

# REACH Public Consultation on Singapore's Climate Ambition

5 - 26 September 2022

Respondent Name: Song Lin

**1 Singapore has stated that we intend to achieve net zero emissions by or around mid-century. Reaching net zero emissions by 2050 is:**

- (a) Just right
- (b) Too ambitious
- (c) Not sufficiently ambitious

**Answer: (a) Just right**

**1.1 [If answered (b) or (c) above] What is a suitable year to reach net zero?**

- (a) Not Sure
- (b) 2030-2039
- (c) 2040-2049
- (d) 2050-2059
- (e) 2060-2069
- (f) Beyond 2070

**Answer: -**

**1.2 Please feel free to provide your thoughts on what makes a suitable net zero year.**

NIL

**2 Should we enhance Singapore's 2030 NDC which currently pledges to peak emissions at 65 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e around 2030?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Neutral/ Maybe/ Not sure

**Answer: Yes**

**3 What should our 2030 NDC ambition be and why? (Refer to Paras 3 - 4 of Consultation Document)**

Yes we should enhance Singapore's 2030 NDC to at least halve Singapore's domestic emissions from 2019 base year.

**4 What can the Government do to support Singapore's transition to a low carbon future?**

1. Stop emphasising Singapore's constraints (e.g., small size, lack of land, lack of renewable sources) in climate narratives and start inspiring and motivating the Singapore society to overcome these barriers through technological, systemic and policy innovations. Lack of land and natural resources never stopped Singapore from aspiring to become an advanced economy with a world-leading petrochemical hub, why should it limit our ambition to become a global leader in climate actions?

2. Consider adopting a legislation on climate change with a legally-binding net zero by 2050 targets, similar to UK's Climate Change Act of 2008. The legislation should also establish a process where an independent advisory body consisting of scientific and technical experts would periodically review Singapore's progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement goal, and advise the government on an annual or 5-year carbon budget based on the latest climate science.

3. Clarify the role "high quality international carbon credits" (including those under Paris Agreement's Article 6 mechanism) would play in Singapore's decarbonisation journey. Establish clear limits and standards for these carbon credits to ensure they represent real, additional and permanent removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

4. Closely collaborate with regional and international partners to scale low-carbon technologies, including through direct investments and facilitating direct investment by Singapore companies. These investments and projects should have equitable benefit sharing arrangements that closely bind all parties' climate interests.

5. Support low-income communities by taxing the rich (individuals and corporates) and use cash subsidies to defray transition costs of necessities (utility, food, transportation)

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**5 What can businesses and industries do to support Singapore's transition to a low carbon future?**

1. Accept a smaller profit for shareholders and shoulder the transition cost with individuals and government.
2. Incorporate a carbon cost (equal to or higher than the prevailing carbon tax) in the financial analysis of all investment decisions.

**6 What can individuals and communities do to support Singapore's transition to a low carbon future?**

1. Have open and honest conversations with people in our social circles about the extreme social inequity of climate change and the need for urgent and transformative climate actions. Encourage individuals and organise communities to advocate for systemic changes.
2. Actively participate in public consultations and dialogue sessions with the government to demand stronger climate actions where appropriate. Speak up whenever and wherever we can (at home, at work, in school, or in public).
3. Call out greenwashing where we see it.
4. Consume less and consume consciously after considering the climate impact of our purchases.

**7 While there may be trade-offs or inconveniences, I am willing to contribute / play my part in helping Singapore realise its net zero ambition.**

- (a) Strongly Agree
- (b) Neutral
- (c) Agree
- (d) Strongly Disagree
- (e) Disagree

**Answer: Strongly Agree**

**8 Do you have any other thoughts on Singapore's climate ambition that you wish to share?**

Singapore has managed to achieve many seemingly impossible transformations when the society sets its collective mind to them. Achieving Paris Agreement goals might be the most difficult transformation for us, but if we want to make it happen, we will.

Many of Singapore's national policies on energy and water come from a place of deep distrust and anxiety about our place in this world. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the escalating geopolitical tensions in Asia-Pacific may deepen this sense of distrust and anxiety, but climate change will always be our shared destiny, for all humanity. At this moment of "red alert", I think we may need a somewhat naive sense of idealism and optimism to trust our fellow human beings more, and renew our determination to build a better future together.