

Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action



**Fashion
for Climate**

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In 2018, under the auspices of UN Climate Change, a set of fashion stakeholders identified ways for the textile, clothing and manufacturing industry to move towards a holistic commitment to climate action. With it, they launched the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action at the 24th Conference of Parties (COP24) in Katowice, Poland.

Central to the Fashion Charter is the vision to achieve net-zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the sector by no later than 2050. As the third-largest manufacturing sector in the world, scaling climate action across the fashion value chain is key to aligning the industry with a 1.5°C pathway.

The Fashion Charter complements existing environmental and sustainability-related initiatives in the industry through its clear focus on climate. Through collaborative efforts, information sharing, partnerships and shared principles and goals, it works to accelerate decarbonization efforts in the sector with its broad set of signatories and supporting organizations.

Fashion Charter is an official partner of Race to Zero – a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

The logo for Race to Zero, featuring the text "RACE TO ZERO" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a dark blue background with a white vertical line to the right of the text.

The Charter's primary mission is to **drive the fashion industry to net-zero GHG emissions no later than 2050**. In addition, signatories commit to key principles on climate action that go beyond industry-wide commitments:

Overarching Targets

1. Support the ambition of the Paris Agreement in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by selecting one of the two options (a or b):

a. Setting SBTi approved science-based emissions reduction targets on scope 1, 2 and 3 within 24 months, in line with the latest criteria and recommendations of the SBTi; and commit to achieving net zero emissions no later than 2050;

OR

b. Setting at least 50 percent absolute aggregate GHG emission reductions in scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard, by 2030 against a baseline of no earlier than 2019 and commit to achieving net zero emissions no later than 2050;

2. Quantify, track and publicly report our GHG emissions on annual bases via CDP, consistent with standards and best practices of measurement and transparency;

3. Within 12 months submit relevant reduction pathway plans for the selected 2030 goal under commitment 1, as well as plans for goals 4-13, and provide updates every 3 years thereafter;

To support the delivery of Charter targets, companies commit to:

4. Ambitiously pursue energy efficiency across its own operations and value chain, for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions;
5. Secure 100% of electricity from renewable sources with minimal other environmental or social impacts, for owned and operated (scope 2) emissions by 2030;
6. Source 100% of priority materials that are both preferred and low climate impact by 2030, ensuring that these do not negatively affect other sustainable development goals. This includes pursuing materials that are closed loop recycled, deforestation free and conversion free in their origins, apply regenerative practices, and that relevant verification and impact measurement mechanisms have been applied;
7. Creating engagement and incentive mechanisms for all relevant supplier sites (Tier 1 and 2 sites for brands and immediate sub-suppliers for producers) to implement approved science based aligned targets by the end of 2025 (as outlined above commitment 1. a), or to adopt a 50% absolute target by 2030 and net zero by 2050 (as outlined above in commitment 1.b);
8. Phasing out coal from owned and supplier sites (Tier 1 and Tier 2 for brands and immediate sub-suppliers for producers) as soon as possible and latest by 2030, including no new coal power by January 2023 at the latest, and creating engagement and incentive mechanisms for all relevant suppliers to support phase-out;
9. Commit to developing and implementing a company climate policy advocacy plan for net-zero emissions, aligning with collectively developed Fashion Charter policy recommendations including calling on governments to develop ambitious strategies that chart a clear path to achieving interim 2030 targets and net-zero emissions by 2050 at the very latest, and identifying relevant policy levers to support low carbon technologies and uptake of renewable energy;

Commitments

- 10.** Actively engage in building dialogue with financial institutions to share specific industry funding needs for delivery on shared Charter activities and increase understanding of investment needs and available funding sources for the industry transition;
- 11.** Work with logistic service providers to transition to zero emission air, sea and road logistics for own and contracted transportation – including selecting logistics partners with transparent emissions data and goals to achieve zero emissions solutions, and reconfiguring company logistics plans for optimal GHG impact;
- 12.** Align consumer and industry communication efforts to a 1.5-degree or SBTi compatible pathway, as set out by the Paris Agreement Goals, as well as a more just and equitable future;
- 13.** Actively support the UN Climate Change secretariat and other Charter signatories in efforts to deliver shared Charter goals and manage the tracking and recognition of progress of the commitments outlined in the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action.



Who can join the Fashion Charter?

Any company (e.g., brand, retailer, supplier) that is professionally engaged in the fashion sector and can commit to the Charter principles may request to participate as a **Signatory** by sending a Letter of Commitment signed by the CEO-level, to the UN Climate Change.

Separately, any entity that is professionally engaged in the sector and commit to Charter principles but is unable to apply and implement principles in their own organization (e.g., NGO, academia, industry association, financial institution) may request to join the Charter as a **Supporting Organization**.



Who can join?

By joining, your company or organization is becoming part of an ambitious climate change solution. The Charter has the potential to mobilize the entire fashion value chain around climate action, and as such, it is more than just a declaration. The keyword in Fashion Charter is **ACTION**.

As a framework that is underpinned by strong principles and backed by shared goals, becoming a signatory to the Charter can help your company or organization to:



Be recognized as a leader by championing the industry-wide movement on climate action.



Be part of the global Race to Zero campaign.

Unite and connect with peers to build capacity to counter climate challenges.

Align your climate strategy and resources with that of your peers.



Become part of UN Climate Change Global Climate Action.

Share best practices and tools and gain access to the experiences of peers.



Be visible as an active contributor to the global climate solution.

Engage and convene with expert organizations.

Gain strength to reinforce and amplify the call for action within your value chain.



Shape the climate change policy agenda and call for policy frameworks that reward leadership and innovation.

Fashion Charter Structure

Working Groups:

1. Decarbonization pathway & GHG emission reductions
2. Low Carbon Manufacturing
3. Policy engagement

The Charter functions as an industry-led body of signatories working collaboratively to drive climate action in the sector, as well as quantify, track and publicly report GHG emissions. These efforts are enhanced by supporting organizations that offer specific expertise to uphold Charter principles. UN Climate Change supports and facilitates the Charter by providing an inclusive and highly visible platform within which collective industry climate action can flourish.

The work of the Charter is guided and governed by a **Steering Committee**, composed of co-chairs from several **Working Groups**. New signatories are encouraged to actively take part in Working Groups that are relevant to their respective company.



Activities and future work

After initially mapping the climate landscape and existing tools, methodologies, guidelines and initiatives of the fashion industry, signatories have built a **shared vision and set of workstreams for the Charter**.

Among these is a fast-track plan that focuses on key fashion manufacturing and supplier countries. In this context, the Charter is drawing up decarbonization actions that can help enable renewable energy and energy efficiency deployment and coal-fired boiler phase-out, while advocating for a more supportive policy environment for climate action.

Aggregated climate reporting will be an emphasis of the Charter, with 2019 emissions data of signatories (collected through CDP) showing that a large majority of companies maintain an active emissions target, accompanied by reduction strategies to achieve them. Examining this industry progress on climate action will continue through increased disclosure levels.

Important knowledge sharing and learning on industry priorities will also continue, including lower carbon raw materials, end-use phase and consumer engagement, and collective decarbonization alignment goals.



PLEDGE

Pledge at the head-of-organization level to reach (net)-zero GHGs as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C.

PLAN

Explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Plans to be submitted to the UN Climate Change within 12 months of signing.

PROCEED

Take immediate action toward achieving net zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified. Demonstrate actions that have been taken on an annual basis.

PUBLISH

Commit to report publicly progress against interim and long-term targets at least annually, via CDP.

SCOPES

Cover all emissions, including Scope 3 for businesses and investors where they are material to total emissions and where data availability allows them to be reliably measured, and all territorial emissions for cities and regions.



Accountability

Signatories are expected to actively engage in implementing Charter commitments as outlined in Key Principles and demonstrate their actions via satisfactory annual reporting through CDP, action surveys and through climate reduction plans as outlined in commitment 3 of the Charter.

Financial Contribution

Companies are requested to financially contribute to Fashion Charter fund, used to support work identified in different working groups. The level of annual fee is outlined below:

For-profit organizations	
Annual turnover (EUR)	Fee (EUR)
More than 10 billion	30 000
1 billion – 10 billion	20 000
100 million – 1 billion	10 000
10 million – 100 million	5 000
Less than 10 million	Unspecified

Active Engagement

Signatories are expected to actively and constructively engage in Working Groups and actively support collective efforts defined in the Charter working groups.

Signatories failing to adhere to these obligations will lose accreditation with the Charter and its Working Groups.

Why join the Charter?

Join around 100 companies in the fashion sector who meet regularly to address shared challenges and define collective action opportunities.

Share your challenges in working groups and shape solutions that benefit from greater collaboration.

Learn from your peers and expert organisations.

Be recognized by UN Climate Change and Race to Zero for your commitment and in particular for your action on climate;

Disclose climate data to CDP free of charge.

Access conversations, webinars and action groups.

Engage in policy advocacy and help push for greater ambition.

Be part of the solution on climate. By doing so you are addressing business risks that will come from regulations, changing consumer preferences, disruptions to supply chain and distribution challenges, reputational risks and others. Get ahead of the curve.



Do you want to join us?

Contact us at: FashionCharter@unfccc.int

[Fashion Charter website](#)