global warming to 1.5°C. The Net-Zero Standard provides a robust and science-based understanding of net-zero, giving business leaders clarity and confidence that their near- and long-term decarbonization plans are aligned with climate science.
WHAT DO COMPANIES COMMIT TO?

1. **Set near-term science-based targets:**
   5-10 year emission reduction targets in line with limiting warming to 1.5°C.

2. **Set long-term science-based targets:**
   Most companies will reduce emissions by at least 90% by no later than 2050.*

3. **Beyond value chain mitigation:**
   Companies are expected to take action to mitigate emissions beyond their value chains. E.g. by purchasing high-quality, jurisdictional REDD+ credits or investing in direct air capture.

4. **Neutralize residual emissions:**
   Any remaining emissions — the 10% — must be neutralized with permanent carbon removals.

*Companies in the forest, land and agriculture sectors will need to reduce emissions by at least 80%.

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COMMIT TO NET-ZERO NOW

More than 600 companies worldwide have already committed to reach science-based net-zero before 2050 through the SBTi’s Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign. Companies that commit to the Net-Zero Standard will automatically join the Business Ambition for 1.5°C campaign and the UNFCCC Race to Zero. Join now on the SBTi website.