

States, regions and the Paris Agreement

States and regions are **critical** to meeting Paris Agreement targets because of their ability to set policies and regulations on climate in federalised countries and that they are often the level of government closest to communities. They are well placed to know what is needed locally.

On the ground, they **implement** the laws that their national governments set: making net zero plans and policies a concrete reality.

Over time, the ambition and action of subnational governments has reinforced and strengthened national climate targets: pushing countries to go further and faster.

Where subnational governments are making a difference:

- At least 131 states and regions have set net zero targets - aiming to reach almost zero emissions by the middle of the century
- 36 regions have begun implementing carbon pricing
- At least 21 states and regions have endorsed the New York Declaration of 2014 on Forests to halt natural forest loss by 2030
- By 2021, 54 states and regions had set targets to reach 100% renewable electricity supply - up from only 31 in 2019
- At least 30 regions plan to phase out coal – up from zero in 2019

Where subnational governments can make a difference:

- Planning infrastructure that reduces travel demand
- Incentivising zero emission vehicles
- Facilitating the roll out of zero carbon buildings
- Expanding access to renewable energy
- Supporting zero carbon industrial processes
- Conserving, restoring and protecting natural carbon sinks
- Phasing out use of fossil fuels in a way that is just and fair for all people

How subnational governments can make more of a difference:

- **Better coordination** between different levels of governments on climate policy – from national governments down to states, regions, cities and local authorities
- **Increased capacity** to take climate action, from greater funding for climate initiatives to more trained staff to implement them
- **Development of policy labs** within states and regions to test out new ideas that could help to mitigate, or adapt to, climate change
- **Greater opportunities to share knowledge**, either in-person or virtually
- **Linking climate goals with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to address all issues at once