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US states, cities and businesses keep US climate action on track

- *The US can already meet half its climate pledge by 2025 thanks to the unstoppable action of US states, cities and businesses*
- *New initial analysis released at Climate Week NYC today includes 342 commitments coming from 22 US states, 54 cities and 250 businesses headquartered in the US*
- *Because of their leadership and size, large states such as New York, California and Colorado are making the largest contribution to projected greenhouse gas reductions*
- *Cities are generally more ambitious and have crucial role in implementing greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets*
- *Businesses are setting the most ambitious GHG goals (25% reduction in the next ten years)*

NEW YORK: The impact from the US decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement could be significantly mitigated thanks to the determined action demonstrated by US states, cities and businesses – a new report shows.

Authored by NewClimate Institute and The Climate Group and powered by [CDP](#) data, [‘States, cities and businesses leading the way: a first look at decentralized climate commitments in the US’](#) shows that the US can already meet half of its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement by 2025, if the 342 commitments included in the analysis are implemented.

This report provides the first steps in helping to quantify the contribution of states, cities and business to reduce US greenhouse gas emissions. As more and more commitments emerge, further analysis will be undertaken within the [Initiative for Climate Action Transparency](#) (ICAT), where this work originated.

Launched today at the Climate Week NYC Opening Ceremony, **Helen Clarkson, Chief Executive Officer, The Climate Group, organizers of Climate Week NYC, said:**

“Today, we are highlighting the unstoppable force of action from business and government in tackling climate change, and how this can drive innovation, jobs and prosperity for all – our central theme for the week.

“This report reaffirms our belief that states, cities and business will not waiver in their climate commitment, regardless of the US Administration’s decision to withdraw from Paris. It shows us that climate action is not solely dependent on the actions of national government. US states, cities and businesses have the power to mitigate the consequences of the Paris pull out.

“Through our work with states and regions, we will continue to work with the Under2 Coalition as Secretariat, to drive the implementation of these goals, so that we can keep global warming well below 2°C.”

In the report, the analysis shows that because of their leadership and size, large states such as New York, California and Colorado are making the largest contribution to projected greenhouse gas reductions. In fact, US states alone deliver more than two thirds of the total estimated emissions reductions. However, cities are more ambitious (average of 22% GHG reduction between 2015 and 2025) and crucial for the implementation of specific actions. Businesses currently have the steepest targets, aiming for a 25% reduction in the next ten years.

“Strikingly, there are more reasons to believe that the calculated impact of states, cities and businesses in the report is currently underestimated rather than overestimated”, said **Prof. Dr. Niklas Höhne from NewClimate Institute**, one of the authors. “We only included currently recorded and quantified commitments and the actors represented in this report currently only represent 44% of total US emissions. Much more action is happening that is not yet recorded or formulated in a quantified way.”

For example, global climate initiatives, such as the [Under 2 Coalition](#), for which The Climate Group acts as Secretariat, and the organization’s [RE100](#) campaign have not yet been fully included in the study although they serve to support individual actors and subnational governments to take on more ambitious climate action, and report on progress.

California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr, said: “Cities, states and businesses are stepping up and taking action to reduce the threat of catastrophic climate change.”

Taking place between September 18-24 in New York City, Climate Week NYC is one of the key summits in the international calendar and has been driving climate action since it was first launched by The Climate Group in 2009. The summit annually takes place alongside the UN General Assembly and brings together international leaders from business, government and civil society to showcase the unstoppable momentum of global climate action. More about this year’s event can be found [here](#).

Other initiatives, including [America’s Pledge](#), are also planning to compile and quantify efforts from U.S. states, cities, businesses and other actors to address climate change in alignment with the Paris Agreement.

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Notes to editors

- The “Current administration policies” scenario does not consider the Clean Power Plan because it anticipates the plan’s suspension.
- The results presented here represent a collective intent of selected subnational governments, states and cities which may not necessarily happen.
- The current analysis only covers a selected set of actions; the analysis results could change over time as more subnational and non-state actors commit to quantifiable mitigation pledges and more relevant data are collected.
- The study covers 342 subnational and non-state actions by individual actors – of which 22 are from states, 58 from cities and 262 from companies headquartered in the US. If every commitment by states, cities and companies is fully implemented, then the US greenhouse gas emissions level will reduce to 12-14% below 2005 levels by 2025. This amounts to 340-540 MtCO₂e per year reduction from the current administration policies scenario.

About the NewClimate Institute

The NewClimate Institute supports research and implementation of action against climate change around the globe. We generate and share knowledge on international climate negotiations, tracking climate action, climate and development, climate finance and carbon market mechanisms. We connect up-to-date research with the real world decision making processes, making it possible to increase ambition in acting against climate change and contribute to finding sustainable and equitable solutions.

We are committed to delivering high quality results and workable solutions to the public and decision makers. We apply research-oriented, robust approaches, responding to on-the-ground realities. We seek to enhance and foster knowledge sharing and exchange with other institutions and individuals around the globe.

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About The Climate Group

The Climate Group works internationally with leading businesses, states and regions to deliver a world of net zero greenhouse gas emissions and greater prosperity for all. We are at the forefront of ambitious climate action. Our focus is on [collaborative programs](#) with [corporate](#) and [government](#) partners that deliver impact on a global scale. The Climate Group stimulates action by businesses, states and regions, bringing them together to develop and implement the policies that make change happen. We also communicate their achievements to secure global public acceptance of, and even greater ambition for, a prosperous, net-zero future for all. The Climate Group is an international non-profit with offices in Beijing, London, New Delhi and New York.

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About Climate Week

[Climate Week NYC](#) is one of the key summits in the international calendar and has been driving climate action forward since it was first launched in 2009 by The Climate Group. Taking place between September 18-24 in New York City alongside the UN General Assembly, Climate Week NYC 2017 will bring together international leaders from business, government and civil society to showcase the unstoppable momentum of global climate action.

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