



The Business in the Community Ireland Low Carbon Pledge

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THE LEADERS' GROUP
ON SUSTAINABILITY

01 INTRODUCTION

The Leaders Group on Sustainability is a coalition of Ireland's leading organisations that are striving to improve the sustainability of the Irish business sector through sharing best practice and creating new ways of doing business. All companies in the Group have the Business Working Responsibly Mark, the NSAI audited standard for CSR and Sustainability and based on ISO 26000.

The Leaders Group is supporting Ireland's business sector in the transition to a low carbon economy by launching the **Low Carbon Pledge** - the first dedicated pledge generated by Irish business to set industry standards on sustainability and reduce carbon emissions

If we are going to reach the global carbon reduction targets set in the Paris Agreement and maintain global temperatures at less than 2°C below pre-industrial levels, we believe business must play a major role.

The purpose of this Pledge is (1) to practically demonstrate commitment by Irish business to reduce carbon emissions and (2) to act as a catalyst for wider, complementary initiatives and actions, to assist companies achieve their reduction targets.

02 THE LOW CARBON PLEDGE

All signatory companies commit to reducing their Scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emission¹ intensity by 50% by 2030

¹Scope 1 emissions are those that arise directly from sources that are owned or controlled by the company, e.g. fuels used in boilers or the vehicles that the company owns; Scope 2 emissions are those generated by purchased electricity consumed by the company.

03 PLEDGE DETAILS

- To help ensure consistency and comparability of efforts across all signatory companies, the internationally recognised [Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard](#) will be used as the underlying framework for the Low Carbon Pledge.

This flexible and non-binding document:

- > Guides companies step-by-step through the process of recording emissions
- > Supplies the world's most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standards
- > Offers many different options of how to record emissions

Having signed up to the Pledge, signatory companies will commit to the following:

- > Record all Scope 1 and Scope 2 Carbon Emissions
- > Reduce the amount of Scope 1 and Scope 2 Carbon Emissions Intensity
- > Report (1) Individually through an Annual Report or Website or other publically available equivalent source and (2) Collectively through an Annual BITCI Low Carbon Report
- > Review year-on-year Scope 1 and Scope 2 Carbon Emissions with the aim of showing continuous improvement



Companies shall choose and report a base year from which verifiable emissions data are available – the year chosen can be from 2005 onwards. For consistent tracking of emissions over time, the base year may need to be recalculated as companies undergo significant structural changes such as acquisitions, divestments and mergers.

The reduction target is based on an intensity figure and not an absolute carbon emissions figure, as consideration is being made for the growth of signatory companies during this time. This will allow companies to show that they are still focusing on reducing their carbon emissions, by becoming more efficient in their working environment. However, a total absolute carbon emissions figure for all signatory companies will be calculated within the Annual BITCI Low Carbon Report, showing the overall impact of this initiative year-on-year.

The Low Carbon Pledge is based on the greenhouse emission ambitions of some of the leading global companies in this space and builds on Ireland's EU 2030 carbon emissions target, which is to reduce its emissions by 30% relative to its 2005 carbon emissions. The Low Carbon Pledge commitments made will be reviewed every two years. This will allow for signatory companies to learn from the data received over the course of the initial two year reporting period and ensure that the commitments made in the Pledge are ambitious and continue to be seen as leading the way in carbon reduction in the business sector.

04

INDIVIDUAL AND AGGREGATE REPORTING

Each company will report on an individual level on their greenhouse gas emissions. Firstly, the following description of the company will need to be provided:

- > An outline of the organisational boundaries (equity share or control)
- > An outline of the operational boundaries (direct and indirect emissions)
- > Reporting period covered.

Secondly, the following data and information will need to be provided:

- > Total Scope 1 and 2 emissions
- > Emissions data separately for each scope
- > Year chosen as base year and emissions profile over time
- > Appropriate context for any significant emissions changes that trigger base year recalculations
- > Methodologies used to calculate or measure emissions, providing a reference link to any calculation tools used
- > Any specific exclusions of sources, facilities and/or operations.

The tools used to create these reports should be based on the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard Calculation Tools](#).

This will then be used by Business in the Community Ireland to feed into an aggregate annual report detailing the collective efforts of the signatory companies.

05 PLEDGE SUPPORTING ACTIONS

The key strength of the Pledge lies in the collaborative platforms that are being developed which will enable signatory companies to learn from each other's successes and challenges.

Companies will be able to contribute and participate in the following supporting actions based on their relevant needs:

- > A **knowledge platform** which will provide guidance on best practice, as well as a series of network events hosted by leading signatory companies, to share carbon management knowledge within the group
- > Signatory companies will be invited to play a role in assisting **local communities to transition to the low carbon economy** through engaging with community energy schemes developed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- > A **Young Low-Carbon Leaders Group** - aimed at developing future business leaders in sustainability thinking, through a series of workshops and networking events.

06 : COMMITMENT

I commit to the requirements of the Low Carbon Pledge

Name of CEO

Name of Organisation

Signature

Date



Business in the Community Ireland
3rd Floor Phibsborough Tower
Phibsborough Road
Dublin 7
D07 XH2D

CHY No. 13968
Business in the Community Ireland
is a company limited by guarantee

Tel +353 1 8747232
Email info@bitc.ie