

**The accuracy of your written English is really important to us. Please correct all errors of fact, spelling, grammar and punctuation, as well as any inconsistencies, in the following passage about net zero. Do not rewrite it or make substantial changes—just correct the mistakes.**

Net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions reabsorbed from the atmosphere. Burning fossil fuels releases the green-house gases that increase global temperatures. We have seen the effects in the UK, with devastating floods in the West Midlands, and worldwide, with wildcat fires in California and the Mediteranean. People are worried, with the latest report by the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change showing that if we fail to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the floods and fires we have seen around the world will become more frequent and sea levels will rise driving mass migration as millions are forced from their homes. Above 1.5 degrees there is a risk of serious climactic change such as the melting of arctic perma frost.

The science is stark: by the middle of the 21st century the world has to reduce emissions to as close to 0 as possible. If we can achieve this, global emissions of greenhouse gases will be net-zero. That requires urgent action, including ending coal fired power generation; retiring petrol and diesel engines from cars, and halting deforestation. COP27 President Alok Sharma reinforced the importance of action at the global climate change talks in Sharm El Sheik in 2022, and said that “it is more important than ever that all countries deliver on the commitments we made, collectively, in the Glasgow Climate Pact.’

In March 2022, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres established the High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emission Commitments of Non-State Entities with the aim of developing stronger standards for net-zero emissions pledges by non-state entities such as business organisations, investors, cities and regions. The group presented its recommendations at COP 27 on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Organizations that have committed to attaining carbon neutrality by 2050 include Microsoft, Amazon and L'Oreal. The World Bank is using a carbon offset scheme, and bands such as The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd have pledged to make their albums and tours carbon neutral

Achieving net zero incurs significant costs. The Office of Budget Responsibility estimates that reaching net zero by 2050 will cost UK £321 billion, or just over £10 million a year. That cost, however, will be spread over three decades. When combined with savings from energy-efficient measures, the OBR says the net cost to the state up to 2050 will be £344 billion, or an average of 0.4% GDP a year.

Individuals can take steps to reduce their carbon footprint, which defines their impact on the environment in the amount of greenhouse gases such as methane and CO<sub>2</sub> produced by their activities. World bank data from 2018 shows that the average person's carbon footprint is 4.5 tonnes a year. Smarter energy use, such as choosing an all-electric heating tariff rather than a dual fuel one, can help to reduce that, as can driving an electric vehicle. Research by Nottingham's Trent University shows that if all cars in the UK were electric 42 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> would be removed from the atmosphere.