

Countries Update Nationally Determined Contributions in Advance of COP 30

Issue Brief

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Throughout 2025, countries are updating their [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) under the [Paris Agreement](#), which include economy-wide emissions reduction targets for 2035. To date, only 62 of nearly 200 countries – representing 31% of global emissions – have submitted updated NDCs.

As targets are announced, a clear gap between countries' current levels of ambition and the reductions needed to stay on a 1.5°C trajectory is more notable. According to ClimateWatch, the NDCs submitted so far would only reduce global emissions by roughly [1.4 GtCO₂e by 2035](#), relative to earlier pledges. Additional emissions reductions of between 26.5–29.8 GtCO₂e by 2035 would be necessary to limit warming to 1.5°C.

For business, country ambition can serve as an investment roadmap, identifying the opportunities a country is most keen to support in decarbonizing its economy. Today's emissions reductions targets will influence the developing regulatory frameworks, market incentives, and technology deployment of the future.

As the [30th Conference of the Parties \(COP 30\)](#) to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) in Brazil convenes this November, it is hoped that remaining countries will submit their updated NDCs. The level of collective ambition will likely be discussed throughout the two-week conference.

BCSE will be leading a delegation of U.S. businesses and organizations to COP 30 to showcase scalable, commercially available technology solutions that can help countries meet their climate targets and also scale greater ambition.

This issue brief provides an up-to-date overview of the current state of play for 2035 NDCs and the implications for business and markets.

What Is an NDC?

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the primary mechanism through which a country that is a party to Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC communicates its national climate target or action plan.

The first round of NDCs were submitted in 2015, following the adoption of the Paris Agreement. The submission of an updated NDC every five years is a legal requirement of parties to the Paris Agreement.

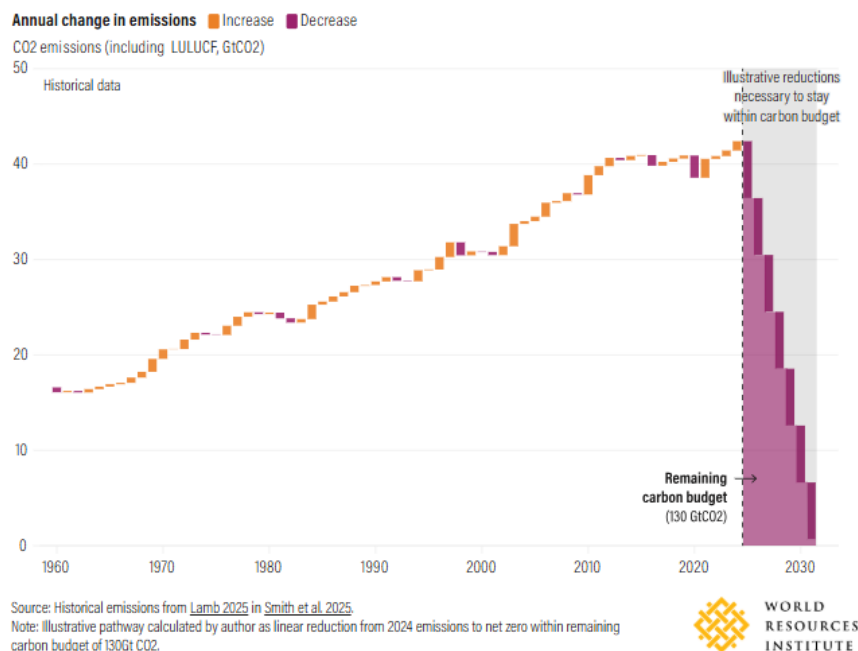
What Is an NDC? (Cont.)

The Ratchet Mechanism

The goal of the Paris Agreement is to limit global warming to well below 2°C, ideally on a trajectory that keeps warming to [1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels](#). The updating of NDCs every five years is a built-in “ratchet mechanism” to increase ambition toward meeting this global goal. This mechanism requires each round of pledges to exceed commitments in the prior NDC and to represent countries’ “highest possible ambition.”

Although some studies suggest that global warming of more than 1.5°C is a foregone conclusion, the limit’s symbolic power remains, conveying when warming will reach a [tipping point](#) for further intensified warming. Current policies (through existing NDCs) are estimated to set the world on track for [3.1°C of warming](#).

Emissions have grown steadily over the decades, requiring steep cuts to avoid breaching carbon budget for 1.5°C



NDCs as Investment Roadmaps

A country’s NDC is viewed by many (including BCSE) as an investment roadmap, signaling a county’s priorities for the energy transition.

BCSE is tracking how countries update their NDCs to include the global [energy transition goals](#) that were unanimously agreed upon at COP 28 in 2023. These goals include a historic agreement to begin the transition away from fossil fuels, as well as a call for doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements and tripling investment in renewable energy capacity globally by 2030.

For more information: view E3G’s [NDC Energy Commitments Tracker](#).

Which Countries Have Submitted NDCs?

As of October 10, 2025, only 62 out of almost 200 countries have submitted an updated NDC. The original deadline for NDC submission was nine months before COP 30, in February 2025. A recent influx of commitments was made around the September UN General Assembly in New York City. However, COP 30 in November will be ultimate deadline for major emitters like China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Iran, Saudia Arabia, and South Korea.



For more information: visit ClimateWatch's [NDC Tracker](#) for the latest information on country NDC submissions.



Submitted NDCs

Australia

Key energy initiatives developed to help meet this goal include the [Capacity Investment Scheme](#) to accelerate renewable generation, the [Rewiring the Nation Program](#) to modernize transmission infrastructure and expand grid capacity, and other consumer-focused programs for households. Plus, the [Future Made in Australia](#) agenda commits over A\$22 billion over the next decade to advance domestic manufacturing and exports of renewable hydrogen, green metals, and low-carbon fuels. Australia is currently bidding to host COP 31 in 2026.



Emissions Reduction Commitment:
62-70% below 2005 levels by 2035
and net zero by 2050

Official Submission: [Australia's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

Submitted NDCs (Cont.)

Brazil

As the host of COP 30, Brazil's NDC includes goals of adopting legal frameworks and regulations for new forms of energy and specifically highlights increasing energy efficiency, offshore wind, green hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, synthetic fuels, and biofuels (including sustainable aviation fuel) production. Emerging technologies like floating solar and carbon-negative bioenergy are also supported.

National programs like [RenovaBio](#) and the [Hydrogen Program](#) will help guide this shift. Brazil will also launch an [emissions trading system \(SBCE\)](#) and green industrial finance tools and the [Brazil Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform \(BIP\)](#) will mobilize capital for low-carbon infrastructure.



Emissions Reduction Commitment:
59-67% emissions reductions below 2005 levels by 2035 and net-zero by 2050

Official Submission: [Brazil's NDC: National Determination to Contribute and Transform](#)

Canada

Central to Canada's pathway are [energy-related measures](#), including phasing out unabated coal-fired electricity by 2030, reducing methane emissions from oil and gas, achieving a net-zero electricity grid by 2035, and advancing the electrification of transportation and industry. National [Clean Electricity Regulations](#) and [Clean Fuel Regulations](#) were finalized in 2024.

Canada's NDC also cites Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits as a key mechanism for implementation, as it incentivizes investments in clean hydrogen, carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), clean technology manufacturing, energy efficiency, clean electricity generation, and critical mineral extraction and processing. Canada also has a federal carbon market, including a performance-based emissions trading system, complemented by their [Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations](#).



Emissions Reduction Commitment:
45-50% below 2005 levels by 2035 and net-zero by 2050

Official Submission: [Canada's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

Japan

Japan emphasizes implementation through its [Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures](#), integrated with its [Green Transformation \(GX\) policy](#), and international, collaborative mechanisms such as the [Joint Crediting Mechanism \(JCM\)](#). The NDC does not specify energy-related targets but does include ambition for supporting global goals such as the doubling of energy



Emissions Reduction Commitment:
60% below 2013 levels by 2035, 73% by 2040, and net-zero by 2050

Official Submission: [Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\)](#)

Submitted NDCs (Cont.)

efficiency improvements, tripling of renewable energy capacity, acceleration of zero- and low-emission technologies, and the transition away from unabated fossil fuels.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (UK) is seizing the opportunity to become a climate leader and “clean energy superpower” in the wake of the United States’ exit from the Paris Agreement. The country’s NDC is 1.5°C aligned and will require new policies to meet these ambitious goals.

While renewable energy already comprises 40% of the UK’s electricity generation, energy-focused goals and policies include a [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#) to accelerate renewable energy development, including solar, wind, nuclear, and natural gas.

The UK also has committed to funding for home energy efficiency upgrades, a Zero Emission Vehicle mandate, carbon capture, and hydrogen energy, as well as grid and energy storage expansion. Plus, the UK will strengthen its [Emissions Trading Scheme \(ETS\)](#) by lowering the emissions cap and expanding coverage to sectors like domestic maritime transport and waste incineration.



Emissions Reduction Commitment:
81% compared to 1990 levels by 2035 and net-zero by 2050

Official Submission: [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland’s 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

United States of America

In December 2024, during the last month of the Biden Administration, the United States announced its new goal to achieve a 57–63% reduction in economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2035, raising ambition from the country’s 2030 target to reduce emissions 50-52%. The updated NDC outlined a whole-of-government approach that included decarbonizing the power sector, improving building and industrial efficiency, expanding clean energy, and promoting zero-emission vehicles.

However, on January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump announced via [Executive Order](#) the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, which will become effective on January 27, 2026, and will then nullify the updated NDC. States, particularly those in the [U.S. Climate Alliance](#) and [America is All In](#), have pledged to continue action towards this NDC goal.



Emissions Reduction Commitment:
57-63% reduction in economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels by 2035 and net-zero by 2050

Official Submission: [The United States of America Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

Key Countries to Watch

The following are key countries that have not yet submitted their updated NDC, but have made emissions reduction commitments:

China



As the world's current top-emitter, the ambition reflected in China's new NDC is critical to the future success of the Paris Agreement. In 2020, China pledged to peak carbon emissions by 2030, lower carbon intensity by 60-65% over 2005 levels by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Current analyses predict China's carbon emissions [stabilizing and beginning to fall](#) for more than a year.

On September 24, 2025, at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit, President Xi Jinping announced an emissions reduction target of [7-10% below peak levels](#) by 2035. Although this is significant because it is the first time China has set an economy-wide emissions reduction target, the ambition of the target is lacking for the largest emitter.

European Union



On September 18, 2025, the European Union (EU) issued a preliminary pledge to reduce emissions by [66.25-72.5% by 2035](#) from 1990 levels. Although the EU has not yet finalized its new NDC, the Union has proposed its climate target for 2040. Currently, the proposal sets a target for a [90% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions](#) compared to 1990 levels and focuses on accelerating progress toward this target by creating more flexibility and strengthening an enabling environment for clean industry and energy.

The process for establishing this target is an important first step in what is an intertwined negotiation process (as the EU submits a single NDC for its 27 member states) that will contribute to its final updated NDC. The new 2040 climate target is set to address the EU's renewed level of ambition, the role of carbon removals, and ways in which flexibility can be given to member states and the private sector in meeting emissions reductions goals.

For more information on this topic:

[Climate Watch NDC Tracker](#) – World Resources Institute, United Nations Climate Change, World Bank Group, and more

[NDC Energy Commitments Tracker](#) – E3G

[United Nations Climate Change NDC Resource Page](#) – UNFCCC

[Climate Action Tracker](#) – Climate Analytics and NewClimate Institute

[COP28 Tracking the Energy Outcomes](#) – International Energy Agency

[Appliance Efficiency Finally Recognized in National Climate Commitments](#) – CLASP

[Emissions Gap Report 2024](#) – UN Environment Programme

[What Would Ambitious Climate Commitments Look Like for the World's Top Emitters? It's Complicated](#) – World Resources Institute

Additional BCSE Resources

Press release: [As Nations Update Climate Targets, More Than 150 U.S. Businesses and Organizations Pledge Their Support for Energy Efficiency](#)

Blog: [Growing Investment Through Partnerships at COP 29](#)

Issue brief: [IPCC's Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report](#)