



CLIMATE ACTION FOR ASSOCIATIONS

CLIMATE ACTION Jargon Busters



We've pulled together the following jargon busters to help simplify the climate crisis and help Associations understand what they can do to plan and implement their climate action communications and action plan.



1.5 Degrees C: The maximum global temperature rise above pre-industrial levels that we can allow before experiencing the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

COP: COP stands for '**Conference of Parties**' and the Parties are the 197 nations and territories that have signed on to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They meet once a year to decide how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally, and tackle climate change.

COP26: Next year will be the 26th summit, hence the name COP26, and will be hosted by the UK in Glasgow. This will be the most significant climate summit since COP21 in Paris 2015, when world leaders made a landmark commitment to restrict global temperature increases to 2°C and 'to pursue efforts' to limit warming to 1.5 °C. This commitment is known as the '**Paris Agreement**'. COP26 will be the first opportunity since Paris for countries to upgrade their pledges on tackling climate change at a summit - most importantly their emissions targets through to 2030.

Carbon Footprint: The level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to a country, company, yourself or maybe your neighbour.

Greenwashing: Greenwashing is when an organisation promotes themselves and/or their goods and services in a way that sounds more eco-friendly or environmentally safe than they actually are, so that consumers who care about the environment believe they are ethical, sustainable, and eco-friendly.

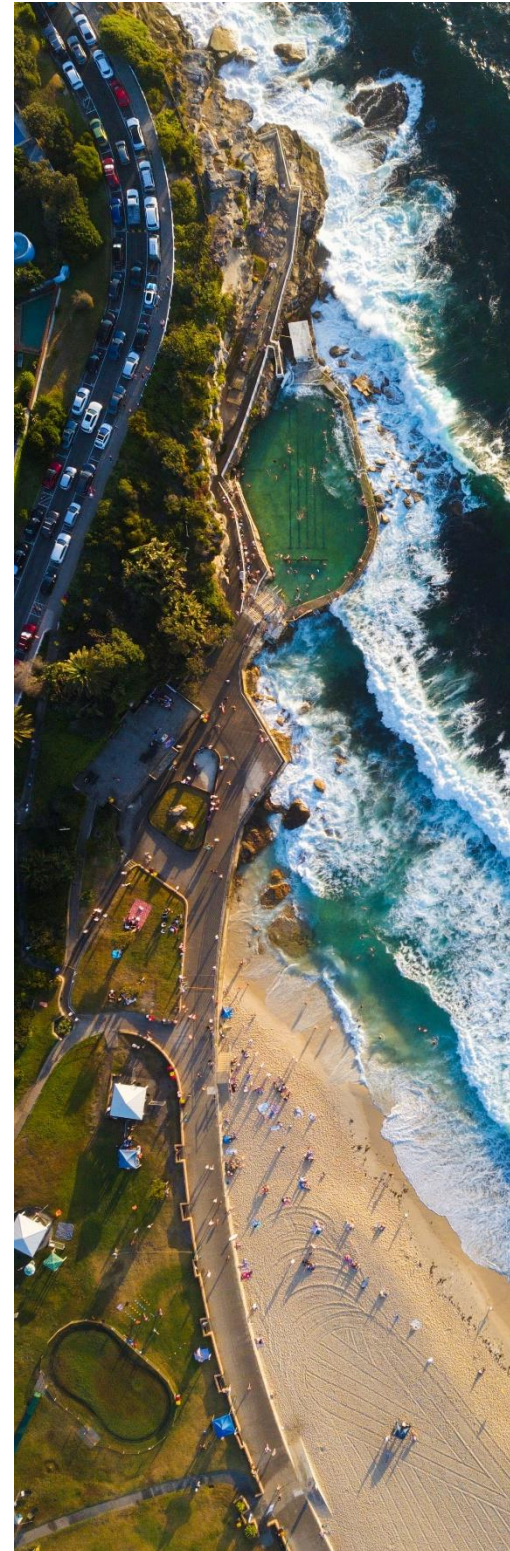
Net Zero: A combination of emission reductions and an increase in carbon absorption strategies (such as tree planting or sequestration - capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide), resulting in net global emissions of zero.

Clean Energy Transition: Significant structural and clean change in an energy system.

Adaptation: Adjusting to the actual or expected future climate. The goal however is to act now to reduce our future vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change.

Mitigation: Actions that reduce the volume of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Circular Economy: A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. Basically, a system where nothing really gets thrown away, and everything is re-used and recycled. Also known as a 'closed-loop' economy.





Green Recovery: Ensuring a cleaner, greener future is at the heart of plans to rebuild a strong economy after COVID-19.

Environmental Justice: A phrase underscoring the broad idea that the people who did the least to cause climate change and pollution are often the most at risk from its consequences.

Just Transition: The shift to an economy that runs on renewable energy without killing jobs.

Carbon Offset: Something you buy that is intended to cancel some or all of the carbon dioxide produced in the manufacture or use of that product.

Climate Resilience: Our ability to deal with climate change's effects.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): An outline of what each country has resolved to do to reduce its emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, as part of the United Nations process for tackling climate change. These plans are submitted every five years.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. [Outlined here](#)

We are making a call to trade and professional membership organisations to drive sustainable leadership and accelerate to net zero.

Business and industry contribute the majority of global carbon emissions.

Sustainable development and climate change are interlinked. Business and industry hold the key to climate action and change.

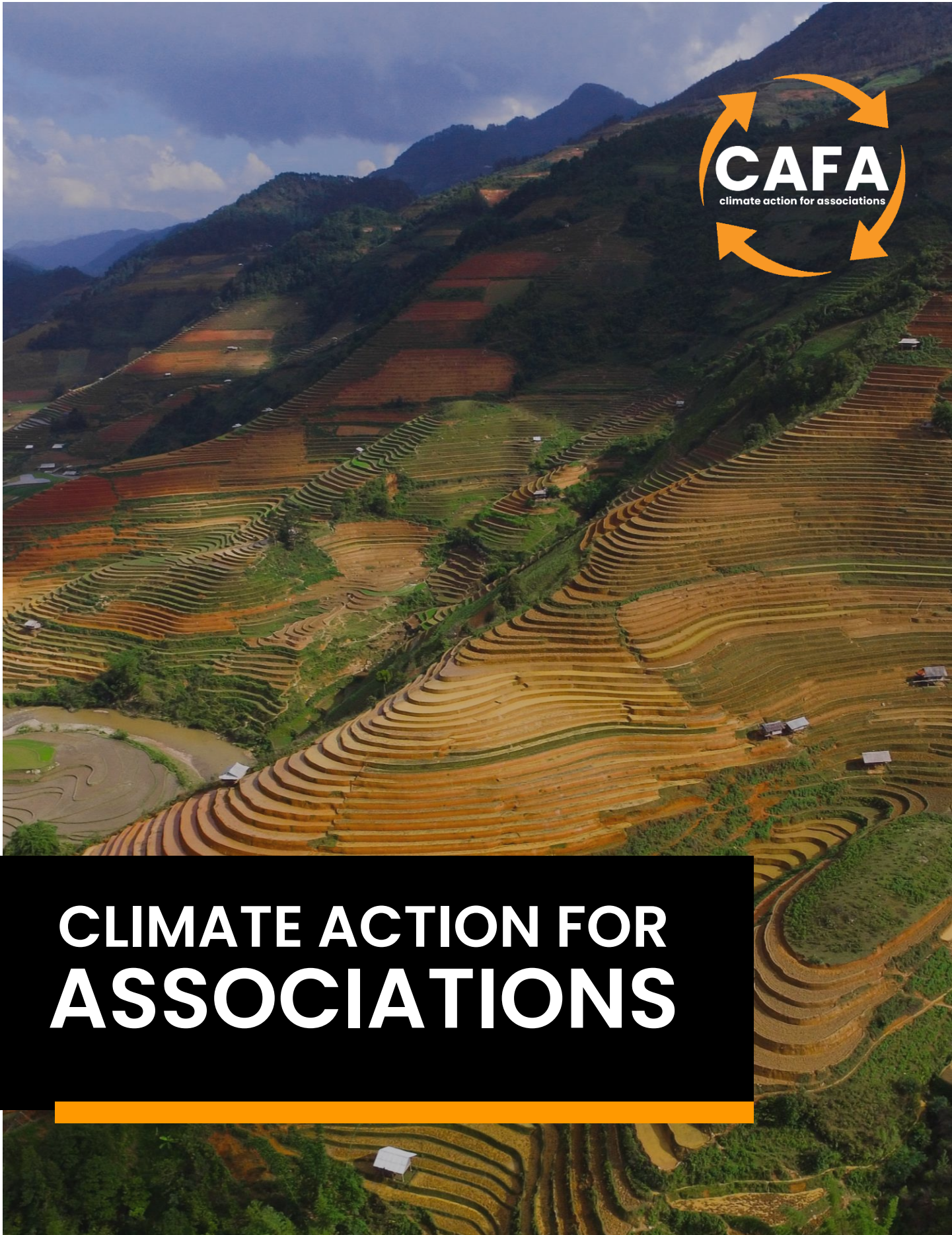
Organisations and their people can do a lot on their own, but forward-thinking public and private sector partnerships are vital. Neither business nor government can achieve the needed emissions reduction by acting independently.

Helpful further links and information:

WBCSD: <https://www.wbcsd.org/Overview/News-Insights/Insights-from-the-President/The-role-of-business-in-climate-change>

The Climate Group <https://www.theclimategroup.org/>

SME Climate Hub: <https://smeclimatehub.org/sme-climate-commitment/>



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