



Media Release
26 October 2021

COP26 is the perfect time to learn how to take climate action in Aotearoa New Zealand

All eyes will be on the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, in the UK next month. To give New Zealand businesses the tools, plan and a pathway for climate action, the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) is partnering with the British High Commission to deliver a series of nationwide climate action workshops.

The British High Commission wants to raise awareness of and engage more New Zealand businesses in the UN-backed global campaign [Race to Zero](#) programme. It calls on all non-government organisations to commit to action to halve their emissions by 2030 and go net zero by 2050. This will help maintain a stable climate, one which protects the health and wellbeing of all people.

The workshops will be run by Phil Jones, SBN's Programme Manager for Climate Action. He says "some businesses are leading the way and are already on the net-zero pathway but we have to get many more businesses to start the process. That's what these workshops are designed to do."

Reducing emissions rapidly requires targets and actions from government, businesses and individuals. In these workshops, SBN will guide businesses through the Climate Action Toolbox, which provides a practical understanding of what businesses can do. The Toolbox is a free self-assessment tool hosted on business.govt.nz that makes it easy for businesses to take action on climate.

The changing climate requires all businesses, no matter how small, to take steps to reduce their emissions. The interactive workshops, held online in five regions, will inspire businesses to up their game.

They will also provide:

- A practical understanding of actions a business can take to reduce its emissions.

- A tailored action plan, containing simple steps to reduce a business's carbon emissions using the free online [*Climate Action Toolbox*](#).
- Help from SBN and British High Commission climate experts on setting targets, such as looking at [*Race to Zero*](#) – a global campaign rallying businesses to take urgent climate action.
- Guidance from the SBN team on how to build confidence and create change in the business.
- Provide a place to share ideas and connect with business leaders.

The workshops in this series include:

[Auckland: Wednesday 27 October](#)

[Tairāwhiti: Thursday 4 November](#)

[Canterbury: Thursday 11 November](#)

[Top of the South \(Nelson / Marlborough\): Thursday 18 November](#)

[Kāpiti Coast: Wednesday 24 November](#)

SBN has also partnered with regional organisations to help with local promotion of these events.

For businesses located outside of these regions that would like to attend a climate action workshop, please get in touch with georgia@sustainable.org.nz.

-ENDS-

For interviews and further information please contact Fiona Stephenson, SBN, Head of Communications & Marketing 021 233 1053 fiona@sustainable.org.nz

Price

· *SBN Impact Investors: \$15 Others \$50*

Funding was made available from the British High Commission Wellington. (All proceeds will go towards SBN's work supporting Kiwi businesses to take action on climate, designing out waste and regenerating nature.)

The Climate Action Toolbox has been funded and developed by the Sustainable Business Network and Business.Govt.NZ, in association with BNZ, EECA, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Waka Kotahi, Meridian and design partner DNA.