

## COAL EXIT BY 2040 TO KEEP CLIMATE GOALS WITHIN REACH - REPORT

**New York, 23 September 2019** - Governments need to ensure that global carbon emissions from coal-fired power stations peak next year, and that they eliminate coal from electricity generation by 2040 in order to keep climate change within the internationally agreed limits, according to a new report from Climate Analytics.

In 2015, governments pledged in the Paris Agreement to attempt to keep global warming since pre-industrial times to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Science shows that phasing out coal, the most polluting fossil fuel, is essential to achieving that goal.

Previous analyses gave a global phase-out date of 2050. New and updated science on what is needed to meet the Paris Agreement 1.5°C limit shows that governments now need to advance the date by a decade. The analysis confirms that developed nations need to phase-out coal faster than the rest of the world - by 2030.

With investors increasingly wary of putting money into coal, the global pipeline of new coal-fired power stations has fallen by 75% since 2015. Ahead of the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September, UN Secretary-General Guterres called on governments to go further, and stop the approval of new coal power plants entirely by 2020.

But the new analysis shows cancelling new projects is no longer sufficient. The lack of progress means that the reductions in coal use in the electricity sector in the next decade will need to be very steep.

“We’ve seen some progress since 2015, from announcements of national coal phase-out plans to ever more investors and banks limiting financing for coal,” said report author Paola Yanguas Parra, who leads the work on decarbonisation strategies at Climate Analytics.

“However, while cancelling coal plans is a step in the right direction, as it will reduce the risk of stranded assets, governments now need to introduce effective regulation to shut down coal power plants well before the end of their technical lifetime and considerably reduce their use in the meantime,” said Yanguas Parra.

Two factors lead to the advance of the coal phase-out date. One is that governments have not tackled coal use adequately since the Paris Summit. The other is that last year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change gave a much clearer picture than was available in 2015 of how fast emissions need to fall in order to stay below the 1.5°C limit.

This leads to four key dates:

- Global coal emissions should peak in 2020;
- Global coal use in electricity generation must fall by 80% below 2010 levels by 2030;
- OECD nations should end coal use entirely by 2030;
- All coal-fired power stations must be shut by 2040 at the latest.

Governments have an opportunity to turn this analysis into national commitments over the course of next year, during which they are due to review and strengthen the pledges (the nationally-determined contributions or NDCs) that they originally made for the Paris Agreement.

PRESS RELEASE

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“UN Secretary-General Guterres is absolutely right to focus his climate action summit on coal, because rapid coal phase-out is the single most important step to keep the objectives of the Paris Agreement within reach,” said Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics and co-author of the report.

“It is critical that governments scale up their NDCs by 2020, as laid out in the Paris Agreement. These significantly stronger pledges must include clear commitments to phase out coal, remove subsidies for fossil fuels, and build support for renewables and energy efficiency.”

ENDS

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE REPORT

[https://climateanalytics.org/media/key\\_messages\\_coal\\_ca\\_nycw.pdf](https://climateanalytics.org/media/key_messages_coal_ca_nycw.pdf)

REPORT (will be available under the link below on Sunday 22 September)

[Coal phase-out: Insights from the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C and global trends since 2015](#)

EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

**Bill Hare**, CEO and Senior Scientist, Climate Analytics (Germany until 20.09, then New York)

[bill.hare@climateanalytics.org](mailto:bill.hare@climateanalytics.org) / +49 160 90862463

**Paola Yanguas Parra**, Decarbonisation Strategies Lead, Climate Analytics (New York from 21.09)

[Paola.parra@climateanalytics.org](mailto:Paola.parra@climateanalytics.org) / +49 157 828757000

*Press officer: Ela Smith / [ela.smith@climateanalytics.org](mailto:ela.smith@climateanalytics.org) / +49 152 56124061*

#### **About Climate Analytics**

Climate Analytics is a non-profit organisation based in Berlin, Germany, with offices in Lomé, Togo, New York, USA and Perth, Australia, that brings together inter-disciplinary expertise in the scientific and policy aspects of climate change. Its activities include: synthesising and advancing scientific knowledge in the area of climate change science, policy and impacts; providing science and policy support to the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in international climate negotiations, and the tracking and analysing the effectiveness of national climate policies globally. Climate Analytics undertakes extensive analysis in the context of the 1.5°C limit in the Paris Agreement.