



Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism

A plan for climate action

When well-managed, tourism can drive sustainable development and contribute to climate adaptation, reducing the negative social, economic and environmental impacts of travel, tourism and hospitality and amplifying the benefits for tourists, operators and, most importantly, host communities.

Although experience during the COVID-19 pandemic showed how much can be achieved remotely through online channels, providing advisory and consultancy services to tourism stakeholders around the world still requires extensive travel and fieldwork, especially in those parts of the world that are the most socially and economically disadvantaged and have limited connectivity.

Climate Action in Tourism involves change. A year ago, the Glasgow Declaration identified five pathways to achieve the necessary change:

- ✓ Measure
- ✓ Decarbonise
- ✓ Regenerate
- ✓ Collaborate
- ✓ Finance

Since the Glasgow Declaration on 4 November 2021, Carey Tourism (CT) has been formulating and adopting a range of actions to reflect the changes necessary to advance climate action in tourism.

1. Measure

1.1 Measuring the impact of tourism on the climate is difficult, and the environmental impact of advisory work even more so. This pathway is therefore the most likely to evolve over time, but some simple annual measurements can be established.

1.1.1 CT will measure the number of domestic and international flights staff take in 2022 and beyond, compared to the pre-COVID level (2019). These numbers should progressively reduce whilst decarbonised flights are not available. So called 'sustainable aviation fuel' is not a genuine alternative.

1.1.2 CT will measure the proportion of suppliers and partners with a climate action and decarbonisation plan. This number should increase each year until it stabilises at a level above 80%. Any partner or supplier without an appropriate plan will be encouraged to work towards adopting one as soon as possible.

1.2 Reporting is an essential element of measurement and transparency.

1.2.1 CT will publish an annual report on its activities in relation to the five pathways set out in the Glasgow Declaration. The first will cover 2023.

1.2.2 CT will work with clients and other stakeholders (including competitors) to promote best practice in the measurement of climate impacts and action in

tourism, drawing on evolving research and collaboration led by Tourism Declares A Climate Emergency, the World Tourism Organization and other leading members of the Glasgow Declaration alliance.

2. Decarbonise

2.1 As a business involved in tourism, project travel is the biggest challenge that needs to be addressed.

2.1.1 Whenever possible, CT will conduct consultations and contribute to workshops remotely.

2.1.2 CT will reduce its international flights and progressively reduce flying to below pre-COVID levels.

2.1.3 Whenever possible, CT will avoid domestic flights. Unless the plane is electric or the client insists, CT staff will always take surface transport, ideally boat or train and otherwise a road vehicle, preferably electric. The only exception is in island archipelagos, where the impact will be mitigated through the promotion of net zero policies and decarbonised alternatives.

2.1.4 CT will slow down locally. Unless client insists, CT staff will always walk or cycle to local meetings and site visits.

2.2 Working with a wide range of stakeholders and suppliers provides many opportunities to influence policy.

2.2.1 CT will require suppliers and partners to provide their policy on decarbonisation. Where there is no reasonable alternative, CT will encourage unavoidable suppliers and partners to develop an appropriate policy.

2.2.2 CT will encourage all stakeholders to adopt and require decarbonised solutions in all their activities, including their choice of suppliers and partners for construction, energy, food and packaging.

2.2.3 CT will advocate for the development of decarbonised aviation and other net zero transport policies.

3. Regenerate

3.1 When well-managed, tourism can regenerate, contributing to sustainable community development, heritage conservation and even biodiversity restoration. Consultants and advisors cannot guarantee regeneration, but can try to ensure that regeneration is at the heart of clients' policy statements, especially in places emerging from crises and associated impacts, whether a public health emergency (e.g. COVID-19 or Ebola), conflict (e.g. war or terrorism), natural disaster (e.g. earthquake or tsunami) or anthropogenic climate change (e.g. melting glaciers, rising sea levels or more extreme weather systems).

3.1.1 CT will promote the regenerative nature of tourism through policy development and by strengthening stakeholder capacity to achieve regeneration through policy cohesion.

4. Collaborate

4.1 Tourism is "everyone's business"! Climate action in tourism requires deep collaboration that is broad and enduring, going far beyond the 'usual suspects'.

4.1.1 Building on its record and international best practice, CT will collaborate with all possible stakeholders, identifying opportunities and delivering benefits for host communities.

4.1.2 Because everyone can learn from each other, CT will encourage mentoring and networking relationships between competitor enterprises and between

established and emerging tourism destinations. CT will particularly support professional development and opportunities for women and young people.

- 4.1.3 For as long as the initiative remains relevant and inclusive, CT will promote the Glasgow Declaration to its clients and other stakeholders.

5. Finance

5.1 Socially and economically disadvantaged communities are often those that can benefit most from the sustainable development of climate-friendly community-centred tourism. Access to finance should not be a barrier to opportunity, where the potential benefits of action and risks of inaction are disproportionately large.

5.1.1 As often as possible, CT will respond positively to requests from more disadvantaged client communities to reduce fees or help them to access financial support from other partners.

5.1.2 CT will actively offer its services to clients and communities that are at most risk from the negative impacts of anthropogenic climate change.

Carey Tourism is proud to have been a founding signatory and launch partner of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism. Launched on 4 November 2021 at the UNFCCC's COP26 in Scotland, the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism united travel and tourism behind a shared set of pathways for climate action, aligning the sector with global commitments and catalysing collaborative solutions to the many challenges facing businesses and destinations globally. The Glasgow Declaration encourages the acceleration of climate action in tourism by securing commitments to reduce emissions in tourism by at least 50% over the next decade and achieve Net Zero as soon as possible before 2050. Global experience shows that, when well-managed, tourism can advance all 17 SDGs, driving sustainable social and economic development. There is only one Earth and tackling the Climate Emergency is urgent for humanity and our world's biodiversity. All stakeholders have a responsibility to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to promote climate justice that reflects the historic inequality and impact of colonialism and climate change on the Global South. Building on best practice and working collaboratively with partners in Scotland and internationally, Carey Tourism renews its commitment to work with stakeholders in travel, tourism and hospitality to align plans with the five pathways (Measure, Decarbonise, Regenerate, Collaborate, Finance) to deliver positive and just outcomes for tourism communities.

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