
PACT:

Activating SMEs x CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

The signatories of this Pact recognize that mobilising and supporting the decarbonization of SMEs is fundamental to achieve the goal of zero net emissions in Spain and Europe by 2050, while ensuring a just and a stable transition of the economy and employment. This transformation towards a more efficient, low-emission business model in tune with our ecosystem will also be key to strengthening the competitiveness of Spanish SMEs and their resilience in the face of future energy, economic and climate crises.

SMEs contribute 62% of Spain's gross value added, generate 65% of employment and account for 99.8% of the business fabric (almost 3 million companies). It is also estimated that 50% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Spain comes from the activities of these companies.

Therefore, the challenge to be addressed is the following: to contribute to the decarbonization of the Spanish economy in line with scientific recommendations, **SMEs have to develop a climate action plan that allows them to reduce 50% of their emissions by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 (i.e. a minimum of 90% reduction). Calculating the carbon footprint of all their activities will be the first step to establish a feasible and effective trajectory, the progress of which needs to be disclosed annually to make these efforts visible and increase the transparency of the entire SME value chain.**

The cases of leading Spanish SMEs in climate action demonstrate the economic benefits of an advanced ecological transition.¹ These include potential cost reductions and productivity gains, improvements in company reputation and new business opportunities arising from a growing global demand for sustainable products and services.

The Pact signatories see in the examples of these leaders a manifestation of the growing interest among Spanish SMEs to achieve effective and structural climate action that also ensures their energy security. SMEs see the risks of climate change and rising energy bills due to dependence on fossil fuels, recognize the importance of acting against the climate crisis, and want to join global efforts in this transition in order to take advantage of the economic opportunities it offers.²

While a significant share of SMEs have started to act in some areas of decarbonization, most face barriers such as lack of finance and knowledge that make it difficult to deepen these efforts.³ Their climate ambition is therefore accompanied by a latent demand for tools and other resources to simplify the development and implementation of climate action plans. Small and medium-sized enterprises need to be supported in addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities presented by decarbonization. In addition, the impulse given to small and medium-sized enterprises must be accompanied by the driving role of large enterprises and the facilitating role of the administration.⁴ **In view of these obstacles that prevent SMEs from seizing the opportunities of the green transition, the signatories have identified the need for joint and coordinated support from their closest stakeholders to accelerate and scale up their decarbonization efforts.**

¹ See case studies in Climate Strategy. 2022. Mobilising SMEs in the face of the Climate and Energy Crisis. Available at https://www.climatestrategy.com/es/informe_24.php

² According to Climate Strategy 2022 survey: https://www.climatestrategy.com/es/informe_24.php

³ According to Climate Strategy 2022 survey: https://www.climatestrategy.com/es/informe_24.php

⁴ According to the report "MEDIUM-SIZE COMPANIES AND DECARBONIZATION". The role of medium-sized companies in the ambitious goal of decarbonization in Spain. Published by the EJECON Sustainability Forum.

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The Activating SMEs x CLIMATE and RESILIENCE Pact seeks to build a local and sectoral climate support network involving regional and national business platforms, civil society organisations, financial institutions, large companies and associations of consultants and accountants. Pact members commit to accompany SMEs within their community, their value chain, or their client portfolio, throughout their climate transition.

The platforms and chambers of commerce involved in this Pact are committed to promote one of the following actions:

1. **Drive climate action:** inform SMEs about the opportunities and benefits of climate action for their business, and promote their participation in public and private decarbonization initiatives (including the SME Climate Hub as a benchmarking initiative for the UN Race to Zero).
 2. **Provide technical assistance:** organise training and support sessions for SMEs focusing on both the elaboration of emission reduction targets and climate action plans, and the identification and implementation of key decarbonization actions.
 3. **Facilitate access to tools:** create a communication campaign of free tools and other training and capacity building resources targeted at SMEs to support the development and implementation of emission reduction targets and climate action plans.
 4. **Identify financing opportunities:** Map and communicate sustainable financing opportunities (public or private) for SMEs.
 5. **Promote collaboration with stakeholders:** plan dialogues between SMEs, public administration (local and/or national), large companies, financial institutions, associations of accountants and SME advisors and other key local actors to foster the exchange of good climate practices and the development of new local and sectoral alliances and decarbonization solutions.
 6. **Support the creation of smart policies:** maintain open channels of communication and collaboration with public administrations, local and/or national, to explore and promote smart policies that accelerate climate action in SMEs while simplifying and empowering this process through the provision of tools and resources.
 7. **Monitor and make progress visible:** establish structures to measure, recognize and make visible the progress of those SMEs that are leading on climate action and on carbon emissions' reduction at the local or national level.
 8. **Ensure continuous improvement:** Pact signatories will annually evaluate its design, objectives and results to identify the possible improvements and key areas that require additional attention and support to achieve its long-term effectiveness.
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Summary of signatories' commitments for 2024:

22 business platforms, trade unions, professional and civil society organisations, schools and news outlets have signed the Activating SMEs x CLIMATE and RESILIENCE Pact. The organisations participating under Level 1 have committed to **more than 160 climate support actions by 2024 that can benefit more than 40,000 SMEs**.

Firstly, the signatories have committed to **more than 60 communication campaigns** targeting SMEs to call for climate action. These campaigns will seek to disseminate tools to help them develop decarbonization plans based on scientific recommendations and funding opportunities to implement them.

The signatories have also committed to organise **more than 30 training sessions and workshops** to train SMEs on how to develop a climate action plan. They will also launch at least **16 sustainability programmes, technical assistance services or permanent databases** to support SMEs in this mission.

Finally, at least **20 public communications or dialogues** will be launched together **with public administration, large companies, financial institutions and accountants' associations**. These collaborations will explore how to strengthen the coordination between all these actors in their climate support activities for SMEs and to foster the creation of smart policies that empower them in their green transition.

The organisations that have joined the Pact are divided into two levels of commitment:

- **Level 1: business platforms and entities in contact with SMEs**
 - B Lab Spain
 - Chamber of Commerce of Cantabria
 - Spanish International Chamber of Commerce
 - National Workers' Commissions (Comisiones Obreras-CCOO)
 - Responsible and Sustainable Companies Club of the Valencian Community (CE/R+S)
 - Asturian Quality Club
 - ECODES
 - Ecoembes
 - New Economy and Social Innovation Forum (NESI)
 - CONAMA Foundation
 - Spanish Green Growth Group (GECV)
 - General Union of Workers (Unión General de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores-UGT)
 - Union of Professionals and Self-Employed Workers (UPTA)
 - Youth Business Spain
- **Level 2: organisations supporting the dissemination of the Pact**
 - Higher Council of the Spanish Architects' Associations (CSCAE)
 - Climate Strategy & Partners
 - Eco-union
 - National School of Industrial Organisation (Escuela de Organización Industrial-EOI)
 - Corresponsables News Outlet
 - Fundaciones x El Clima
 - Renewables Foundation
 - Talento para el Futuro (youth association)

