INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE COUNCILS NETWORK

Climate Councils

Turning Evidence into Action

Annual Report 2026

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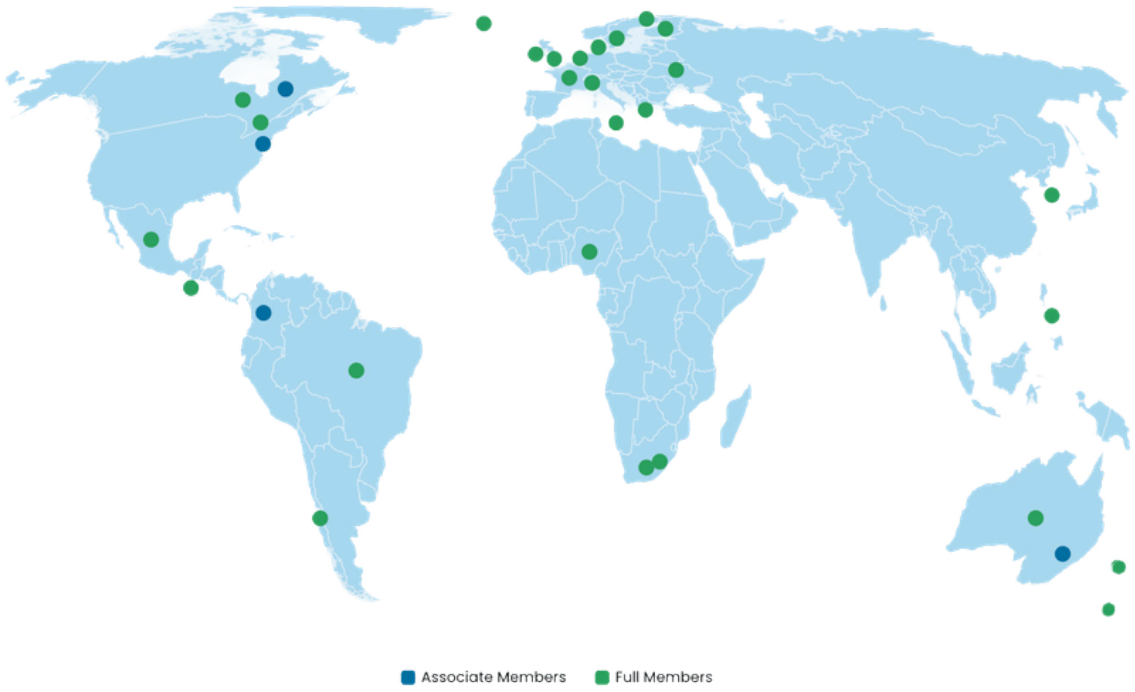
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"Climate councils play a critical role in transcending political cycles and planning for the future. They help us to deliver international climate ambition by creating political space for government."

Christiana Figueres
Former Executive Secretary, UNFCCC and
Founding Partner, Global Optimism

Co-Chairs' Foreword

This year has been a wakeup call on climate change. Impacts are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore, with communities around the world subjected to relentless heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events. Governments are realising that fossil fuel dependency is both a security and energy supply risk, leaving them vulnerable to shocks and chokepoints, such as the Strait of Hormuz. Despite heavy politicisation, misinformation, budget reprioritisation away from the climate agenda, and — in some cases — policy rollback, we see the scales continue to tip towards the economics of clean, climate-resilient energy systems.

It has also been a pivotal year for the International Climate Councils Network, which is a group of 31 officially mandated advisory bodies to governments on climate change. In 2026, we officially launched our first three-year, member-led strategy. We established ICCN regional hubs in Africa and Latin America, ensuring that our Secretariat is globally diverse just like our network. We elected a new Steering Committee to oversee the delivery of our strategy, which has representation from Abuja, to Copenhagen, to Wellington, and beyond. We welcomed Québec, Lesotho and Colombia, demonstrating the ever-growing demand for knowledge exchange amongst scientific advisors to governments. Now, we launch our first-ever Annual Report.

From decarbonising energy and transportation systems, to strengthening climate considerations in public procurement, and enhancing adaptation readiness, this report aims to highlight the range and impact of climate councils' advice. What became clear from assembling these case studies is that governments around the world are facing shared challenges, and climate councils are needed more than ever. Our members provide advice that is evidence-based, grounded in local realities, and addresses whole-of-society concerns, such as the cost of living and international trade. This advice can allow policymakers to navigate such complexities confidently and implement climate policies that are aligned with broader government priorities, such as the economy, health, energy affordability, or security.

For climate councils to continue to add value, we must defend climate science, fortify national and subnational governance frameworks, and enhance global collaboration. It is these actions that will allow us to turn the ambition agreed at multilateral fora into real-world impact. We invite you to explore our first Annual Report, share it widely, and join us on our mission to strengthen climate governance through effective climate councils.

Sincerely,
Co-Chairs, International Climate Councils Network



Rick Smith
President, Canadian Climate Institute



Dumisani Nxumalo
COO, South African Presidential Climate Commission

Climate councils and the architecture of climate action

WHAT MAKES GOOD CLIMATE GOVERNANCE?

Effective climate governance starts with legally binding frameworks that turn long-term ambition into lasting obligations. Clear targets, carbon budgets and strategic planning provide direction, while accountability and oversight help keep governments on track. Together, these elements help governments stay the course across political cycles, coordinate policy and turn commitments into action.



HOW CLIMATE COUNCILS STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE

Climate councils bring independent scientific, economic, technological, and social evidence into the heart of climate governance. They help governments set direction, navigate difficult trade-offs and support converting ambition into action.

LEGALLY-BINDING FRAMEWORK

Climate councils can be established through legislation, ministerial decree or long-term government agreements, giving them an official role in climate governance.

ADAPTATION PLANNING

Councils increasingly advise on climate risks, adaptation and resilience, helping governments prepare for a hotter world.

NET ZERO TARGET & CARBON BUDGETS

Councils advise on climate targets, carbon budgets and sectoral pathways. At least 14 advised on NDC targets in 2025.[1]



FINANCE FLOWS

Councils help steer climate investment through sectoral pathways and finance advice. Some also oversee climate funds.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Councils take a whole-of-economy, whole-of-society approach, helping governments turn long-term climate goals into practical policy choices.

ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT

100% of existing climate councils provide expert advice. Their evidence and recommendations inform policymakers and non-governmental organisations alike.

INTERNAL COORDINATION

Some councils help coordinate climate policy, evidence and information across government ministries and agencies.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councils can give citizens and stakeholders a voice in climate policymaking through fora such as public consultations, citizen panels and citizen assemblies.

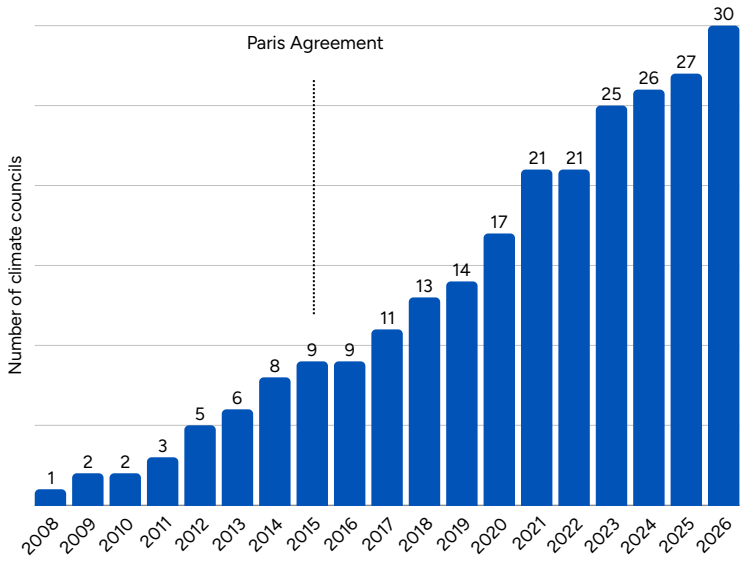
Graphic adapted from Climate Trunk with permission
climatetrunk.com

[1] Based on a 2025 survey to which 23 ICCN members responded. This figure includes the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, which advises at EU level on the EU wide NDC. National climate councils in EU Member States may also advise their governments on national ambition and positions feeding into the EU NDC.

Demand for expert advice on climate change is growing

Climate councils, sometimes called 'authorities' or 'committees', build a trusted evidence base for climate action. Since the UK Climate Change Committee became the first official climate advisory body of its kind in 2008, the number of councils around the world has grown steadily.

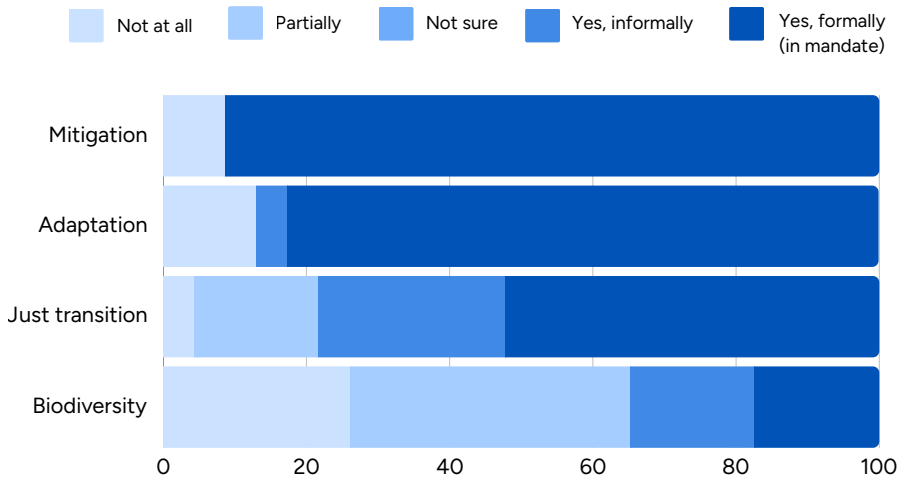
Figure 1: This chart illustrates the growing global momentum behind climate governance by showing when ICCN members were established.[2]



Climate councils' advice takes a whole-of-economy, whole-of-society approach

Climate councils advise on different aspects of climate change policy, including mitigation, adaptation, the just transition, and biodiversity. Increasingly, councils are considering the intersections of these topics in their advice, which can contribute to breaking up policy silos.

Figure 2: A survey of ICCN members asked what topics fell within their remit to advise on.[3]



[2] Includes all national-level ICCN members, the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, and two Observer members (Germany and Slovenia).

[3] Based on surveys conducted in 2025 and 2026, with responses from 29 ICCN members.

"Climate councils are fundamental in guiding climate action, making sure that it is mainstreamed across government processes and structures and that all relevant stakeholders have a voice. This includes councils' contributions to strengthening the implementation of NDCs through active engagement across government and society."

Pablo Vieira
Global Director, NDC Partnership Support Unit

How good governance can support decision-making

Climate councils can play multiple, overlapping roles that support the implementation of climate policy in different ways. The case studies in this section demonstrate how the roles played by climate councils can empower policymakers to make effective, data-driven decisions.

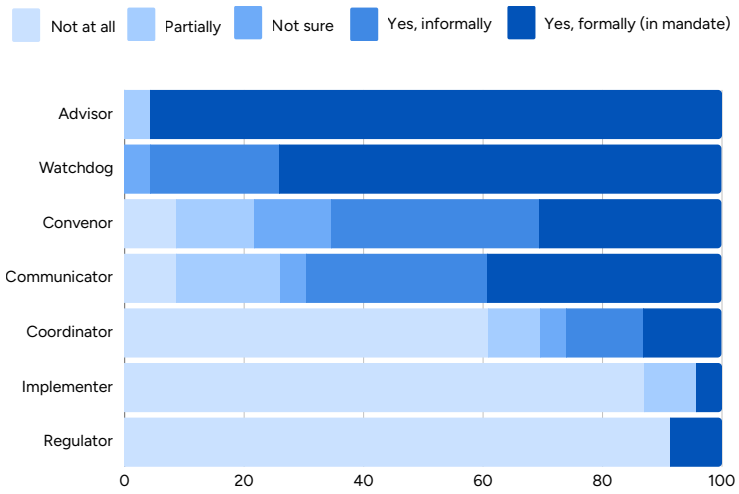


Figure 3: ICCN members were asked about the extent to which they play different 'roles' in relation to climate policy and governance.[4]

Advisor

Using scientific knowledge and data to provide rigorous, evidence-based advice to governments.

Established under the European Climate Law, the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change provides independent scientific advice and reports on EU climate measures, targets and greenhouse gas budgets, assessing their consistency with the EU's climate objectives and international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

The Board played a dedicated advisory role in the development of the EU's 2040 climate target. Under the European Climate Law, the European Commission is required to consider the Board's scientific advice when preparing relevant climate policy measures. In early 2023, the Board first set out principles for determining a target based on scientific evidence, fairness and consistency with EU commitments under the Paris Agreement and the European Climate Law. Applying these principles in its June 2023 advice, it recommended a 90–95% net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 compared with 1990 levels, providing an independent scientific benchmark for the subsequent policy process.

As the European Climate Law was being revised to include the 2040 target, the Board provided further advice in June 2025, reaffirming the 90–95% range in light of the latest evidence and highlighting how ambitious climate action could support EU competitiveness, resilience, energy security and long-term prosperity. The European Commission subsequently proposed a 90% net emissions reduction target for 2040. Following the EU legislative process, the target was formally adopted in March 2026 and enshrined in the European Climate Law.

This illustrates how a climate council can provide an independent scientific benchmark within a formal political decision-making process, while leaving the final policy choice to elected institutions.

[4] Based on 2025 and 2026 surveys to which 29 ICCN members responded.



Established under state law, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change advises the state on climate-change mitigation and adaptation, coordinates climate-related efforts across government and stakeholders, and develops recommendations and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate impacts.

The Commission's 2025 Annual Report included 13 recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change. The Commission recently approved 13 new recommendations for the 2026 Annual Report, which will be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by December 15. The 2026 Annual Report will include an appendix detailing progress to-date made towards implementing 2025 recommendations. Five of the 2025 recommendations have been fully implemented or have made significant progress toward implementation and six of the recommendations have been partially implemented. For example, significant progress has been made on enhancing flood risk disclosures and air quality modelling, including the impacts of criteria pollutants on health.

Watchdog

Monitoring policy impacts and holding governments to account. Most climate council advice is made freely available, so it can be used by public and non-governmental actors alike.



Aotearoa New Zealand's Climate Change Response Act 2002, as amended, established the Climate Change Commission | He Pou a Rangi to provide independent, evidence-based advice to the government on emissions reduction and climate adaptation, and monitors and reviews progress toward emissions-reduction and adaptation goals.

In 2026, the Commission's *Progress report: national adaptation plan* found that climate change is already seriously affecting people, places and systems across Aotearoa New Zealand, and that focused action now can reduce long-term harm and cost (approximately $4bn annually). Recommendations range from establishing funding, legal and financing pathways to enable adaptation at a local and iwi/ Māori level, to governing and investing in national climate risk information and an updated adaptation plan with clear goals, investment plans and workforce strategies.



Convenor

Undertaking stakeholder engagement, including public participation in policymaking.

Established under Article 15 of the Framework Act on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth for Coping with Climate Crisis, the Republic of Korea's ***Presidential Commission on Climate Crisis Response*** *deliberates and decides on key government policies and plans for responding to climate change, including national emissions-reduction targets, adaptation measures, and monitoring implementation progress.*









In 2026, the Republic of Korea launched a Climate Citizens Assembly to strengthen the link between public participation and climate governance.

The Korean citizen assembly model has four defining features:

1. A permanent citizens platform (not a one-time survey)
2. Reflects regional, gender, and age diversity, with 200 citizen participants
3. Employs a bottom-up agenda-setting process driven by citizen proposals to an official website
4. Directly linked to government review and response processes (within three months)

The Assembly reports to the Presidential Commission on Climate Crisis Response and creates a structured mechanism for citizen deliberation to inform long-term climate policy, rather than the priorities of a single electoral cycle.

Coordinator

Sometimes, advisory bodies are connected to or part of institutions with wider mandates that support coordination between government ministries and agencies.



*Colombia's **Technical and Scientific Climate Change Information Committee (CITCCC)** sits under the national Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), which has a mandate to generate, analyse and disseminate authoritative hydrological, meteorological and environmental data and scientific research to support environmental policymaking, sustainable development and climate-risk assessment.*

CITCCC has strengthened coordination among national institutions responsible for generating and managing climate change information. This coordination contributes to improving the availability, exchange and use of technical and scientific information required for Colombia's climate transparency processes. One concrete outcome has been stronger interinstitutional processes supporting the preparation of Colombia's First and Second Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR1 and BTR2) and its Fourth National Communication (4NC). The BTR2 and 4NC, submitted jointly in 2026, consolidate information on GHG emissions and removals, NDC progress, adaptation and vulnerability, climate finance, technology, capacity-building, research and climate empowerment. Beyond fulfilling Colombia's commitments under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, these reports provide an evidence base to inform climate planning and decision-making at national, sectoral and territorial level.

Mobiliser

In some instances, councils may support the mobilisation of critical climate finance.



*The **National Council on Climate Change (NCCC)**, established under Nigeria's Climate Change Act 2021, serves as the country's apex statutory body for coordinating climate action across government and the wider economy. Its mandate includes advising the government on sectoral climate targets, overseeing implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan, and mainstreaming climate change into national development planning.*

The NCCC also oversees the National Climate Change Fund. The Climate Change Fund is designed to catalyse investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, low-carbon development, capacity building, and just transitions. Utilising Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as a foundational capital mobilisation strategy, the Council positions Nigeria to secure scaled international climate finance and deploys targeted funding windows for bespoke climate interventions. The NCCC has also supported the development of a rigorous regulatory framework for carbon market governance, including a *Carbon Market Activation Policy* and *Manual of Procedures*. This framework safeguards environmental integrity and mitigates the risk of double counting in carbon credit transactions.

Climate councils supporting implementation

Around the world, climate action is happening. In the decade following the Paris Agreement, 35 economies successfully reduced their fossil CO_2 emissions while growing their GDP.[5] Of those, over a third have climate councils that are part of the ICCN. While there is not enough evidence to draw a causal link between climate councils and emissions reduction, it is clear that countries leading on climate governance also tend to be delivering on decarbonisation.

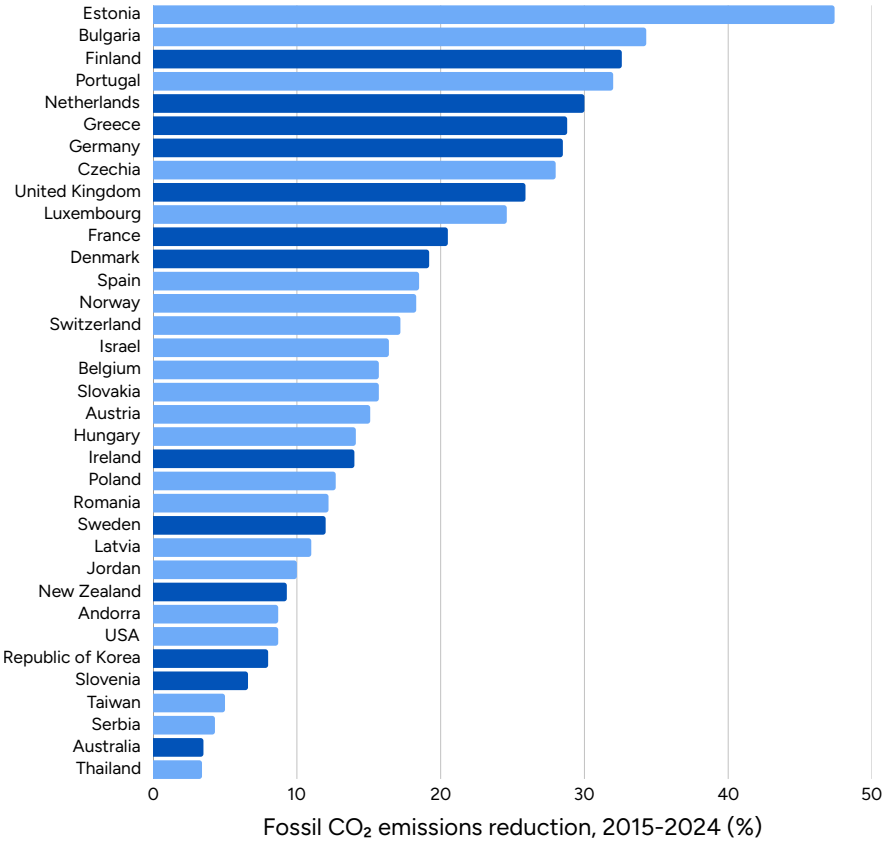


Figure 4: Decrease in CO_2 emissions of fossil origin over the past decade (2015-2024) for the 35 economies that succeeded in decreasing their emissions while growing their GDP. ICCN members are indicated in dark blue.[6]

Aligning emissions reduction with national priorities

United Kingdom: Decoupling emissions from economic growth

The UK's Climate Change Act was passed into law in 2008 with widespread bipartisan support, making it the first 'climate framework law' of its kind. The Act was passed during a period when many industrialised countries were trying to figure out how they could respond to climate change whilst growing their economies.

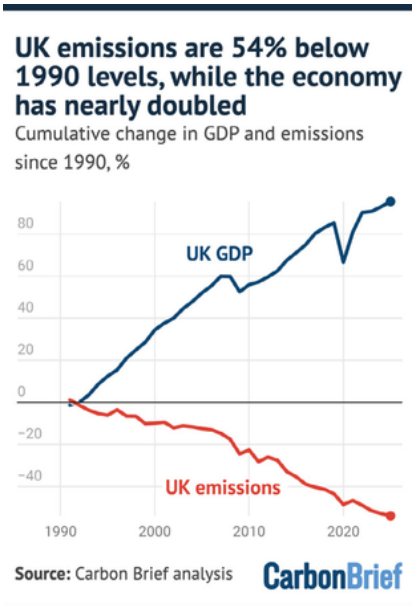
The Climate Change Act mandated the creation of a Climate Change Committee (CCC) to advise the UK government on climate policy and related frameworks, such as carbon budgets. Carbon budgets create a legal cap on the maximum level of emissions a country can emit for a period of five years.[7] All seven carbon budgets the CCC has prepared have been accepted by governments at different points on the political spectrum.

[5] Pierre Friedlingstein et al., "Global Carbon Budget 2025," Earth System Science Data 18 (2026): 3211–3258, https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-18-3211-2026.https://essd.copernicus.org/articles/18/3211/2026/

[6] Includes all national-level ICCN members and two Observer members (Germany and Slovenia).

[7] Burnett, Nuala. "What Are Carbon Budgets?" House of Commons Library, 2026.

Figure 5: The impact of the budgets is clear: the UK was the first major economy to halve its emissions since 1990, with the pace of reduction having more than doubled since 2008.[8] In the same period, the economy nearly doubled.[9]



Decoupling emissions from growth has been attributed to enforcement of the Climate Change Act, structural changes to the economy, and technological advances.[10] The success of carbon budgets in the UK has encouraged other countries, such as France, New Zealand and Ireland, as well as the European Union, to adopt similar frameworks.

The UK has achieved its first three carbon budgets (2008 to 2022) and is on track to meet the fourth. However, as the country drives towards net zero by 2050, progress will become more challenging: in its most recent progress report, the CCC warned that the UK is putting its international targets at risk.

Ensuring that the government remains consistently focused on decarbonisation, particularly in relation to accelerating electrification, will be essential for the UK to meet its future targets and uphold its international responsibilities.

Ukraine: Strengthening climate considerations in public procurement

Just three years ago, there was no system in place to ensure that the Government of Ukraine was investing in projects that aligned with national strategic objectives, which include national security and defence, recovery, and EU integration. In 2023, the Government approved a roadmap for reforming public investment, which led to the development of the DREAM Public Investment Management System (Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management). DREAM is a completely open-source online platform, allowing anyone (including international donors and development partners) to access information about the planning and implementation of public investments in Ukraine.



In 2025, The Ukrainian Green Transition Office advised the Government on how climate and environmental considerations could be integrated into public investment management and DREAM. In line with Ukraine's goals to join the EU and access international climate finance, the GTO advised the government to select criteria based on the EU taxonomy for sustainable activities. As a result of their advice, every project bidding for public funding in Ukraine must be screened against climate and environmental criteria, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, circular economy, pollution prevention, biodiversity.

Ukraine's Single Project Pipeline for 2026 contains 206 projects and programmes, valued at USD $131,9bn. Completed projects include the restoration and renovation of kindergartens, hospitals and theatres destroyed by Russian military action, plus major strategic infrastructure projects such as the construction of a national road. From 2027-2029, the pipeline is set to rise to USD $6bn+ of projects.

[8] Climate Change Committee. *Progress in Reducing Emissions: 2025 Report to Parliament*. 2025.

[9] Macrotrends. "U.K. GDP (1960–2026)." Accessed 2026.

[10] Office for National Statistics. "The Decoupling of Economic Growth from Carbon Emissions: UK Evidence." *Economic Review*, October 2019.

Chile: Turning scientific evidence into climate policy

In Chile, science is an official national priority, reflected in the establishment of a Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation in 2019. Chile's Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change (C4), which sits under the Ministry, regularly mobilises the scientific community to inform national policy advice. During the latest update of Chile's NDC, C4 mobilised more than 200 researchers and reviewed around 300 scientific publications, producing 102 formal proposals. Nearly half were reflected in the final NDC, covering mitigation, adaptation, the just socio-ecological transition, and biodiversity.

With support from the NDC Partnership's Partnership Action Fund, implemented through UNEP, C4 subsequently expanded this model. More than 500 researchers contributed to four thematic reports on health, oceans, the Water-Energy-Food nexus and circular economy, alongside two regional special reports. This evidence is now informing work on Chile's updated Long Term Climate Strategy.



Importantly, the reports move beyond diagnosis to propose concrete policy changes. The case shows how a climate council can extend its role beyond reviewing national climate targets, mobilising scientific expertise to help translate those targets into practical choices across health, infrastructure, energy, water, food systems and natural capital.

Accelerating the energy transition

Canada: Creating clean, affordable power for Canadians

Electrification and scaling up clean power are central to current discussions of the energy transition at COP. Canada has long held an advantage when it comes to clean power, but it needs to scale that advantage to meet the demands of net zero.



The Canadian Climate Institute has been looking at the importance of clean electricity for a long time. *The Big Switch* report was the first to outline the need to double or triple the size of Canada's grid, while making it cleaner and smarter. *Power Play* is more recent work showing how low cost, abundant, clean power is important for Canada's economic competitiveness. The Institute has proposed the Power Canada Forward Fund to use federal balance sheets to smooth the cost of electricity system build out over time. This would help Canada build on its competitive advantage while ensuring electricity remains affordable in the long-run.

This emphasis on the benefits of clean electricity and electrification is gaining traction. The Government of Canada recently released *Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy* which has the express goal of doubling the grid. Also, the Canadian government, along with the provinces of Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador, agreed to expand the Churchill Falls Generating Station. This will be the largest clean energy investment in North American history (~$70 bn).

France: Removing barriers to the energy transition

Since its first annual report in 2019, the High Council on Climate (HCC) has made more than 700 recommendations to the government. In 2022, the HCC made several recommendations on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). The HCC found that even in its modernised form, the ECT was not compatible with the pace of decarbonisation of the energy sector necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. It also highlighted risks of litigation and conflicts between the ECT and EU law. The advice of the HCC resulted in the French government withdrawing from the Energy Charter Treaty.



Sweden: Incentives for negative emissions

In 2020, the Swedish Climate Policy Council recommended that the government clarify how the necessary framework conditions and incentives for carbon capture and storage (CCS), particularly bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), would be established. In the 2022 budget bill, the government introduced long-term funding through reverse auctions to support BECCS deployment. The first auction was held in 2024. The first large-scale facility is currently under construction and is expected to capture approximately 0.8 million tonnes of biogenic carbon dioxide annually from 2028 at Stockholm's largest combined heat and power plant. In October 2026, support for 3 additional projects was approved.

Decarbonising homes and transportation

Ireland: Decarbonising the transportation sector

Ireland has set a target of reducing its transport emissions by 50% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels), but with a projected decrease of only 15.5% with existing measures by 2030 it is falling well short of this target. The transport sector in Ireland accounted for 42.3% of Ireland's energy demand in 2024, signalling that real alternatives to private car use are required to reduce emissions in the sector.

The Irish Climate Change Advisory Council has repeatedly called for measures to avoid private car use (managing and reducing transport demand), measures to drive a modal shift to public and active transport (walking or cycling) and improving public and active travel infrastructure, including expanding the School Transport Scheme.

The Government's *Moving Together Strategy*, published in March 2026, broadly followed the recommended 'Avoid-Shift-Improve' framework which comes from a model based on work the Council commissioned with the OECD. The commitment to deliver compact growth and sustainable mobility, alongside the Government's extension of vehicle registration tax (VRT) relief for electric vehicles, were positive steps in line with the Council's recommendations. Incorporating climate risk considerations into transport planning and investment is another key recommendation in the Council's latest progress report.

Denmark: Incentivising cleaner travel

The transport sector accounts for nearly a quarter of Denmark's emissions.[11] Between 2019 and 2021 the Danish Council on Climate Change made several recommendations to government to incentivize people and businesses to travel less or take greener journeys, including increasing a tax on diesel, implementing differentiated road pricing for trucks, and introducing a passenger tax on air travel. Each of these recommendations have been accepted by the Danish government and are in the process of being implemented.

[11] Technical University of Denmark (DTU). "Green Transportation." Accessed 21 October 2026.





Australia: Reducing emissions and saving consumers money

The Australia Climate Change Authority's 2023 *Annual Progress Report* recommended the Australian Government extend the Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), which encourages investment in small-scale renewable energy, beyond 2030 and expand its coverage to household batteries and EV chargers.

Consistent with the Authority's 2023 recommendation, in July 2025 the government expanded the SRES to include home batteries. The Cheaper Home Batteries Program has led to more than 500,000 batteries installed in homes by the end of July 2026, with an average of over 8,500 installations per week. With SRES support, Australia is now a world leader in rooftop solar installations, with 4 in 10 homes having solar systems.

The Authority's 2025 report *Unlocking Australia's clean energy potential* recommended expanding the solar SRES threshold from 100 kW to 1 MW, to reduce energy costs for larger energy users. Consistent with this recommendation, in August 2026 the government announced an expansion of the SRES to support 1 MW capacity systems, reducing the cost of installing medium-sized solar by around 20%. Along with homes, now businesses, farms and community facilities can also install discounted solar systems.

"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."

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

Linking climate, development and finance



South Africa: Mainstreaming just transition outcomes within broader development priorities

The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) has played a vital role in defining and structuring the Just Transition in South Africa to help decarbonise and build climate resilience that expands economic opportunity, whilst protecting vulnerable workers and affected communities.

In 2022, the PCC developed the country's Just Transition Framework, providing a framework to support the shift to a low-carbon economy while protecting vulnerable workers, communities, and economic stability. Furthermore, the PCC played an essential role in building consensus, coordinating public input and made policy recommendations to inform the development of South Africa's Just Energy Transition Implementation Plan. These included a sharper focus on re-skilling and education, ensuring workers in coal and carbon-heavy sectors are equipped for green economy jobs, as well as strengthening social safety nets, income support, and universal access to basic services (such as clean energy, water, and healthcare) for workers and marginalised communities who cannot easily transition to low-carbon livelihoods.

To support the transition, the commission tracks climate finance through its *Climate Finance Landscape Report* (now in its second iteration), identifying the technologies required for a transition (through its Green Technologies Stocktake Study), understanding external shocks such as those presented by carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) and building human capital through strengthening skills for a just transition.



Vanuatu: Mobilising finance for loss and damage in the Pacific

According to the Climate Risk Index (CRI), Vanuatu is the 9th most vulnerable country in the world. To help protect the country, Vanuatu's *2025 Loss and Damage Policy* offers a groundbreaking approach to address losses already being suffered by ni-Vanuatu communities, from climate-induced extreme events (like cyclones and floods) and slow onset events (like sea level rise and ocean acidification).

Developed under the leadership of Vanuatu's National Advisory Board on Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (a new member of ICCN), via a technical Loss and Damage working group, the policy contains 85 directives across 11 thematic areas. Key features of the policy include:

- A 5-year Implementation Framework costed at over 11.7 bn Vatu
- Annual Loss and Damage Gap Reports to assess future risks and policy responses
- Strong integration of human rights, traditional knowledge, and locally-led action
- Formal recognition of the new infrastructure Vanuatu is developing, including a loss and damage funding mechanism and a Climate Finance Country Platform

As Vanuatu continues its global leadership on climate justice, this new policy stands as a challenge and an invitation to the world to close the Loss and Damage finance and action gap, and to walk with those on the frontlines toward a more just and resilient future.

Tackling shared challenges through the International Climate Councils Network

The International Climate Councils Network is the only global network of officially mandated climate advisory councils. Our Secretariat supports climate councils in three ways:

1. Delivering in-depth capability-building programmes

We provide in-depth capability-building support to members through five Working Groups, which focus on Governance; Food, Land and Natural Capital; Adaptation; Communications and Engagement; and Climate Finance. We also offer a mentorship scheme for new councils, a Chair/CEO group, and tailored workstreams that respond to members' needs.

2. Showcasing climate councils

The ICCN showcases the benefits and impact of climate councils on the international stage by publishing case studies and participating in events like COPs (for example: our 'COP31 ICCN joint statement') and London Climate Action Week. We support research partners build the evidence base on the role and effectiveness of climate councils.

3. Strengthening the network

Through advice to existing members and through supporting the establishment of new climate councils (for example: our 'How to Create a Climate Council' Toolkit'), the ICCN is growing stronger and more resilient. Connecting climate councils regionally allows members to collaborate on areas that are a priority for them, whether that's exploring innovative climate finance mechanisms in Africa or the complex interactions between EU and national climate policies in Europe.

Key successes in 2026

- 100+ participants in five working groups that build capability. Members rate groups 8.4/10 on average.
- 3 new members from Québec, Colombia and Lesotho
- 50+ participants attending research roundtables on climate governance
- 200+ attendees, including parliamentarians, legislators, researchers, lawyers, and representatives from international organisations at London Climate Action Week's Flagship Climate Governance Forum
- 50+ attendees at in-person Member Forum in London sharing learnings on adaptation, governance and NDC implementation
- 23 annual progress reports uploaded to a Climate Council Report Library, launched in partnership with Climate Policy Radar
- 2 reports for climate councils to integrate health into their climate policy advice

Case Study: Mentorship Programme - Ireland and Malta

By facilitating meaningful peer-to-peer learning amongst our members, we can support them in their roles as real-world government advisors. Malta's Climate Action Authority and Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council were recently brought together through the ICCN mentoring scheme to exchange experiences on topics such as climate adaptation, addressing knowledge gaps, and whole-of-society engagement. As part of the exchange, representatives from Malta paid a visit to Ireland.



"We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the ICCN for facilitating this valuable mentoring initiative, which allowed two island nations to share experiences, insights and perspectives on climate action. It was an encouraging opportunity to strengthen collaboration, learn from one another and exchange practical approaches towards building a more climate-resilient future."

Ing. Abigail Cutajar,
CEO, Maltese Climate Action Authority

ICCN's three-year strategy approved by the network for 2026-2029 builds on our existing pillars of work, with the aim of growing the ICCN sustainably through a regional model. Generous support from our partners has allowed us to hire dedicated regional leads for Africa and Latin America, and we are currently seeking funding to support an Asia-Pacific lead. We are also seeking support for a workstream on how climate councils support NDC implementation and a 'Governance Curriculum' to support newly created climate councils.

Testimonial from an ICCN member:

"Continuous exchange and sparring with other ICCN members through the working groups has proven highly valuable. It has been particularly insightful to learn how different councils approach similar tasks and challenges, including policy analysis, scientific assessments, communication strategies and internal deliberation processes."

Case Study: Peer Learning at London Climate Action Week (LCAW)

At the ICCN Member Forum during London Climate Action Week 2026, members explored how climate councils can incorporate health impacts into their advice to governments, through a presentation on the Wellcome Trust-funded Climate-Health Integration Framework for climate councils.

Following the event, the National Council on Climate Change, Nigeria (NCCC) drew directly from the Netherlands Scientific Climate Council's model of assessing climate risks across multiple dimensions, including heat stress, air quality, and social vulnerability, as well as utilizing disaggregated health data to protect vulnerable populations.

Building on this peer learning, the NCCC is leveraging on these insights to strengthen its coordination and policy integration role in support of the Federal Ministry of Health, the lead implementing institution for Nigeria's Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP). This includes facilitating the integration of climate-health considerations into national adaptation planning, promoting the recognition of health co-benefits in climate policy appraisal, and supporting the development of climate-health indicators for adaptation monitoring and reporting.

Want to work with the International Climate Councils Network?

The ICCN regularly partners with organisations working in the climate change science, policy and governance space, such as the OECD, NDC Partnership, and the IPCC on capability-building for our members. We are funded through a combination of philanthropy and member contributions and are always open to speaking to funders and partners that align with our mission. To learn more about our partnerships, get in touch with the Secretariat at info@climatecouncils.org.

To learn more about how climate councils benefit from being part of the ICCN, get in touch with us at the email above.



Meet our team:

References:

"ICCN stands ready to support climate councils and collaborate with partners on strengthening climate governance."

Ben Rhodes
Head of Secretariat

The ICCN Secretariat is hosted by E3G, an independent climate change think tank with a global outlook.

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