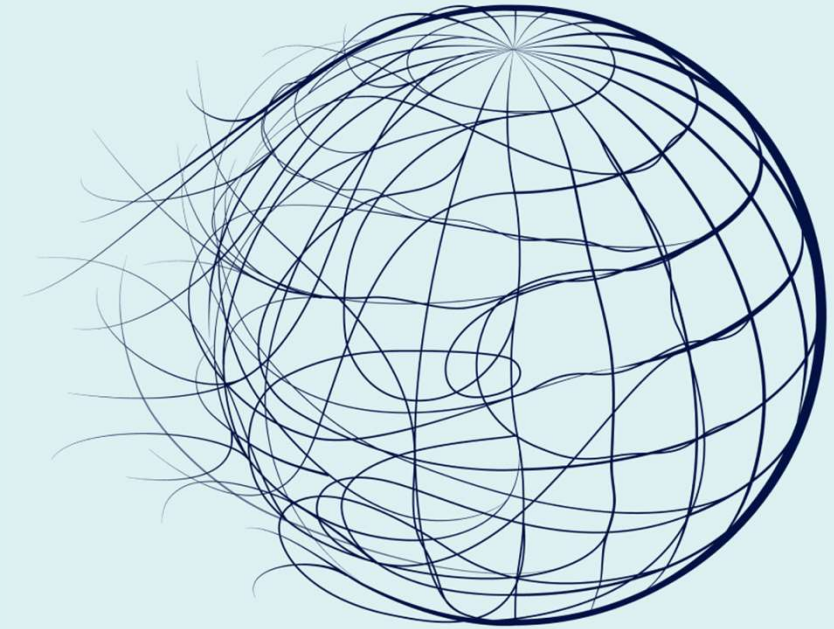


ISO Net Zero Guidelines

A global basis for net zero action

Emily Faint, Our 2050 World



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

Convened by **bsi.**

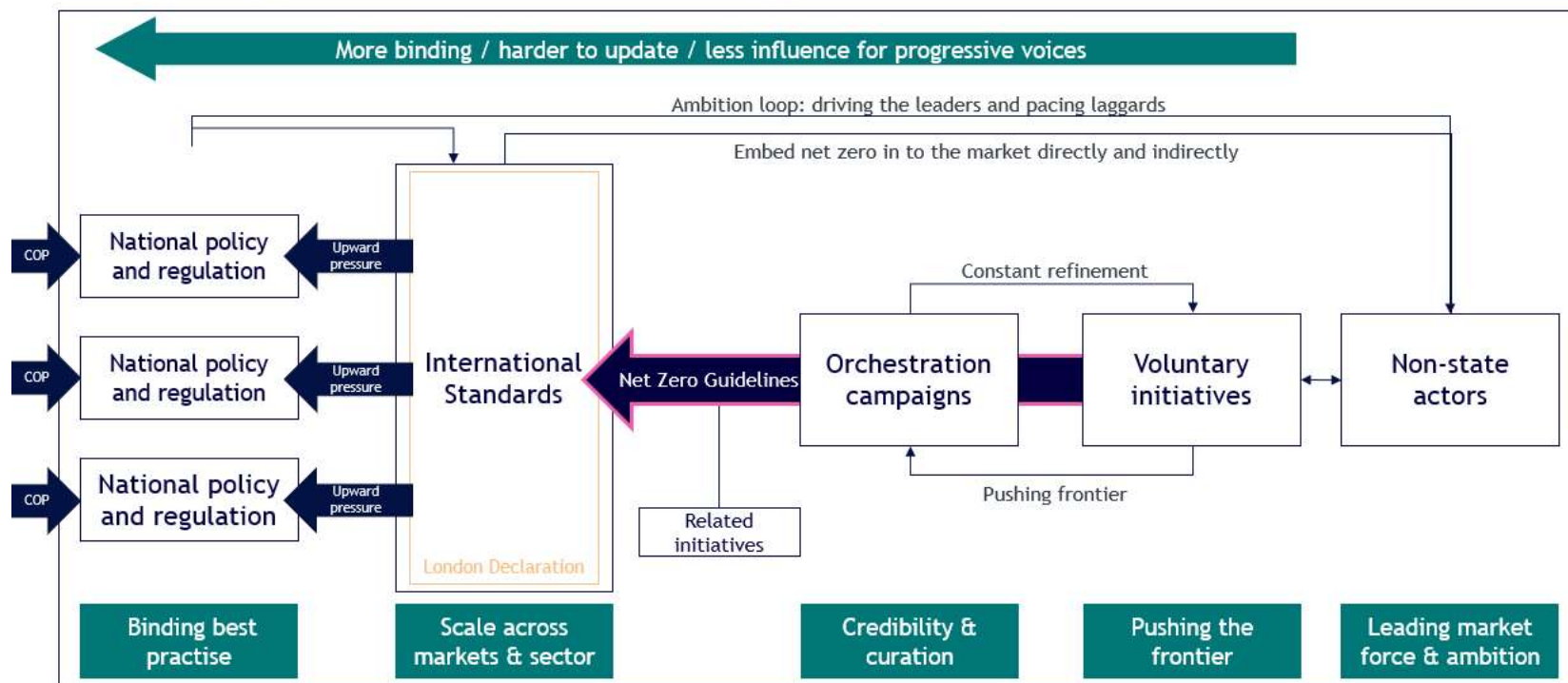
What are the Net Zero Guidelines?

- A core reference text for credible net zero action
- Draws on the existing landscape of major net zero standards and initiatives
- Can be used by any organization, but are particularly targeted at ‘rule setters’ for net zero guidance
- Aimed to support national, regional, city and individual organizations to accelerate their net zero action



Why were the Net Zero Guidelines developed?

‘Conveyor model’ for to govern net zero*



our2050world * Adapted from concept by Tom Hale Nov 2021

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Addressing greenwashing and net zero integrity



The UN has called for greater action on the problem of ‘greenwashing’ in climate action.



In the absence of a clear framework of standards and regulation for net zero, misleading and inaccurate claims have become widespread.



The Net Zero Guidelines is not just about bringing clarity to net zero action, but also helping to bring clarity to what it is not.



The UN published its *Integrity Matters* report at COP27 which set out recommendations for what must be done to restore integrity to net zero and called for the establishment of a taskforce on net zero regulation.

How were the Net Zero Guidelines developed?

Agile

The Net Zero Guidelines were developed in just 3 months

Inclusive

Over 1200+ organizations from 100+ countries registered to participate

Consensus

Consensus-based International Workshop Agreement (IWA) process in the international standards system

Harmonizing

The Guidelines were mapped across 33 globally prominent net zero standards and initiatives to bring global best practice together.

What do the Net Zero Guidelines say?

The Guidelines provide guidance and recommendations on each stage of a net zero strategy, from preparation and target-setting to reporting and impact, to help you navigate the existing landscape. They include:

- A definition of net zero and related terms
- Net zero guiding principles
- Guidance on how to contribute to global net zero
- Recommendations on governance, target setting, transparent communication, credible claims, and consistent reporting
- Signposts to relevant prominent initiatives and standards that provide further information, methodology and verification

What do the Net Zero Guidelines say?

Key topics

Fossil fuels

Transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and apply policies to phase out

Scope 3 emissions

All Scope 3 emissions should be accounted for in interim and long-term targets

Use of offsets

Only removal-based offsets can be used in a net zero strategy

Greenhouse gases

All greenhouse gases should be accounted for in your net zero strategy, not just carbon dioxide

Interim targets

Your net zero strategy must have interim targets set every 2-5 years.

Residual emissions

Only the emissions remaining (5-10%) after deep emissions reductions are completed can be counterbalanced using offsets

What do the Net Zero Guidelines say?

Key topics

Avoided emissions

Avoided emissions cannot be counted towards your net zero target. Organizations should act as solution providers to others.

Fair share

Those with greater historical responsibility and resources should make a proportionately greater contribution and support others to take action.

Nature and biodiversity

Mitigation actions should take into account the need to preserve or enhance ecosystems and biodiversity.

Net zero claims

To claim net zero, only residual emissions should remain, and these should be counterbalanced by removals.

Removals

Removals should be high quality with permanent or sufficiently long-term storage comparable to the lifetime of the GHG emissions to maintain the net zero balance.

Reporting

Leadership should be directly accountable for monitoring and reporting processes. Reporting should be at least annual, include what offsets were used and disclose limitations of data.

What do the Net Zero Guidelines say?

On Governance, Leadership and Responsibilities

Public commitment

Prioritizing net zero

Incorporating net zero into core governance documents

Appointing competent members to leadership positions to take responsibility and oversight

Aligning internal processes and public lobbying

Aligning executive and board compensation with meeting targets

How do I begin using the Net Zero Guidelines?



Download the Net Zero Guidelines from [iso.org/netzero](https://www.iso.org/netzero)



Review your net zero strategy against the Net Zero Guidelines recommendations to identify gaps



Use the Net Zero Guidelines recommendations to revise your strategy in line with the global consensus on the gaps you have identified



As needed, consult the standards and initiatives that the Net Zero Guidelines signposts for further methodology

Download the Net Zero Guidelines at [iso.org/netzero](https://www.iso.org/netzero)



Just getting started? Use the Net Zero Guidelines as starting point to understand the key elements of a net zero strategy.



Already taking structured action? Refer to the Net Zero Guidelines as an interpretation guide to understand the different elements of an ambitious net zero strategy.



If your organization sets net zero guidance for others: Adopt the Net Zero Guidelines and use them as a reference text to ensure alignment between your guidance and global best practice and ambition.