New report shows how climate councils support governments to turn evidence into action

ICCN PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, 27 October 2026

- In an era of misinformation and polarisation, climate councils play a critical role in cutting through noise by translating data into clear, actionable recommendations that help policymakers navigate complex decisions.
- Climate council advice supports governments to implement effective climate policies while delivering against core national (and subnational) priorities such as economic growth, improving health outcomes, and enhancing energy security and affordability.
- Case studies from around the world show how council advice is supporting the decarbonisation of energy systems and infrastructure, stronger climate considerations in public procurement, and the mobilisation of essential climate finance.

Story

As governments navigate increasingly complex challenges, climate councils play an important role in bridging the gap between evidence in action.

The International Climate Councils Network's first Annual Report, '*Climate councils: Turning evidence into action*', explores how independent expert advice can help governments navigate this complexity and implement policies that deliver against climate objectives and wider public priorities.

Featuring case studies from around the world, the report showcases how climate councils are influencing policy and supporting implementation. In the EU, scientific advice helped inform the European Commission's ambitious 2040 emissions target. In Canada and Australia, recommendations by climate councils helped lead to policies designed to accelerate the uptake of affordable renewable energy technologies. And in South Africa, the Presidential Climate Commission has worked to ensure that just energy transition outcomes are mainstreamed into government's broader development priorities.

The report also speaks to how climate councils fit into wider governance frameworks (namely climate framework laws), and how strengthening these frameworks will be crucial to advancing and sustaining climate progress around the world.

The ICCN's Annual Report will be launching at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, where we expect 75+ representatives from 26 climate councils to be present. UNFCCC-accredited delegates

and media are invited to attend the launch event, which will be taking place from 11:00-11:40am on Friday 13 November at the Business Sweden Pavilion in the Blue Zone.

- To register for the launch event, click here.
- To view a schedule of the ICCN's events at COP31, click **here** (more to be added soon).
- To invite a climate council leader to speak at your event at COP31, email **isabella.page@climatecouncils.org**.

Quotes

Rick Smith, Co-Chair, International Climate Councils Network and President, Canadian Climate Institute, said:

"Policymakers today are faced with complex challenges and many competing interests: they need specific, data-driven recommendations that align with their priorities to be able to push climate progress. That is precisely the role that climate councils fulfil."

Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC and Founding Partner, Global Optimism, said:

"Climate councils play a critical role in transcending political cycles and planning for the future. They help us to deliver international climate ambition by creating political space for government."

Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Australia, and COP31 President of Negotiations said:

"Independent climate councils like Australia's Climate Change Authority don't just focus on protecting our environment – their advice seeks to unlock future prosperity, create jobs and deliver economic growth."

Available for comment

Rick Smith (EN, FR), Co-Chair, International Climate Councils Network and President, Canadian Climate Institute.

Dumisani Nxumalo (EN), Co-Chair, International Climate Councils Network and Acting COO, South African Presidential Climate Commission.

Ben Rhodes (EN), Head of Secretariat, International Climate Councils Network.

Media contact: Isabella Page, +44 7701 275123 | **isabella.page@climatecouncils.org**.

Notes to editors

1. The International Climate Councils Network was launched in 2021 to support and amplify the work of a growing network of climate councils: 31 expert bodies officially mandated to advise their national governments on climate policy. Hosted by independent think tank E3G since 2024, the Secretariat's aims are to build capacity amongst our members, raise their profile internationally, and improve climate governance by strengthening the network. **www.climatecouncils.org**

2. For further enquiries email **isabella.page@climatecouncils.org**.