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# CLIMATE ACTION: WHY IT MATTERS TO BUSINESSES

## What's the goal here?

Taking urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts.

## Why?

Climate change is caused by human activities and is threatening the way we live and the future of our planet. By addressing climate change, we can build a sustainable world for everyone. But we need to act now.

## Are people's lives really being affected by climate change?

Yes. Severe weather and rising sea levels are affecting people and their property in developed and developing countries. From a small farmer in the Philippines to a businessman in London, climate change is affecting everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable, as well as marginalized groups like women, children, and the elderly.

In 2015,  
global  
investment  
in renewables  
attracted  
**\$286  
billion,**  
more than  
**twice**  
as much as  
fossil fuels.

## What happens if we don't take action?

If left unchecked, climate change will undo a lot of the progress made over the past years in development. It can also exacerbate, as we are already seeing, current threats such as food and water scarcity, which can lead to conflict.

Doing nothing will end up costing us a lot more than if we take actions now that will lead to more jobs, greater prosperity, and better lives while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience.

## What is the role of businesses in addressing climate change?

Many business leaders around the world have realized that climate change and environmental degradation pose important new risks and opportunities for their companies' competitiveness, growth and development, and are turning the climate challenge into a market opportunity.

Businesses are providing climate solutions through their innovation and long-term investment in energy efficiency and low-carbon development. A great number of them have joined the Climate Action Agenda, an effort born at the 2014 Climate Summit in New York to bring governments, businesses and civil society together to embark on new initiatives that promote climate action.

## How can my business take climate action?

Companies can be part of the solution by committing to decarbonize their operations and supply chains. They can do this by:

- Improving their energy efficiency
- Reducing the carbon footprint of their products, services and processes
- Setting emissions reductions targets in line with climate science

- Scaling up investment in the development of innovative and inclusive low-carbon, climate-smart products and services
- Prepare to adapt to climate change and build resilience in their operations, supply chains and the communities in which they operate

## Are there other ways to take climate action?

Industries vary greatly, so there are many approaches. One way to get your business involved is to join the UN Caring for Climate initiative. Launched in 2007 by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the initiative helps companies to advance practical solutions, share experiences, inform public policy as well as shape public attitudes. To find out more please visit:

<http://caringforclimate.org/>



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD**