

Criteria Consultation 2022

Context

To help accelerate meaningful progress towards halving global emissions by 2030, and to ensure the integrity of the campaign, Race to Zero established a minimum floor for robust net zero commitments, introducing the [Starting Line Criteria](#) (known as the 4 P's, requiring members to Pledge, Plan, Proceed and Publish, as well as conditions on scope, sinks and credits, and equity and empowerment). All members are managed by their relevant [Partner initiative](#) to meet these criteria.

Race to Zero has committed to annually strengthen, clarify and update its criteria documents (including the interpretation guide and lexicon ([last updated April 2021](#)) - a process supported by the [Expert Peer Review Group](#) - to continue driving upward convergence toward the continually evolving frontier of best practice around net zero targets.

Looking ahead

In outlining their plans for the future of the Race to Zero, the Champions committed to consolidating guidance and requirements around the existing 4 'P's and considering introducing new guidance or requirements on a fifth 'P' of Persuade.

Over the course of Q1 2022, the Climate Champions and the Expert Peer Review Group, will therefore repeat this process of strengthening and clarifying the minimum criteria, interpretation guides and lexicon, with a particular focus on specific topics requiring further attention.

The consultation process will involve deep-dives on central topics, alongside general, written feedback. The Champions will strive to ensure diversity, transparency and widespread collaboration throughout the process.

Support & accountability

Alongside this criteria consultation process, the Climate Champions have commissioned the establishment of an independent compliance mechanism which will aim to target support to Race to Zero members where needed, and help hold them accountable to the commitments based on these strengthened and enhanced criteria.

I/ PROCESS

- **Opening session** [24 January]

On Monday 24 January 2022, the Climate Champions and the Expert Peer Review Group ("EPRG") will convene a public session to kick off the criteria consultation process for 2022. This session will welcome all participants to an online webinar, which will be recorded.

The session will outline the key topics for discussion, explain the process, and will invite attendees to actively participate and engage other stakeholders to contribute to the consultation. The lexicon and interpretation guide will also be presented for further updates.

- **Working group discussions** [January - March]

Following the opening session, the Climate Champions and the EPRG will invite working groups with relevant and diverse expert representatives to discuss specific topics (see list below) relating to the strengthening & review of the existing campaign criteria documents.

Working groups will be composed of 5-15 individuals, based on these [Terms of Reference](#).

These working groups will meet regularly over the period of 6-8 weeks in order to draft suggestions for strengthening or clarifying the criteria around their particular topic.

Each working group will conclude its work by submitting a template document to the Climate Champions and to the EPRG with suggested amendments to the criteria documents. These

suggestions will be published on the Race to Zero website, but will be considered as draft documents rather than approved criteria. The final criteria documents will be published by the Climate Champions at the end of the process.

- **Closing session** [March]

The Climate Champions and the EPRG will host a public working session in early March to present findings from each of the working group discussions, open those findings up to public discussion, and launch a written, 4-week feedback process. Feedback will be welcomed on the suggested amendments to the criteria produced by each of the working groups, as well as any other comments for enhancing the criteria.

- **Open written feedback** [March - April]

For this written, public feedback process, the Climate Champions and the EPRG will proactively target under-represented regions and key stakeholder groups in their request for feedback into the public consultation on the minimum criteria, interpretation guide and lexicon.

- **Outcomes & impact for Race to Zero Partners and members** [April - June]

In early April 2022, the Climate Champions team and the EPRG, supported by the University of Oxford, will review the feedback and consolidate the criteria based on the working group discussions and the written input.

The strengthened and enhanced criteria, interpretation guide and lexicon will be published in mid-April, to come into force on 1 June 2022. As per the Champions' commitment, these criteria, interpretation guide and lexicon will then be reviewed again in 2023.

The process will be owned by the Climate Champions in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat and the EPRG. The EPRG will offer guidance in the discussions, and the drafting of the criteria amendments will be supported by the University of Oxford in a Secretariat capacity.

II/ TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The topics below for discussion have been identified as priority topics through discussions with the Expert Peer Review Group, Race to Zero Partners and Civil Society Organisations, in large part highlighted through the Public Consultation on the Future of Race to Zero. These topics have been divided into three categories:

Category 1: Discussions on these topics are already underway in various forums. Race to Zero is committed to not duplicating existing or ongoing work, and will therefore engage in these existing conversations to harvest ideas for strengthening the criteria, interpretation guide and lexicon. The discussions of these working groups will therefore be geared towards integrating the content of these discussions into Race to Zero criteria, rather than launching separate, new discussions on these topics.

Category 2: Working Groups in this category will initiate discussions on these topics, with the intention of (i) strengthening / enhancing the existing minimum starting line criteria; (ii) introducing a new criterion as a part of the existing minimum criteria; and / or (iii) deciding whether to establish "leadership" guidance around this topic.

Category 3: Race to Zero will create space for deeper discussions to take place, with a view toward introducing relevant criteria amendments in the future. Working Groups may be engaged for a longer period of time to flesh out these conversations.

Topic	Category
Net zero finance and disclosure of climate-related risks	Category 1
Scope 3, boundaries & historical emissions (Service providers, Advertising, Media etc)	Category 2
Nature, land use & deforestation	Category 2
Offsetting, Carbon removals and responsible communication of claims	Category 1
Fair share, equity & justice	Category 3
Transition plans & immediate actions to proceed towards commitments	Category 2

Policy, advocacy & engagement	Category 2
Fossil Fuel transition & other non-CO2 gases	Category 3

III/ QUESTIONS

Each working group is asked to focus their discussions on the questions below. Where relevant, working groups are invited to include further comments or suggested amendments beyond these specific questions. Working groups are asked to bear in mind the multitude of different actor types in the campaign when discussing how to strengthen and enhance the minimum criteria and to therefore consider how the criteria may be implemented by each actor type.

1. How, if at all, is this topic currently reflected in the Race to Zero starting line criteria, lexicon, and interpretation guide? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current starting line criteria approach?
2. In practice, is this topic addressed consistently across the various Race to Zero partners? What different approaches can be seen? To what extent can a frontier of best practice(s) be defined?
3. How can Race to Zero best address this topic in its minimum criteria (the floor below which members may not fall)?
4. How should Race to Zero encourage leadership on this issue (the stretch goals which members should aim for)? Where do we see inspiring examples of leadership? What guidance can it provide to Partners for driving upward convergence?
5. How could Race to Zero and its Partners expect these strengthened and enhanced criteria to be operationalised by members? Expectations should include indications of timeline, metrics for reporting etc.
6. What prevents entities from making greater progress on this issue? What would address those barriers? As required, give separate answers for cities, regions, companies, financial, healthcare and educational institutions, and other Race to Zero actor-types).
7. Any other comments