

High-Priority Action Agenda Targets for the COP31 Presidency

Issue Brief

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In November 2026, the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place in Antalya, Türkiye. 197 parties, including the European Union, will convene to continue the process of intergovernmental climate change framework negotiations. This year, the COP is co-hosted by two countries: Türkiye is the COP President-Designate, handling the Action Agenda and all operational and logistical requirements, while Australia is the President of Negotiations.

Ahead of the conference, Türkiye has announced several targets as part of the COP31 Presidency's Action Agenda. These targets reflect a larger international focus on accelerating implementation of the goals previously set in place by designing a framework for concrete implementation results. This issue brief provides information on three targets that are likely to be a central focus at COP31.

Electrification Target

This target seeks to raise the share of final global energy demand met by electricity from just over 20% today to [35%](#) by 2035, as recommended by the International Energy Agency (IEA). The presidency has commissioned the IEA to analyze pathways to achieving the 35-by-35 target and has committed to building a global coalition to implement actions toward achievement.

Motivation for the target: The target is intended to decenter fossil fuels while expanding clean electricity. COP31 president-designate of Negotiations Chris Bowen characterized electrification as the "[fastest way](#)" to improve energy security, cut emissions, and lower energy costs. COP31 president-designate Murat Kurum had a similar message, emphasizing an [urgent need](#) for renewables and electrification amid the ongoing Hormuz crisis.

Further information: Kurum stated that talks with key member states have confirmed that the 35-by-35 target will be [central](#) to the conference's discussions. COP31 leadership has also communicated its intent to work closely with all members to facilitate access to technical assistance, capacity-building, and financial support in line with the 35-by-35 goal.

The electrification target is supported by a [coalition](#), Electrify Now, which unites governments, industry, and civil society in electrification efforts in line with the COP31 efforts. Electrify Now aims to facilitate practical [discussion](#), highlight replicable initiatives, and mobilize investment to accelerate electrification and scale clean power infrastructure.

Electrification Target (cont.)

The IEA is a participant in Electrify Now and, in addition, is preparing a special report to be released ahead of the conference. Executive Director Dr. Fatih Birol [announced](#) that the report would help countries navigate electrification changes securely, affordably, and sustainably.

Focus Areas: Areas of emphasis for Türkiye [include](#) transport, buildings (in line with a related target), industry, clean energy supply, and energy efficiency.

Global Waste Target

Another of Türkiye's emphases for COP31 is [halving](#) growth in global waste by 2035. The presidency highlights that the target is to reduce *growth* in [waste generation](#), not to reduce total waste by 50%. Notably, there is no specified baseline for the target, nor is there any mention of which types of waste it covers.

Motivation for the target: In the Action Agenda, the presidency cites that the waste sector is responsible for [30%](#) of warming since the Industrial Revolution, and global waste generation is anticipated to increase by 50% by 2050. First Lady Emine Erdogan expressed that reducing waste can also reduce [economic](#) and humanitarian consequences.

Further information: In partnership with the Turkish presidency, the IEA will produce a [report](#) examining how waste reduction can lower emissions and generate economic benefits. Türkiye has not released many details of the COP31 global waste agenda; however, it appears to be an international extension of the [Zero Waste Foundation](#), which focuses on circular economy solutions. First Lady Emine Erdogan is the founder and honorary president of the foundation and seeks to establish global waste as a pillar of UN climate efforts.

Focus areas: Areas of emphasis for Türkiye [include](#) food waste prevention, circular economy policies, and the inclusion of methane reductions in NDC updates.

Resilient Cities Target

Türkiye's resilient cities target aims to reduce energy consumption intensity in the building sector by at least [25%](#) by 2035, complementing the 35-by-35 target. Energy intensity is a metric that [calculates](#) a building's energy consumption relative to its size, expressed as energy per square foot.

Motivation for the target: In the Action Agenda, the presidency explains why it is specifically targeting cities. Cities generate roughly [70%](#) of global emissions and face severe climate impacts, as nearly 15% of major cities are exposed to extreme flooding and drought. Reducing energy consumption intensity can help cities withstand [climate impacts](#) while improving efficiency.

Resilient Cities Target (cont.)

Further information: Kurum has spoken about the importance of resilient cities to improve [energy security](#) and general safety, citing the 2023 earthquakes as an example of the devastation natural disasters can cause. He also emphasized the potential for economic gains such as alleviating energy costs for families and businesses. The presidency plans to promote improved [building standards](#) and mobilize capital to strengthen local-level access across countries to infrastructure investment.

Focus areas: Areas of emphasis for Türkiye [include](#) lifecycle building emissions, green building certifications, sustainable finance and low-carbon infrastructure investment, and resilient infrastructure standards.

For more information on this topic:

[COP31 Action Agenda](#) – COP31 Presidency

[COP31 Presidency of Türkiye’s Announcement of Targets](#) – UNFCCC

[COP31 Website](#) – COP31 Türkiye

[Interview with COP31 President](#) – Carbon Brief

[“35% by 2035” Electrification Target Announcement](#) – COP31 Presidency

About the Author

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