

# SCIENCE BASED TARGETS

## A universal approach for business to transition to a low-carbon economy

### WHAT IS IT?

Science-based targets outline how much a company needs to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to stay in line with a global carbon budget that would keep us well below two degrees of warming, compared to pre-industrial levels.

### HOW DID IT DEVELOP?

The development and widespread adoption of science-based targets can be linked to the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and the ratification by 175 nations to limit global warming to 2°C with the ambition of achieving a 1.5°C limit. Many companies were already taking action to reduce their

emissions, and this provided the opportunity to set ambitious emissions reduction targets that ensure the action they take is aligned with climate science.

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) champions the use of science-based targets by business, and helps them to set suitable ambitious targets.

The initiative is a collaboration between CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project), World Resources Institute (WRI), WWF and the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). It is one of the We Mean Business Coalition commitments.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Many companies setting science-based targets are doing so through the SBTi. This works in four steps: committing to set (or validate existing) science-based

emission reduction targets; developing the target/s; validation through the Science Based Targets initiative; announcement of target/s.

The initiative offers companies that wish to commit to science based targets the guidance, tools, and technical assistance to do so.

### HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

In terms of absolute reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, it's hard to tell. However, it is clear that a consistent, independent, transparent and – most of all – science-based approach to target setting is a big step forward. With enough companies setting the right kind of targets, we stand a much greater chance of staying within our global carbon budget.

**WHAT ARE THE END PRODUCTS?**

Companies that commit to setting science-based targets receive ongoing support from the SBTi. The process provides them with a clearly defined pathway for future proof growth. They also receive recognition for setting ambitious targets.

**WHO BENEFITS?**

Science-based targets are designed to help keep our planet within its global carbon budget, reducing global temperature rise and limiting the effects of climate change as much as possible. So in that sense, we all benefit.

More specifically, businesses setting science-based targets stand to benefit enormously – increasing innovation and competitiveness, while reducing costs and positioning themselves as leaders. Enhanced reputation is also a big benefit, helping business attract talent, loyal customers, higher quality suppliers and investors.

**HOW CREDIBLE IS THIS?**

So far, over 260 companies have committed to setting targets through the SBTi. 42 of those – including Kering, Kellogg Company, Diageo Plc, Dell, Sony, TetraPak and Walmart Stores – have approved targets.

The initiative is a wholly independent collaboration between a number of well-respected scientifically grounded climate action groups.

**WHY WE LOVE THIS**

Science based targets are ushering in a new era for sustainability at business.

The process puts sustainability right at the core of business decision making, allowing them to get a head start on the transition to the low carbon economy.

 [SCIENCEBASEDTARGETS.ORG](https://www.sciencebasedtargets.org)

# CLIMATE TAKE BACK

At Interface, we're convinced a fundamental change needs to happen in our global response to climate change. We need to stop thinking about how to merely limit the damage caused by climate change – and start thinking about how to create a climate fit for life.

**Our new mission is called Climate Take Back – and we invite you to join us.**

Find out more at our website [here](#)

**Interface®**

## LIVE ZERO

Aim for zero negative impact on the environment

## LEAD THE INDUSTRIAL RE-REVOLUTION

Transform industry into a force for the future we want

## LOVE CARBON

Stop seeing carbon as the enemy, and start using it as a resource

## LET NATURE COOL

Support our biosphere's ability to regulate the climate

