

ABOUT THE RACE TO ZERO

The Race to Zero mobilises actors outside of national governments to join the [Climate Ambition Alliance](#), which was launched at the UNSG's Climate Action Summit 2019 by the President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera.

Led by the High-Level Climate Champions for Climate Action – Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz – the aim of the campaign is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonised economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This will send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions and investors are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.

Water UK has joined the Race to Zero as an Official Partner. We are supporting the Climate Champions with their ambition to mobilise major water companies responsible for 20% of global water supply, with the aim of delivering the full decarbonisation of water and wastewater services in 20 countries by 2030.

HOW TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

The Race to Zero is an umbrella campaign—driven by science—that aggregates net zero commitments from a range of leading networks and initiatives across the climate action community. These networks and initiatives define the substantive criteria that businesses, cities, states and regions, investors, universities, and others setting net zero targets are required to meet.

All initiatives and organisations who join as “actors” in the campaign are required to meet a minimum set of procedural criteria, which represent the “Starting Line” for the race. Meeting them does not necessarily imply that an actor is already on track to net zero, only that they have begun the process. All entities can become part of the “Race to Zero” once they cross this “Starting Line.”

Water UK is inviting water companies* from around the world to join the Race to Zero, as an opportunity to bring together like-minded organisations from the water community to share learnings and best practice as we work to tackle the threat of climate change.

**Note: We define water companies to be those responsible for the operation of water and wastewater assets as asset owners. At this stage, Water UK cannot review applications from non-asset owners operating in the water industry, however it may be possible to join the campaign through one of the other [initiatives](#).*

STARTING LINE CRITERIA

All participants in the Race to Zero are required to meet the following procedural criteria as set out by the UNFCCC.

- 1. Pledge:** Pledge at the head-of-organization level to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C.
- 2. Plan:** In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C.
- 3. Proceed:** Take immediate action toward achieving net zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified.
- 4. Publish:** Commit to report progress at least annually, including via, to the extent possible, platforms that feed into the [UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal](#).

An application form is available for download at www.water.org.uk/racetozero. Completed applications should be sent to racetozero@water.org.uk.