

The Planning for Climate Commission

“This is why I have proposed five concrete actions to jumpstart the renewable energy transition... reform the bureaucracies and red tape that hold up gigawatts of renewables projects. We need fast-track approvals for solar and wind projects and more effort to modernize electricity grids.”

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, 14 June 2022

The Planning for Climate Commission is established to raise awareness for the need for improved planning and approval processes for renewable energy projects and the green hydrogen economy. Climate disaster will not be avoided without significantly more hydropower, significantly more solar and wind power, and electrolyzers, ammonia plants and huge amounts of infrastructure. All of this will require approval by hosting governments and buy-in from communities.

In many countries and jurisdictions, it takes too long to obtain approval. The need to transition from using fossil fuels is urgent. Sustainable development can only be achieved if these fossil fuels are replaced with renewable energy and green hydrogen. Studies by the International Energy Agency and many others repeatedly highlight streamlined and expeditious permitting and licensing of renewable energy and green hydrogen infrastructure as critical to the mission of avoiding climate disaster.

Role of the Commission

Expeditious planning processes and procedures can and must be married with assured sustainability. The Commission will comprise of global leaders, champions and experts with outstanding experience in climate and renewable energy decision and policy making to agree a set of recommendations for strengthening planning and approval processes for renewable energy projects.

The Commission will consider mechanisms, incentives, and awareness-raising to contribute to a high degree of acceptance for renewable energy and green hydrogen infrastructure by engaging local communities. Standards like the Hydropower Sustainability Standard and the Green Hydrogen Standard are clear examples of how energy projects can demonstrate their sustainability credentials in a transparent and comprehensive manner and could help streamline the licensing process

The Planning for Climate Commission will document the importance of good planning practices and how the efforts to avoid climate change hinges on the ability for



governments and authorities to expeditiously and properly process applications for large-scale renewable energy and green hydrogen projects.

The Planning for Climate Commission will document how good planning practices and processes can contribute to how governments fulfil their Nationally Determined Contributions and commitments to deliver on commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also consider good practice examples of community engagement and building trust and buy-in from citizens.

The Planning for Climate Commission will develop, collate and share examples of various forms of incentive schemes. It is necessary to develop and share a wide range of incentive schemes, such as offering lower energy tariffs for those with infrastructure nearby, or alignment with green bonds and other financing mechanisms.

“We need a fundamental review on how we dramatically shorten the consenting process”

Ørsted chief executive Mads Nipper, 15 August 2022

“It’s not just about regulations, but also about how you, as a government, deal with these [renewable project approval] processes. How do you make sure that when the contractor does this project, they can do it as quickly as possible?”

Dan Jannik Jørgensen, Minister of Climate and Energy and Public Utilities, Denmark

Commission functioning

The Planning for Climate Commission is a **joint initiative** by the Green Hydrogen Organisation, International Hydropower Association, the Global Wind Energy Council, the Global Solar Council and the Long Duration Energy Storage Council.

The members of the Commission will represent **global decision makers** and senior government officials with experience with climate and renewable energy policy. They will include leading global institutions with mandates to promote renewable energy and experts on energy law and regulation. The Commission will have diverse representation and strong representation from the Global South. Commission members will be confirmed by the end of 2022.

The Green Hydrogen Organisation provides secretarial support for the Commission. Consultancy services will be procured to support the documentation of good practices and drafting of the report and recommendations for the Commission.



The Commission is likely to meet 1-2 per year, with one meeting likely to be an in person/hybrid meeting and other meetings being virtual. The secretariat and partners will meet monthly and will engage with the offices of Commissioners to seek input to draft documents, reports and recommendations ahead of Commission meetings. The secretariat will guarantee a time-efficient process for the Commission members.

The secretariat and partners will convene an **expert advisory group** to provide inputs to the report and recommendations.

There is no monetary cost associated with Commission membership, and members of the Commission are not remunerated. Travel costs associated with participation in the Commission may be covered. The Commission will work in accordance with the highest transparency and accountability practices.

The Commission will seek to establish a working relationship with relevant UN agencies, such as UNFCCC, IRENA and UNEP.

It is envisaged that the Commission will work from November 2022 until the end of 2023. The Commission was launched on 15 November 2022 at **COP27's Energy Day** and will present some early findings and a summary report in mid-2023. It would seek to obtain a request from the General Assembly to report its findings to the following Assembly in 2023.

“There is a task force required in every government right now that needs to accelerate permitting.”

Vestas chief executive Henrik Andersen, 15 August 2022

