

Net Zero Jargon Buster

General Terms

- **Net Zero** - The international scientific consensus that to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, global net human-caused emissions of CO₂ must not be exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. To achieve this, "global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by about 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050" - effectively reducing GHGs to a minimum and ensuring any remaining emissions are balanced by removals.
- **Carbon Neutral** - All emissions are compensated for by CO₂ reductions/removals. No focus on reduction. It also usually focuses on Scope 1 and 2 emissions boundaries and not Scope 3. Only carbon.
- **Science-based** - Targets are aligned with what the latest science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement (limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels).
- **1.5°C, well-below 2°C, and 2°C.** - Indicates the degree of global temperature increase compared to preindustrial levels companies are aligned with, based on their scope 1 and 2 targets, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- **Offsetting** - A process involving the reduction or removal of emissions to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Typically arranged through a marketplace for carbon credits, or other exchange mechanism.
- **GHG Reductions** - Actions to reduce the quantity of GHGs against a baseline, such as switching to renewable energy and reducing consumption of emissions-intensive products or inputs.
- **GHG Removals** - Actions that remove GHGs from the atmosphere relative to a baseline, such as afforestation and reforestation, soil carbon enhancement, carbon capture and storage (CCS).
- **Residual emissions** - Emissions that remain after emissions have been reduced as much as possible

Our Data

- **None:** No commitment made.
- **Net Zero GHG:** The commitment covers all greenhouses gas (GHG) emissions.
- **Net Zero Carbon:** The commitment heavily focuses on carbon (CO₂) emissions and not all GHGs.
- **Carbon Neutral:** The focus of the commitment is on achieving carbon neutrality through carbon removals /offsets (this is not Net Zero).

Sources:

<https://netzeroclimate.org/what-is-net-zero/>

<https://chapterzero.org.uk/carbon-offsetting-explained/>