

# COP26 - 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference

## Overview

Between 1-12 November 2021, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. The decision-making body of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the COP has been held annually since 1995 in Berlin and has been influential in shaping global policy on tackling climate change, including the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the 2015 Paris Agreement. Now, five years on from the signing of the Paris Agreement, the COP26 summit will be critical in measuring the progress made tackling the climate emergency, demonstrating that "green" economic stimulus packages represent the most efficient way to enable the global economy to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst continuing to establish a framework for limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

Other key issues to be discussed at COP26 will be the development of carbon market mechanisms allowing countries to purchase and trade carbon credits, and how developed nations will deliver on the US\$100 billion climate finance commitment made to developing countries. All of this will take place against the backdrop of the ongoing shift towards ESG issues, stakeholder capitalism and the race to net-zero carbon emissions.

## The Climate Change team at Dentons offer:

- **Global climate change expertise** – we have been advising clients on climate change issues since the earliest days of the carbon markets, helping them to navigate the opportunities and challenges that climate change offers to their business. We work across all aspects of the carbon markets, including voluntary and compliance markets, regularly advising on the Clean Development Mechanism, Gold Standard and Voluntary Carbon Standard. We were awarded an Innovation Award by the American Carbon Registry for our development of a new offset methodology. Our experience includes drafting national carbon trading regulatory regimes, as well as legal crisis response management resulting from the impacts of climate change. We have been involved in pathfinder projects at the forefront of climate change solutions, such as advising on carbon capture and storage (CCUS), the nascent green hydrogen sector and cross-border carbon offsetting.
- **A carbon neutral law firm which "walks the walk"** – we are proud that our UK and Middle East region was one of the first law firms to be certified as carbon neutral. We aim to reduce our energy usage, waste production and travel year on year, and we purchase offsets to offset the emissions we cannot eliminate completely. Through our offsets, we support a water infrastructure project in the Kaliro District of Uganda, ultimately saving more than 10,000 tonnes of wood fuel from being burned to boil water. We are constantly looking to use renewable energy sources and decrease energy usage across our UK real estate footprint (for example, reducing gas usage in our London office by 52% through intelligent usage and maintenance).
- **A 150-year history in Glasgow** – Founded in 1871, our predecessor firm Maclay Murray and Spens has been supporting businesses in Glasgow for almost 150 years. Our central location on George Square means that our offices will be at the heart of the action. Glasgow was recently voted the friendliest city in the world and our office and staff are proud to welcome the summit and to contribute to its success. Glasgow is committed to being the UK's first Net Zero city and we are working collaboratively with the local community, business, government and academia in helping to set the net zero carbon agenda and to deliver on this ambitious roadmap.

## Your Key Contacts

## Global



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