

SINGAPORE'S NEW EMISSION REDUCTION TARGET: 45 MILLION TONNES WITHIN TEN YEARS

Lianhe Zaobao, 10 February 2025

Translation by APCEL



On Monday (February 10), Singapore submitted its 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), setting a target to reduce carbon emissions to between 45 million and 50 million tonnes by 2035. *(Photo by Xiao Ziwei)*

Singapore has set a stricter emission reduction target, aiming for greenhouse gas emissions to peak in 2028 before decreasing from 64.43 million tonnes that year to a range of 45 million to 50 million tonnes by 2035.

On Monday (February 10), Singapore submitted its 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), disclosing for the first time its emission reduction levels for 2035.

The report reaffirmed Singapore's proactive response to the call made during the first Global Stocktake, which seeks to triple global renewable energy generation capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030.

The 2015 Paris Agreement established the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, ideally within 1.5°C. Article 4(2) of the agreement requires each party to prepare, communicate, and maintain its nationally determined contribution while taking domestic mitigation measures to meet its commitments.

Singapore last updated its NDC in 2022, setting a target to peak carbon emissions before 2030 and reduce emissions to 60 million tonnes by then. Singapore has also pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Singapore Climate Targets

Year	Emission Reduction Targets	Compared to 1990 Emissions (21 million tonnes)*	Compared to 2010 Emissions (46.3 million tonnes)*	Greenhouse Gases Included
2015	By 2030, reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 36% from 2005 levels (approximately 68 million tonnes)	+223%	+47%	CO ₂ , Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, Sulfur Hexafluoride
2020	By 2030, peak carbon emissions at 65 million tonnes per year	+210%	+40%	CO ₂ , Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, Sulfur Hexafluoride, Nitrogen Trifluoride
2022 (Committed to Net-Zero by 2050)	By 2030, peak carbon emissions and reduce emissions to 60 million tonnes	+187%	+30%	
2025	By 2035, reduce carbon emissions to between 45 million and 50 million tonnes	+114% to +138%	-2.8% to +8%	



*Land use, land-use change, and forestry are not included in the considerations.
Chart: He Hanchong
Photography: Zhang Junjie
Source: Singapore’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Non-Profit Research Organization "Climate Action Tracker"

National Climate Change Secretariat: New Target Signals Commitment to Decarbonization for Businesses

On Monday, the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) under the Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement affirming that the 2035 NDC reflects Singapore’s commitment to climate action while acknowledging significant uncertainties in the decarbonization process.

By setting a lower emissions limit of 45 million tonnes, Singapore aims to align with international expectations and remain on track to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

The NCCS reiterated that the new target also sends a strong signal to businesses, demonstrating Singapore's dedication to decarbonization and aiming to attract and stimulate new economic opportunities in a low-carbon future.

Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security, Teo Chee Hean, who also chairs the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change, is expected to further elaborate on Singapore's climate action strategy during the Committee of Supply debates in Parliament in March.



According to Singapore's Biennial Transparency Report, submitted to the United Nations in November last year, the country's greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 reached 58.59 million tonnes, representing a 13% increase compared to 51.59 million tonnes in 2013.

Singapore's emission reduction plan aims for greenhouse gas emissions to peak in 2028, before gradually declining to 62.51 million tonnes by 2030. *(Photo by Zhang Junjie)*

Experts' View: Singapore's Climate Report is Comprehensive

Associate Professor Jolene Lin, Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS), stated in an interview with Lianhe Zaobao that Singapore has provided a comprehensive overview of its multi-faceted approach to

decarbonization, covering initiatives ranging from the development of low-carbon hydrogen energy to reducing transportation emissions.

She further noted that Singapore's earlier strategy primarily relied on domestic carbon reduction policies while encouraging carbon trading where possible. However, this time, the report explicitly highlights carbon trading as a key mechanism for achieving emissions reduction targets.

"Singapore made significant progress as a co-chair of the Ministerial Consultation on Carbon Markets at last year's climate summit, and this plays a crucial role in our country's current plan to achieve its targets through carbon trading," she explained.

Bill Hare, CEO of the international climate science and policy research organization Climate Analytics, acknowledged that Singapore's new decarbonization commitment is more ambitious compared to its 2030 NDC. However, he cautioned that "if the goal is to limit global warming to 1.5°C, this target is still insufficient."

Under the Paris Agreement, NDCs must be updated every five years, with the current submission deadline set for February 2025. As of February 10, only 12 countries have updated their commitments, accounting for less than 10% of all parties to the agreement.

Despite this, Professor Jolene Lin remains optimistic, emphasizing that the process of drafting and finalizing an NDC is complex. She believes that countries that have yet to update their commitments may simply require more time.

"What I hope is that other nations will not feel discouraged or stagnate in their climate efforts simply because of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, or due to some countries considering following suit," she added.