

Solving the Climate Problem

ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW INSTITUTE

CJP CLIMATE
JUDICIARY
PROJECT™

Fast Facts Series

What is net zero?

Offsetting emissions is necessary to stop further heating of the planet

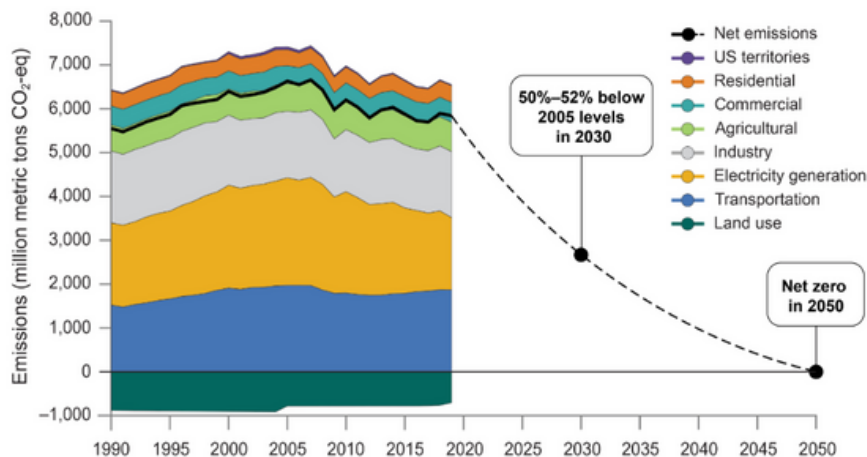
Net zero does not mean that there will be zero emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), but rather that any such emissions are balanced by removals, such as by planting trees. However, it is not possible to achieve net zero without deep reductions in carbon emissions.

How do we achieve net zero?

Deep reductions in CO₂ and beyond

To achieve net zero, the U.S. must meet energy demand with zero or very-low emissions sources and reduce non-CO₂ GHGs such as methane and nitrous oxide.

Example Trajectory for Reducing U.S. Emissions by Sector



Source: Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment

✓ Emissions goals

48 states
plus D.C.

have adopted or plan to adopt climate action plans designed to reduce emissions in their state.

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

> 50%

of the world's largest 2,000 companies have set net-zero targets.

Rocky Mountain Institute

\$4.6 billion

in Climate Pollution Reduction Grants were allocated by Congress to assist states, municipalities, tribes, and territories with developing and implementing GHG reduction plans.

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

SO Why should judges care



Public and private efforts to achieve net zero emissions are often contested and may result in litigation.



cjp.eli.org

Providing judges with authoritative, objective, and trusted education on climate science and the law.

Solving the Climate Problem

ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW INSTITUTE



Fast Facts Series

Sources

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, *U.S. State Climate Action Plans* (last updated Aug. 2024), <https://www.c2es.org/document/climate-action-plans/>.

Charlotte Hawes, *IRA program spurs climate action plans in surprising places*, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (Oct. 15, 2024), <https://www.c2es.org/2024/10/ira-program-spurs-climate-action-plans-in-surprising-places/>.

James Newcomb et. al., *Corporate Climate Action: Analyzing the Recent Surge of Climate Commitments*, Rocky Mountain Institute, (Nov. 29, 2023), <https://rmi.org/corporate-climate-action-analyzing-the-recent-surge-of-climate-commitments/>.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *Based on Science: Is it Possible to Achieve Net-Zero Emissions?* (Oct. 27, 2021), <https://www.nationalacademies.org/based-on-science/is-it-possible-to-achieve-net-zero-emissions>.

Stephen J. Davis et. al., *Figure 32.1 in Chapter 32: Mitigation*, Fifth National Climate Assessment (2023), <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/chapter/32/>.



cjp.eli.org

Providing judges with authoritative, objective, and trusted education on climate science and the law.