

Climate Alliance Member Charter Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT DOES THE CHARTER AIM TO ACHIEVE?

Membership in the Climate Alliance municipal network is linked to a voluntary commitment to a “continuous reduction of greenhouse gas emissions” (as laid out in the Climate Alliance statutes) as well as to rainforest protection and support for indigenous partners in Amazonia. One of the instruments to achieve these goals is the formulation of concrete emission reduction targets. The Charter describes the current climate challenges and why adaptation of the voluntary targets is necessary. It also describes the voluntary targets as such and how they can be brought to life on the local level. Climate Alliance refers to its own **principles** here to make clear what is necessary to achieve ambitious climate action.

WHY DO WE NEED SUCH A CHARTER NOW?

With the urgent need for more climate action increasingly becoming the focus of political debate, the Executive Board, national coordination offices and a great many members would like Climate Alliance to review and update its position. The 2021 Climate Alliance Charter builds on Climate Alliance’s existing commitments and links the **Climate Alliance principles** to current challenges and issues. The strategy paper makes clear that climate action involves more than just reducing CO₂. Rather, it requires a global transition to a more sustainable way of life that focuses more on the protection of natural resources (including for energy production). The longer this process is postponed, the more serious the social upheaval and economic consequences will be for all areas of society.

DO WE REALLY NEED A NEW CO₂ REDUCTION TARGET?

While Climate Alliance was the only city network with a self-commitment to set concrete reduction targets back when it was founded (from 1990, 50% by 2010; from 2006, 10% every 5 years), today a wealth of different ambitious targets also influence municipal strategies (following the Paris Agreement, the targets in the Covenant of Mayors, national targets, local targets e.g. through the declaration by many municipalities of a climate emergency). The present Charter therefore **does not entail yet another, new target**, but rather expands on the existing targets with more ambitious ones and thus offers member municipalities a **target range**.

ARE THE CO₂ REDUCTION TARGETS IN THE TARGET RANGE REALISTIC AND ACHIEVABLE?

Since Climate Alliance’s founding, the need to do something about the climate crisis and the overuse of resources has become ever more urgent. The question is therefore not whether the ambitious reduction targets are achievable, but rather how quickly and effectively the most ambitious reduction targets can be achieved.

DO THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES HAVE TO ADOPT NEW RESOLUTIONS?

According to the assessment of the Executive Board and National Coordinators, no new resolutions are necessary. The Charter is essentially an extension of the existing targets and commitments. However, the Executive Board does recommend that local councils adopt the Charter in a local resolution in order to strengthen the political message of ambitious targets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE CURRENT CO2 REDUCTION TARGET?

The previous logic of focusing on one target is being replaced with a target range and the recommendation that all members take advantage of the network's support offers (political lobby work, specific tools and materials and platforms for exchange).

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT?

The Charter takes up the existing Climate Alliance commitments and adapts them to current discussions on more ambitious climate targets. **Climate Alliance's existing principles** and voluntary commitments are taken as the basis. The strategy paper thus supports members in their local discussions on the implementation of their own local strategies while at the same time serving to present Climate Alliance's positioning to the wider world.

WHAT DOES THE CHARTER CONTAIN?

The Charter comprises several parts:

- Part 1 reflects on the rationale for more ambitious CO₂ reduction targets. It builds on the existing Climate Alliance targets and refers to the methods and tools developed in recent years to quantify the targets achieved.
- Part 2 primarily addresses the question of HOW local climate action can be achieved. What guiding principles should be borne in mind when developing climate action strategies in order to achieve both climate and sustainable development goals? Key focus areas are also highlighted here, which are subject to debate on all levels. This part aims to provide orientation for such discussions from the perspective of Climate Alliance members.

CONTACT

Thomas Brose
Executive Director, Climate Alliance
+49 69 7171 39 -31 | t.brose@climatealliance.org