



# 13 CLIMATE ACTION





### Take urgent action

Every country in the world is a first-hand witness to the impacts of climate change.

Greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase and today they are 50% above the level of 1990. Furthermore, global warming is triggering lasting changes in the climate system, the consequences of which may be irreversible if urgent action is not taken now.

The purpose of this goal is to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity in relation to the mitigation of global warming, in order to reduce the risks related to it. In short, to counter the actions that contribute to climate change and, in turn, to minimise its impact on people's lives.

Other actions that are necessary to achieve this goal include strengthening resilience and the capacity to adapt to the risks related to the climate and natural disasters in every country, and incorporating measures related to climate change into national policies, strategies and plans.

### Social awareness, the key to the fight against climate change

This challenge is focused on taking urgent action to fight climate change and its impact. The data we are aware of require an immediate and effective reaction as, otherwise, their consequences could become irreversible. The annual losses caused by cyclones, tsunamis and floods are very high, and the victims of natural disasters in many areas of the planet grow year by year.

The purpose of climate change action is to mobilize 100 billion dollars every year until 2020 in order to address the needs of developing countries and to help mitigate the effects of the climate, trying to limit the global average temperature increase to two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

Apart from the economic measures, even more important is the social awareness of citizens from developed countries in order to save energy and favour clean energy, promoting the adoption of efficient and sustainable production and consumption guidelines. Moreover, it is crucial to put

pressure on politicians so that they might reach agreements aimed at taking global actions that are legally binding in order to fight climate change, one of the most important being to support innovation, technology development and new agricultural practices that are resistant to changes.





- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020, coming from all sources to address the needs of developing countries, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation. Also fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund.
- Promote mechanism for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small islands developing States, focusing in particular on women, youth and local and marginalised communities.





### **1°C**

As of 2017, humans are estimated to have caused approximately 1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels.

### **20 cm**

Globally, the average sea level has risen 20 cm since 1880, and it is expected to rise another 30-122 cm by 2100.

### **2050**

In order to limit warming to 1.5°C, global CO2 emissions must drop by 45% between 2010 and 2030, and reach zero by around 2050.

### **1/3**

Climate pledges under the Paris Agreement cover only one third of the emission reductions needed to keep the global temperature rise to under 2° C.

### **US\$ 26 billion**

Bold climate action could trigger at least US \$26 billion in economic benefits by 2030.

### **18 million**

The energy sector alone will create more than 18 million jobs by 2030, focused specifically on sustainable energy.

- 2019 was a year of exceptional heat. Europe suffered not one but two heat waves in June and July, and record high



temperatures were reached. Australia experienced the warmest days ever recorded in the summer and the worst risk of forest fires in the spring.

- In 2019, the world's two largest forests, in Siberia and the Amazon, were ravaged by massive fires. For several weeks, around 3 million hectares were burning in Russia, an area the size of Belgium.



## 10 piece of advice for combatting climate change

### 1. Reduce emissions

Reduce the use of private cars. Whenever you can, use sustainable means of transport, such as bicycles, or increase the use of public transport. In the case of long distances, the train is the most sustainable option. If you need to use a car, remember that for every kilometre in which you increase your speed, the CO<sub>2</sub> and the expense increase significantly. Each litre of fuel the car consumes means around 2.5 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere.

### 2. Save energy

Never leave the television and the computer in stand-by mode. A television that remains switched on for three hours a day (the average time European citizens watch TV) and in stand-by mode the remaining 21 hours will consume 40% of the total energy in stand-by mode.

Never leave the charger of your smartphone plugged in all the time, even when it is not connected to the phone, because it will continue consume electricity.

Always adjust the thermostat, both for heating and cooling.

### 3. Watch out for appliances

Covering the pan while you cook is a way to save much energy. Pressure cookers and steamers are an even better option: they save 70% of energy.

Use the washing machine and the dishwasher only when they are full. Otherwise, use economical cycles. Remember that if the fridge and freezer are close to the cooker or boiler, they will consume much more energy. If these are old appliances, defrost them periodically. The newer models have automatic defrost cycles and are almost two times more energy-efficient. Avoid putting hot or warm food in the fridge: you will save energy if you let them cool down first.

### 4. Replace lightbulbs

Replacing a traditional lightbulb with an energy-saving bulb saves more than 45 kilograms of carbon dioxide a year. It is true that the latter is more expensive, but it is more profitable over its lifespan. One of them alone can reduce electricity costs by up to 60 euros, according to the European Commission.

### 5. Put the 3 Rs of sustainability into practice

Reduce: consume less, more efficiently.

Reuse: use second-hand markets, in order

to give another chance to those things you no longer use or to buy something you need that has been rejected by someone else. You will save money and will manage to reduce consumption. Also try exchanging products.

Recycle: packaging, electronic waste, etc. Did you know that you can save more than 730 kilos CO<sub>2</sub> yearly only by recycling half of the rubbish collected at home?

### 6. Avoid excessive packaging

Chose products with little packaging: a 1.5 litre bottle produces less waste than three half-litre bottles.

Use reusable bags when doing the shopping.

Avoid wet wipes and paper towels. You can avoid the emission of 1,100 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub> by reducing your rubbish in 10%.

### 7. A low-carbon diet is better

A low-carbon diet implies smarter consumption and combatting climate change.

Reduce your consumption of meat (farming practices are one of the main pollutants in the atmosphere) and increase your consumption of fruit, vegetables and greens.



Buy local and seasonal products: read the labels and consume those that are produced locally, avoiding imports that involve extra emissions due to shipping. In addition, consume seasonal products, in order to avoid other less sustainable production methods.

Try to consume more organic products, since fewer pesticides and other chemical products are used in their production.

#### **8. Combat the loss of forests**

To the extent possible, avoid the causes of any risk of fire.

If you need to buy wood, choose the one that has a certification or seal guaranteeing its sustainable origin.

Plant a tree. Each tree can absorb up to a ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, and you will thus contribute to combatting climate change.

#### **9. Less hot water**

A large amount of energy is needed to heat water. Instal a water flow controller in your shower and you will avoid more than 100 kilos of carbon dioxide yearly.

Wash with cold or warm water and you will save 150 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub>. *You save hot water* 🌡️

and use four times less energy if you take a shower instead of a bath.

Turn off the tap while you are washing your teeth. Ensure that your taps do not drip: one dripping tap in one month can waste enough water to fill a bath.

#### 10. Support renewable energies

Finally, another way to combat climate change is by choosing green energy and promoting the generation of renewable energies such as solar, wind and hydraulic energies, etc. The planet will thank us.



Advice recommendations of Aequae Fundación

<https://www.fundacionaquae.org/diez-consejos-luchar-cambio-climatico/>

How can my company take climate-related measures?

Companies can be a part of the solution if they commit to eliminating carbon emissions from their operations and supply chains. They have several options for doing this:

- Improving their energy efficiency.
- Reducing the carbon footprint of their products, services and processes.
- Establishing goals for the reduction of carbon emissions in line with the climate conditions.
- Increasing investment in the development of innovative and inclusive, climate-smart and low-carbon products and services.
- Preparing to adapt to climate change and strengthening resilience in their operations, supply changes and the communities in which they operate.



Advice recommendations of Acción por el clima

[https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/10/13-Spanish\\_Why-it-Matters.pdf](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/10/13-Spanish_Why-it-Matters.pdf)



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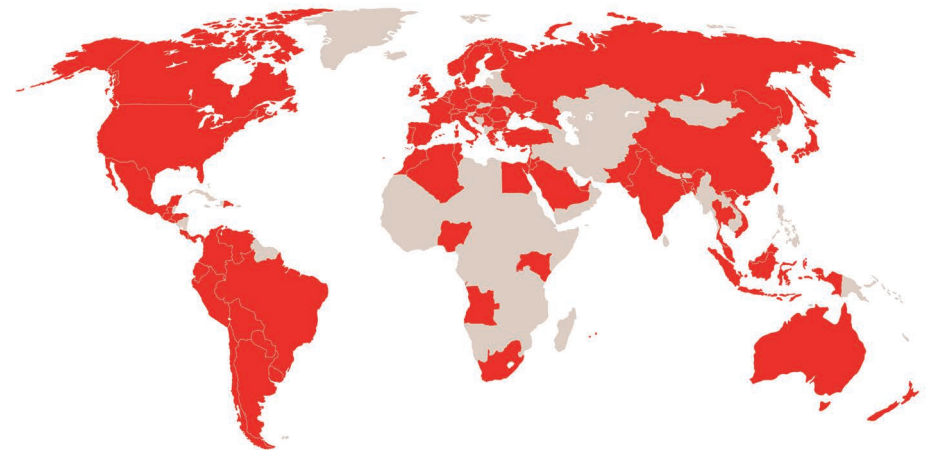
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