

Annual Reporting of Government Progress

Key takeaways from member forum – June 2025

Assessing the government's progress against climate targets and policies is an important role for many climate councils around the world. During London Climate Action Week, we heard from climate councils which has helped inform "Ten Top Tips" for playing an effective 'watchdog' role (see below). Overleaf is a list of recent annual progress reports from members. If members have feedback on this document, please get in touch ben.rhodes@climatecouncils.org.

1. Aims – think about what you want to achieve. Consider a focus "theme" to spotlight within the annual report that would generate attention.
2. Tone – think carefully about the tone of your report to ensure it helps achieve your aims. Balance pessimism with optimism and avoid narratives that media can spin (often the "cost of action/inaction" is highlighted in the media, so ensure this is clearly communicated with evidence to support the tone of the advice.)
3. Don't be too prescriptive in your recommendations. No one likes being told they are always doing badly! Leave government options and agency in how to respond: *"you catch more flies with honey than vinegar"*
4. Repeating messages is essential to make government listen. Make sure to repeat key messages each annual report, in a consistent format.
5. Provide visuals and communications' assets. This will be critical for engaging the media and the public. A traffic-light scorecard can be a helpful visual way to track progress.
6. Create a methodology that is clear and consistent year-to-year. Within this, include contingency options for policy areas which are at high risk of not achieving the desired results.
7. Focus on a few (e.g. 3-10) key recommendations so they resonate loudly. Avoid long lists of detailed recommendations as sometimes this can create government inertia.
8. Don't focus just on progress towards GHG targets. Also assess progress on bringing forward new solutions for a net-zero economy with suitable transition milestones.
9. Don't just focus on pathways/policies. Balance this also with evidence of delivery/action and evaluations of what has/hasn't worked, including in other countries.
10. Engage your peers and trusted allies for feedback. They can provide helpful feedback before an annual report is released and ensure that it is hitting the right tone and messages.

Links to recent annual progress reports

Below is a list of reports from 2024-2025 from members. Please upload your [reports via our members' portal](#). If your report is not featured below, please also share the link with your ICCN focal point.

- **Klimardet (Danish Climate Council) Status Outlook:** <https://klimaraadet.dk/en/rapport/status-outlook-2025>
- **Haut Conseil pour le Climat (French Climate Council):** <https://www.hautconseilclimat.fr/en/publications/2025-annual-report-reviving-climate-action-in-response-to-growing-impacts-and-weakened-governance/>
- **Klimat politiska radet (Swedish Climate Policy Council):** <https://www.klimatpolitiskaradet.se/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/swedishclimatepolicycouncilclimatepolicycouncilreport2025.pdf>
- **New Zealand Climate Commission:** <https://www.climatecommission.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring/emissions-reduction-monitoring/erm-2024>
- **Australia Climate Authority Annual Progress Report:** <https://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/annual-progress-report>
- **Canada's Net Zero Advisory Body:** <https://www.nzab2050.ca/publications/volume-1-synthesis-report-second-annual-report-to-the-minister-of-environment-and-climate-change>
- **UK Climate Change Committee:** <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2025/06/25/make-electricity-cheaper-for-consumers-says-climate-advisor/>