

Steps to Declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency

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**Business
Declares**

About this guide

This guide is a short overview of **6 steps to take to declare a climate emergency.**

We recommend the **B Lab UK Climate Emergency Handbook** for more detail on actions you can take and case studies of businesses that have declared.

“Like other companies, we signed to declare a Climate Emergency at our board and be a part of the Business Declares movement. It is critical we embrace the chance to unite and work together for the sake of the next generation”

Christopher Davis
Director of Sustainability, Body Shop



Why declare?

Face the facts

This is an emergency. We are at a critical moment in human history and we stand on the brink of a climate and ecological disaster. As business leaders we must act now to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. This will require radical changes to the way we all live, work and consume resources. Businesses must take their responsibility to accelerate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the science.

Read the IPCC report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C

Take action

By declaring a climate emergency, you are demonstrating your authentic commitment to telling the truth about the climate emergency and to acting now. The declaration is much more than a statement – it's a rallying cry that reflects the that you are committed to specific and meaningful actions to make a difference.

Why declare with the Business Declares Network?

Show leadership: demonstrate your commitment to climate action along with some of the fastest moving and most ambitious organisations in the fight against climate change.

Advocate for change: raise your voice to influence others and play a critical role in building momentum to act

Get support: become part of a growing network of ambitious allies to support you in your journey.

Access resources: join events and draw on resources, case studies and examples of best practice from the network to help you declare.

The business case for declaring



Align your purpose

- Demonstrate your values as a purpose-led business
- Show climate leadership
- Join other leading businesses in advocating for change



Future proof your business

- Innovate and find new markets and business opportunities
- Secure supplies of raw materials & protect physical infrastructure
- Stay ahead of regulatory changes
- Secure future finance
- Save energy costs



Engage your people

- Engage your consumers or clients
- Engage your employees in a cause they care about
- Recruit and retain talented people that want to work for a purpose-led business

Key questions

1. What is your business already doing to act on climate change?
2. What risks and opportunities from climate change does your business face?
3. What might the impact of extreme weather (flooding, wildfires, drought, hurricanes) be on your business and your supply chain?
4. How will your business create value for stakeholders in 2025, 2030 and 2050?

What does it mean to declare?

By Declaring a Climate Emergency, a business commits to:

Developing a 'Climate Emergency Plan'.

Bring to Executive and Board within 6 months.

Publishing a board resolution.

Share publicly this declaration and report your 'Climate Emergency Plan' progress annually.

Accelerating current trajectory.

Ensure the 'Climate Emergency Plan' represents an acceleration of your current trajectory and actions are 1) in line with what is needed to reach net zero timescale between 2025-2050 and 2) keeps the planet within 1.5 degrees.

Setting interim targets.

Design realistic milestones which allow for business reconfiguration with appropriate interim targets if net zero is beyond 2030.

Sharing best practices.

Connect and engage with your peers.

Advocating for change.

Encourage staff and stakeholders to take action.

Find out more at businessdeclares.com - Join the conversation #businessdeclares @bizdeclares

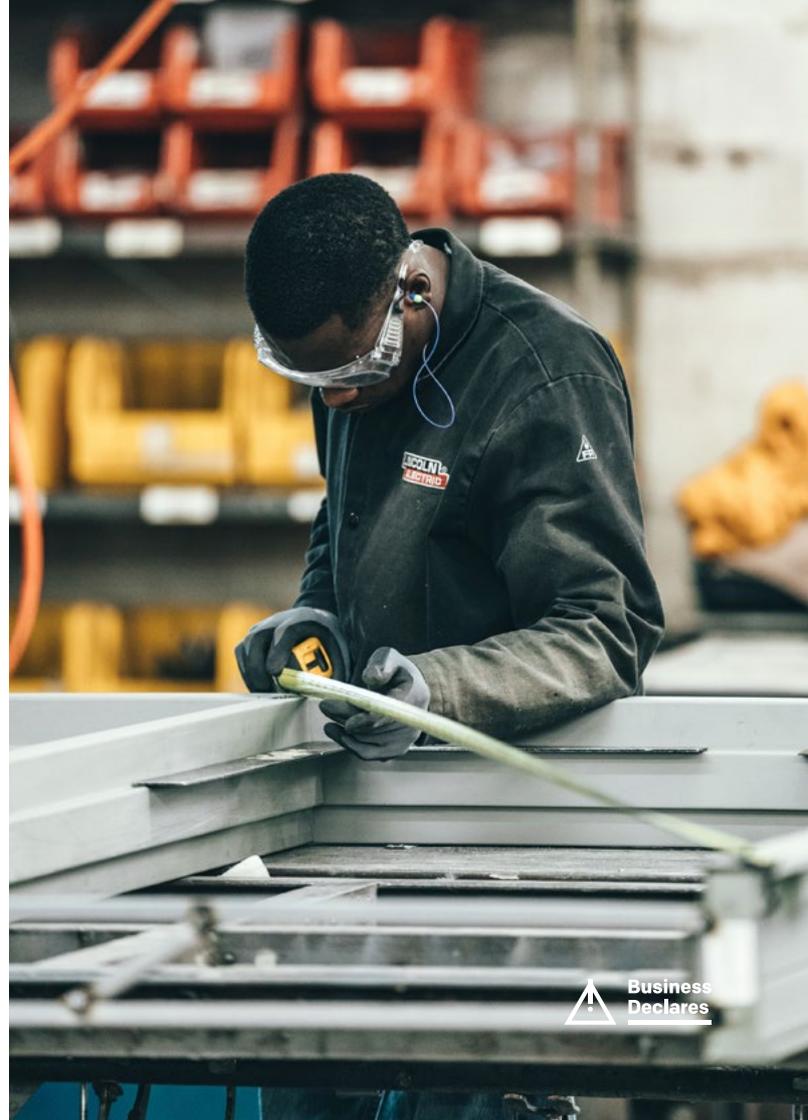
Six practical steps you can take to get your organisation to declare

1. Build stakeholder support

Map your stakeholders: consider who can help you deliver your climate change ambitions, both internally and externally. Work with your suppliers, customers or clients, your legal and financial advisors and communities of other leading organisations in the fight against climate change, such as B Corporations.

Find your internal allies: start conversations about the climate and ecological emergency internally. Develop cross-functional internal buy-in and seek support from colleagues in senior leadership, sustainability, finance, procurement, HR, legal, R&D, manufacturing and marketing.

Tell your personal story: share your personal story of what the climate crisis means and any changes you've made in your personal life to reflect the urgency with which we must all act.



2. Get Board agreement & declare

Be clear about what declaring entails: a declaration means making a public statement and being transparent about progress. It involves the Board and Executive Team openly acknowledging the climate and ecological emergency and committing to action.

Draft a declaration: use this sample declaration as a template for the Board to vote on. Find allies on board sub committees to support your case. Add the climate emergency to the agenda for a future board meeting. > [See declarations from companies who have declared](#)

Plan what happens after declaring: a declaration is not a one-off statement. It requires a long-term commitment and plan to address climate change and act with appropriate urgency. Commit to developing a Climate Emergency Plan with tangible and specific actions and a process for monitoring success.



FOR THE
WORLD

3. Develop a Climate Emergency Plan

A **'Climate Emergency Plan'** outlines how you will accelerate climate action, set targets and advocate for change. The plan will reflect the size and complexity of your business and its supply chain.

Understand your footprint: measure and report your carbon footprint for your operations, supply chain and use of your products (scopes 1, 2, 3 of the GHG protocol).

Align your ambition: set science-based targets to accelerate your current trajectory in line with what is needed to reach net zero between 2025-2050 and keep the planet within 1.5°C. Define specific actions to meet your goals and influence others (suppliers, customers, peers) to extend your impact.

Publish the plan: seek Executive team and Board sign off within 6 months of declaring an emergency and make your plan public.

4. Engage your staff

Listen to staff: start open conversations with employees through lunches and company-wide meetings. Listen to their concerns and gather their ideas to find new opportunities to address the climate emergency.

Provide training: support staff to increase their knowledge on environmental issues and give them the skills to integrate climate change considerations into every aspect of their work. We offer **Climate Emergency workshops**

Encourage behaviour change: update policies to encourage and reward employees to choose plant based food options, low carbon travel, increase recycling or save energy and other resources. Switch company pension investments to environmentally responsible providers.

5. Advocate for change

Collaborate: look for opportunities to share your learning and partner with others to increase your impact, through business networks such as Business Declares, the B Corp Climate Collective and industry associations.

Raise your voice: influence your investors, suppliers, customers and other company stakeholders to promote climate action. Use your brand to advocate for wider collective action and promote legislative and systemic change in line with keeping global temperature increases below 1.5°C.

Review public policy and advocacy: review how you engage with local and national government and policymakers and ensure your lobbying activities and trade association memberships are aligned with your climate emergency plan.



6. Monitor and embed

Be transparent on progress: continuously monitor environmental metrics and report progress against your Climate Emergency Plan annually.

Review governance: ensure you have the right governance structures and reporting lines in place to maintain Board oversight and accountability for your Climate Emergency Plan and report progress to the Board regularly.

Incentivise staff: consider how remuneration, reward schemes and bonuses can encourage climate action across the company. Align personal development and performance reviews with your climate agenda.



What's next?

Find more resources, events and newsletter sign up at businessdeclares.com

Book a [climate emergency workshop](#)

Join the conversation on [Twitter @bizdeclares](#) [#businessdeclares](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Download the [B Lab UK Climate Emergency Handbook](#) for deeper insights on how to take action on a climate emergency

Contact us at info@businessdeclares.com