In the spotlight



The heat is on: Novozymes' ambitious climate commitments

To tackle climate change, the world needs to limit the increase in global warming to 1.5°C. Novozymes is committed to doing its part and helping the world reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.

B uilding on a decade of climate action Novozymes has been engaged in climate issues for more than a decade. We work with our stakeholders to enable the transition to a low carbon economy. We were one of the very first companies to document the carbon footprints of our products and demonstrate how biological solutions can enable customers to reduce emissions.

On the operational side, we have successfully decoupled growth from emissions. Since 2010, we have grown our revenue by 48%, while absolute emissions from Novozymes' operations have risen only 6%. When the world reached a landmark agreement in Paris in 2015, Novozymes hailed global leaders for taking the first step towards a low-carbon future and recognizing the crucial role the private sector plays in this transition. We are committed to helping the world achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement by providing low-carbon, biological solutions, while also reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report stating that to avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate impacts, we need to limit the increase in global warming to 1.5°C. This means the world needs to drastically accelerate climate action.

In September 2019, at the U.N. Climate Action Summit, Novozymes announced new ambitious climate commitments. Novozymes' President and CEO Peder Holk Nielsen said "UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asked companies to come up with plans – not just speeches; here is one of the first, validated, and science-based commitments – backed up by a robust plan for action."

Stamp of approval

By 2030, Novozymes will reduce absolute CO_2 emissions from its operations by 50% compared to a 2018 baseline, on our way to becoming carbon neutral in 2050.

This target has been validated by the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as being in line with a 1.5°C pathway. SBTi is a collaboration between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), World Resources Institute (WRI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). SBTi has established a comprehensive verification process which considers a company's industry profile, its historical emissions and the latest climate models.

More action, fewer speeches

Our new climate commitments are the culmination of months of effort by our engineers, production teams and experts to define a detailed roadmap for climate action. In addition to investing in energy efficiency projects and sourcing 100% renewable electricity, we will also explore opportunities to generate energy from waste streams for use in our operations and to share with our local communities.

Novozymes' impact goes beyond its production alone, and the company must account for emissions that occur outside its operational boundaries. We will monitor emissions across the value chain and work with our suppliers to reduce emissions from key raw materials. By 2030, we aim to reduce absolute CO₂ emissions from purchased goods and services by 15%, compared to a 2018 baseline.

"This is not about Novozymes and one company only; we want to inspire others across our value chain to follow suit – and transparency is key" – Peder Holk Nielsen.

In many geographies, Novozymes actively supports policies to promote the use of sustainable, low carbon fuels. Transportation accounts for about 25% of total energyrelated global CO_2 emissions – and to limit its contribution to the increase in global warming, this sector will require a range of solutions, including low-carbon fuels. We have set a target to help the transport sector save 60 million tons of CO_2 emissions in 2022 by enabling the production of bio-based, low-carbon fuels.