

2023 Action Guide

The 2023 Speed & Scale Action Guide

Go for the Gigatons.

Our goal is to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050— and get halfway there by 2030.

The *Speed & Scale plan* is a pathway toward achieving that ambitious goal. For example, we can cut six billion tons of greenhouse gasses — 10 percent of the annual global total — by electrifying transportation. To reach this objective, we'll need specific actions: replacing diesel buses with electric ones, installing hundreds of thousands of vehicle charging stations, and more.

In confronting this enormous challenge, we must be strategic. What should we do first? What will have the biggest difference? [Here's our shortlist of high-impact actions you can take in 2023.](#)



What Can You Do?

To make your voice heard on the important climate policy decisions of the day, join a climate advocacy organization such as The Climate Reality Project, 350.org, or one of the many global Climate Action Network members.

1

Switch to an Electric Vehicle

As an Individual

If you can't afford one right now, commit to making the vehicle you drive today the last fossil fuel vehicle you will own or lease.

(On average, gasoline accounts for **25 percent** of a household's carbon footprint.)

↓ 0.3 Gt

2

Power Your Home with Clean Energy

As an Individual

Sign up for a clean(er) energy plan from your utility. Or add solar panels and a battery to reduce your reliance on the local grid (and, by extension, on fossil fuels).

Replace your gas appliances with electric heat pumps and an electric or induction stove. Install a smart thermostat and insulate your home. On average, electricity and heating account for **14 percent** of a household's carbon footprint.

↓ 0.8 Gt

3

Eat Less Beef and Waste Less Food

As an Individual

Consume lower-emissions proteins such as pork, chicken, or fish, or one of the many new plant-based proteins. Throw out less food, and compost what you don't eat.

On average, food accounts for **19 percent** of a household's carbon footprint, with nearly half of that from dairy and meat.

↓ 0.5 Gt



What Can Your Company or Organization Do?

As an employee, you can advocate for any or all of the following actions. In concert with like-minded co-workers, make the case that these planet-friendly changes will strengthen the company's brand, boost employee morale, and build a climate-conscious customer base.

1

Purchase High-Quality Carbon Removal

As an Executive or Manager

As described in *Speed & Scale*, your first priority is to cut your emissions by finding cleaner alternatives. Your next challenge is to conserve energy with greater efficiency. Finally, you need to remove and sequester your remaining CO₂ emissions from the atmosphere—either through nature-based options like reforestation or engineered removal options like **Climeworks** or **Charm Industrial**.

↓ 0.3 Gt

3

Procure Clean Energy

As an Executive or Manager

Convert your office, factory, store, or restaurant to carbon-free electricity. Call your utility to identify your options. **Deploy solar and batteries onsite.**

To reduce fossil fuel consumption, replace gas appliances with electric heat pumps, boilers, and stoves. If your company owns your building, you can take these initiatives yourself; if not, reach out to the owner.

↓ 0.7 Gt

2

Decarbonize Your Transport of People and Goods

As an Executive or Manager

For companies with their own vehicle fleets, now is the time to plan to electrify them. Set a progressive, year-by-year procurement target to get you to 100 percent electricity-powered **cars by 2030** and electricity-powered trucks by 2035.

Regardless of where we stand with the pandemic, don't rush back to sending people on business flights. Capitalize on the efficiencies and flexibility of virtual meetings. Set a higher bar for stepping on a plane.

↓ 0.8 Gt

4

Shrink the Carbon Footprint of the Goods You Manufacture

As an Executive or Manager

You can't manage what you don't measure. Start by tracking and cutting emissions for anything you produce. A few practical options: Seek out new suppliers. Use cleaner heat sources in your production processes. Move to climate-friendly materials and packaging. Label your goods with **clear recycling and composting instructions.**

↓ 0.5 Gt



What Can Your City Do?

The emissions profile for each city will vary based on its geography and urban layout. By checking your city's greenhouse gas inventory, you'll see the potential local impact of these three actions for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

1

Work With Your Electric Utility, Cut Emissions by 90 Percent by 2035

As an Elected or Government Official

Since cities are often their local utilities' partners and largest customers, see to it that new investments in the power grid are channeled toward carbon-free energy sources. Create a plan that cuts greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2025 and by **90 percent by 2035.**

↓ 0.5 Gt

3

Build Out a City Wide Network of Protected Bike Lanes

As an Elected or Government Official

This offers the **highest return** on investment of infrastructure dollars for easing and speeding commutes, reducing congestion, and cutting a city's emissions. By making cycling safer, protected lanes will broaden its adoption.

↓ 0.3 Gt

2

Update Building Codes to End Use of Natural Gas & Consume Less Energy

As an Elected or Government Official

Following the lead of New York City and Denver, tighten rules to prohibit natural gas in new construction. Alternatives: for heating and cooling, energy-saving electric heat pumps; for water heaters, electric boilers. For climate-friendly cooking, look to induction stoves. When gas-powered appliances break, **codes should mandate** their replacement with electric equivalents.

↓ 0.7 Gt

According to New York City's published annual inventory, 36 percent of emissions come from natural gas, 29 percent from electricity generation, and 24 percent from transportation.

By comparison, Denver generates 35 percent of its emissions from electricity generation, 20 percent from transportation, and 14 percent from natural gas.

Los Angeles has a very different emissions profile, with transportation accounting for 62 percent of its emissions.



What Can Your State or Provincial Government Do?

As a voter, you can contact your elected representative and share how important these actions are to you. Attend public meetings where these topics are discussed and make your voice heard.

If your officials fail to take action, mobilize and register people to vote for new officials who will. Organize or support ballot propositions. Join an organization working to enact climate solutions.

1

Finance Large Energy Projects

As an Elected or Government Official

To stay on pace to cut emissions in half by 2025 and by **90 percent** by 2035, pass legislation and finance grid improvements, electricity storage, and new solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects. Since demand for electricity will keep rising as we're cleaning our grids, utilities cannot do this alone.

↓ 0.2 Gt

2

Require Private Planes to Use Sustainable Jet Fuel

As an Elected or Government Official

There is no existing market for sustainably produced jet fuel, which would cut aviation emissions up to **80 percent**. At present, the technology is new and the volume of production is low, making the fuel too expensive for commercial air travel without regulation. But action on the state level can begin to shift that equation. To lower the price and increase availability, states can require private planes to use a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) blend for trips to and from its airports.

↓ 0.4 Gt

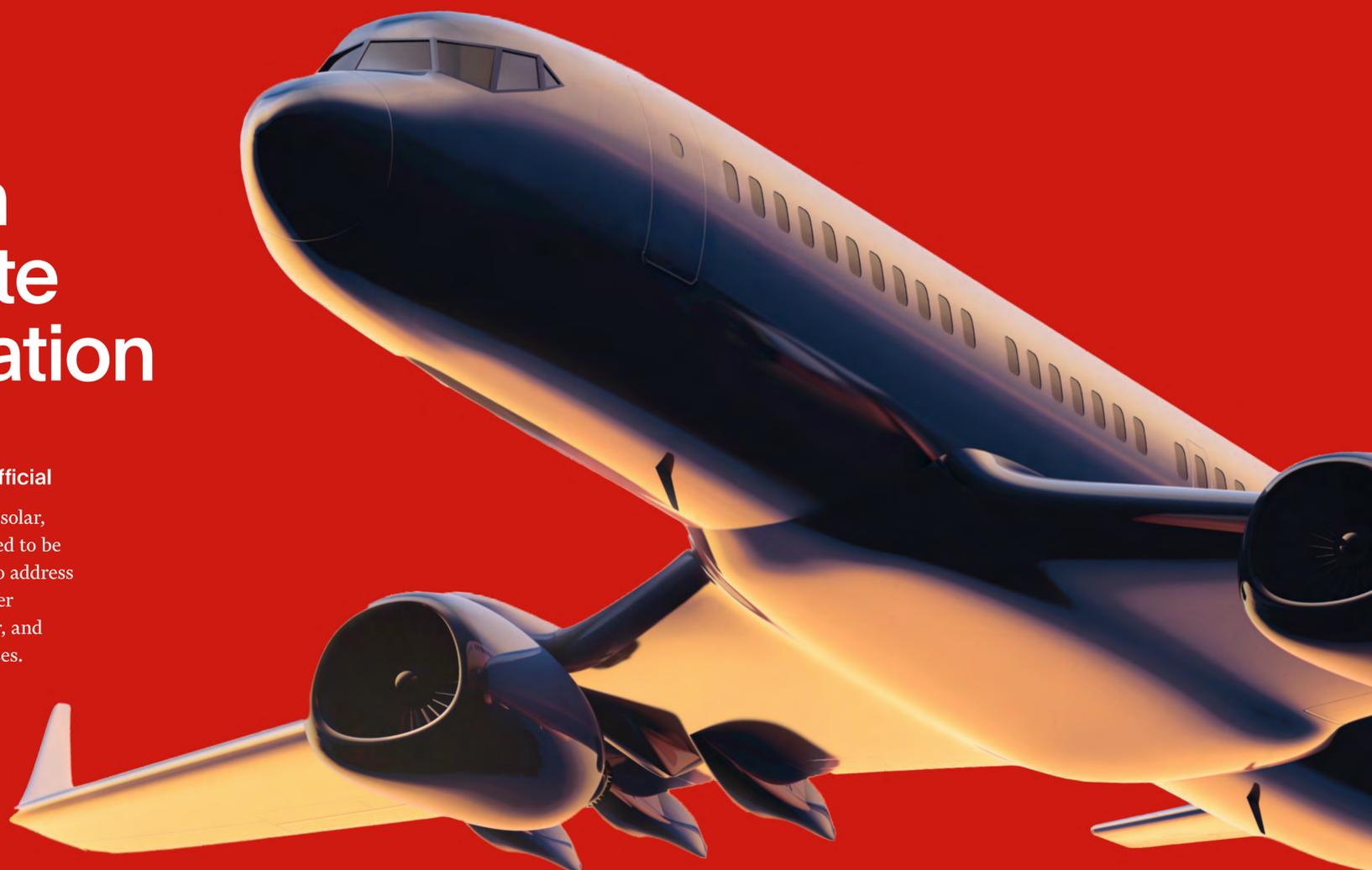
3

Unblock and Then Accelerate Electrification

As an Elected or Government Official

Red tape is slowing the deployment of solar, battery, and charging projects that need to be built today. Pass **statewide policy** to address permitting issues. Incentivize consumer purchases of EVs and adoption of solar, and electrified mass transit and school buses. Deploy charging infrastructure.

↓ 0.3 Gt



What Can Your Federal Government Do?

Companies can also be powerful advocates for a net zero future.

The clean energy transition is a tremendous economic opportunity. To create jobs and lead in the new clean energy economy, companies can demand action from city, state, and federal governments.

1

Tax Methane and Other Carbon Pollution

As an Elected or Government Official

Charge oil and gas companies for flaring, venting, and leaks. (Or simply prohibit it using regulations.) Signal to the market that a **carbon tax** on industry is coming, in part to keep the U.S. competitive with the European Union.

↓ 0.4 Gt

2

Accelerate the Phaseout of Fossil Fuels

As an Elected or Government Official

Set standards that phase out fossil fuels for motor vehicles, appliances, and other **energy-intensive products**. Example: a program that sets efficiency targets based on the best-performing available product.

↓ 0.7 Gt

3

Pay For Innovation

As an Elected or Government Official

Governments are in a unique position to catalyze research, development, and deployment of clean energy.

The U.S. needs to increase its grants and loans for energy **R&D by 5x**; other countries should aim to triple their R&D funding. Even more directly, governments are significant purchasers of energy, heating and cooling, and vehicles. It can use its procurement power to purchase the cleaner, greener alternative.

↓ 0.2 Gt

4

End Deforestation and Accelerate Reforestation

As an Elected or Government Official

Pass laws to end human-caused deforestation **by 2025**, which is five years ahead of the target set at COP26.

↓ 0.5 Gt

