



GUIDELINES - TARGETS

All local governments and cities are required to set and report citywide emissions reduction targets. There are eight types of requirements for target setting, as explained below.

Local governments **shall** submit their greenhouse gas emissions reduction target(s) to GCoM within two years upon joining GCoM.

(1) Boundary (geographic coverage, sectors, and GHGs)

- The target boundary **shall** be consistent with all emissions sources included in the GHG emissions inventory.
- It's possible to exclude sources that are not controlled by the local government.
- Any emissions that are either included or excluded from the targets that are present in the emission inventory, must be specified and the reasons for this inclusion/exclusion must be justified¹.
- Local government are recommended to report any sector-level targets alongside their citywide target(s).

(2) Target type

Local governments **can** use one of the following four target types:

- **Base year emissions target:** Reduction of emission by a specified quantity relative to a base year. For example - a 25% reduction from 1990 levels by 2030.
- **Base year intensity target:** Reduce emissions intensity (emissions per unit of output, typically GDP or capital Gross Domestic Product – GDP or per capita) by a specified quantity relative to a base year. For example, a 40% reduction from a 1990 base year intensity by 2030.
- **Baseline scenario target:** Reduce emissions by a specified quantity relative to a projected emissions baseline scenario. A Business as Usual (BaU) baseline scenario is a reference case that represents future emissions most likely to

¹ All exclusions **shall** be indicated by the notation key “Included Elsewhere” (IE).

occur in the absence of activities taken to address climate change. For example, a 30% reduction from baseline scenario emissions in 2030.

- **Fixed-level target:** Reduce, or control the increase of, emissions to an absolute emissions level in a target year. One type of fixed-level target is a carbon neutrality target, which is designed to reach zero net emissions by a certain date (e.g. 2050).

(3) Target year

The target year **shall** be the same as, or later than, the target year adopted in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) or as set by Regional/National Covenants. Cities that set a target year beyond 2030 **must** also include an interim target between now and 2030.

If the NDC target is before 2030, cities **should** additionally set a target for 2030.

(4) Base year (only for base year emissions target and base year intensity target)

The base year should be the same as the base year used in the NDC or as set by Regional/National Covenants. Where the base year is different from the NDC (e.g. where a city has previously adopted another base year or due to a lack of data availability), this **shall** be explained.

(5) Ambition

At a minimum, the target **shall** be as ambitious as the unconditional components of the National Determined Commitment. Local governments **should** set targets that are more ambitious than the NDC.

When a national government increases their NDC, local governments have a maximum of five years to ensure their target remains as ambitious as the unconditional components of the NDC.

Where target (and base/scenario) years are different between the local government and NDC, GCoM will apply linear interpolation to both targets to determine whether the above requirement is met.

(6) Units

- Targets **shall** be reported as a percentage reduction from the base year or scenario year (for base year emissions, base year intensity and baseline scenario targets).
- The absolute emissions in the target year(s) in metric tonnes CO₂e **will** also be reported for all target types.

If possible, the same approach should be chosen as is the case for the NDC target.

(7) Use of transferable emissions

The use of transferable emission credits (emissions offsets) is only permissible when a local government's target ambition exceeds the unconditional components of the NDC. Where this is the case, the local government **shall** report the target, with and without the transferable emissions units, as well as identify the source of the transferable emissions units.

(8) Conditionality

The use of conditional components is only permissible when a local government's target ambition exceeds the unconditional components of the NDC.

Any conditional components included in the target **shall** be identified and, where possible, the conditional components **should** also be quantified.

Conditional components include where cities set a stretch target, or where actions are identified for other key stakeholders beyond that which they have committed to themselves.