What Is Net-Zero Carbon?

Simply put, net zero is a state in which the amount of greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere is equal to the amount removed from the atmosphere. Net zero is achieved through carbon reduction, offsetting, and removal.

WHY IS NET-ZERO CARBON IMPORTANT?

Net-zero carbon is important because climate change is widespread and intensifying (PDF, p. 8), and experts agree that the best way to tackle it is by reducing global warming.

In 2015, the Paris Agreement outlined an international framework to limit the rise in global temperatures to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, which would significantly limit the impacts of climate change. To meet this target, most experts agree, global carbon emissions must reach net zero by 2050. Nearly

While emissions-reduction strategies are a critical step in the path to net zero, they are not enough; getting there requires strategies that actively remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Carbon-removal methods include natural strategies such as forest restoration and soil management; high-tech strategies such as direct air capture and enhanced mineralization; and hybrid strategies such as ocean-based carbon removal.

In the built world, carbon removals can include capturing carbon coming out of a chimney stack, turning industrial emissions into building materials, and storing carbon in materials like concrete.

“The most excitils,

facilitate the reuse, the remanufacture, things such as that."

About the Author

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About the Article

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