



EU MISSION PLATFORM | CLIMATE NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES

Climate City Contract

2030 Climate Neutrality Commitments

Climate Neutrality Commitments of the City of Lahti

15 September 2023





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1 Introduction

Explain your city's motivation to join the EU Mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030" and highlight your city's present commitments to climate action. You may also want to include the aims of this document.

Your text

Lahti has for long been the frontrunner in climate work among European cities, and climate neutrality became a goal in the city strategy of Lahti in 2009 when the first emission reduction targets were placed. To highlight the importance of climate neutrality and ensure its realization in best possible way, it is integrated to other strategic goals of Lahti, such as vitality, public health, and biodiversity conservation through strong cross-sectoral programme work. As proof of Lahti's significant efforts in climate and environmental work, we were appointed as the European Green Capital for 2021. The European Green Capital Year 2021 left a strong political legacy for the work ahead and has already proven that ambitious climate politics can attract new business, increase the vitality of the city, and improve the quality of life.

In October 2021 the newly elected city council confirmed our goal to be carbon neutral already by 2025 as the first big city in Finland. The target is based on production-based emissions accounted in mainly in scope 1 (Greenhouse Gas Protocol). According to the target Lahti should reduce its production-based emissions by 80% compared to 1990 and bind the remaining 20 % to carbon sinks and offsets. To this date we have already cut our production-based emissions by 64% since 1990. One of the key factors for such high emission reduction is that the city-owned energy producer Lahti Energia abandoned using charcoal in district heating production in 2019. Nevertheless, the current scenarios predict climate neutrality will not be reached until in 2026 or 2027. Although the original, very ambitious aim of meeting the target by 2025 may not be fulfilled, Lahti will still be the first big Finnish city to reach its own climate neutrality target. We are also on a good way towards the Mission target 2030 and by 2021 have cut scope 1 and 2 emissions by 52%.

The recently updated Lahti Climate Programme has 96 climate actions targeting emissions across scopes 1,2 and 3 under following topics: climate governance, energy, transport, circular economy and sustainable consumption, carbon sinks and compensation as well as climate adaptation. Lahti is also developing a holistic programme and goals for a nature positive city, where climate actions are seen as one important element in addition to wellbeing of nature and humans.

Given our long journey as a climate pioneer, the lowest hanging fruits, such as abandoning charcoal have already been picked and we are moving towards a more holistic approach and systemic change. Joining the EU mission "100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030" and developing this Climate City Contract gives Lahti a remarkable push towards these aims. It gives us more tools for tackling the most challenging remaining emission that still need to be reduced to reach climate-neutrality, while simultaneously creating new collaboration possibilities with local businesses, academia, and citizens. The key priorities that we will focus on in the coming years are cutting the emissions of traffic and further decarbonising the energy system. Challenges in these sectors require a systemic change not only from the city and other levels of governance but also behavioural change from citizens and strong participation of the private sector towards more sustainable consumption.

We are currently developing environmental governance with specific focus on procurements, partnerships and connecting financial management to climate governance. We continue developing the online platform where climate work is monitored and communicated. We are ready to act also outside of the field of our direct governance engaging residents, private sector and other stakeholders and making climate-neutral actions the new normal in Lahti.

With this document Lahti, with its key partners, delineates the way for reaching the climate-neutrality target in a holistic way that enables systemic change. Local work force and knowledge, collaboration with research institutions and academia, and sufficient infrastructure in terms of energy, transportation and waste form an ecosystem, whose every component is crucial for successful execution of the EU mission. Not only do the companies support the city in its climate-neutrality target, but the city





supports companies with their innovations and investments and aims to enhance the use of local and sustainable producers in its own procurements.

The strategic approach of Lahti's climate work follows the presentation in figure 1. Detailed description of the approach, action portfolio and financing of the climate work is presented in Lahti's Action Plan and Investment Plan which accompany this commitment.



2 Goal: Climate neutrality by 2030

Articulate your 2030 climate neutrality ambition, as expressed and defined in your Cities Mission Expression of Interest (EoI). This should include your ambition and commitment to a 2030 horizon as a whole city, as well as describe any exclusion areas and summarise how these areas would be addressed beyond 2030. (A more detailed plan for exclusion areas should be included in the 2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan.) Your 2030 ambition should be supported at a minimum by a Council decision, and it is recommended that it is also supported by a wider stakeholder group. We also recommend you to list other co-benefits you aim to achieve when working towards the climate neutrality goal, like well-being, health, equity, justice, financial savings.

Your text

Lahti is already committed to three climate targets:

1) City's own target: Carbon neutral by 2025, with 80% decrease in production-based emissions compared to 1990 and compensation for the remaining emissions. This target was set by the city board in 2019 and included to the city strategy by a Council decision in 2022 (scope 1)



2) As part of the national HINKU network (Towards Carbon Neutral Municipalities) Lahti targets to cut its use-based emissions by 80% by 2030 compared to 2007 levels (scope 1 and 2)

3) Reducing consumption-based emissions by 50 % by 2030, compared to 2005, as defined in the targets of Fisu network (Finnish Sustainable Communities) (scope 1, 2 and 3)

These targets cover all three scopes defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. While scope 1 includes direct emissions inside the geographic boundary of the city, scopes 2 and 3 cover indirect emissions. In scope 2 also grid-supplied power is included, regardless of where it is produced, and scope 3 covers the emissions that are generated outside of the municipality but result from operations that take place in the municipality, such as purchasing of goods, or food production.

Lahti Climate Program sets 96 actions holistically across all three emissions scopes and six thematic topics towards climate neutrality. Each of the six thematic topics: climate governance, energy, transport, circular economy and sustainable consumption, carbon sinks and compensation as well as climate adaptation have more specific sub-targets that lead to sectors specific emission reductions and support systemic change inside and across the thematic topics. The Climate Program was approved by the City Board in June 2023, and the progress is being monitored and actions updated annually. Lahti's Circular Economy Roadmap and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, which is prepared and updated along the city master plan, compliment the Climate Program. The action portfolio was developed with strong participation and support from stakeholders especially from academia, city's daughter companies and private sector.

By 2021 we had already cut the production-based emissions from 1990 by 64%. We are also on a good way towards the Mission target 2030 and by 2021 have cut scope 1 and 2 emissions by 52%. A method for calculating the consumption-based emission is being developed and we have first estimations for the carbon footprint of the citizens from 2020 and 2021. The single most important action has been the city's investment in energy transition of district heating, and we quit burning charcoal in 2019.

Despite of the years of climate work and extensive action portfolio for the coming years, an emission gap of 82,9 kt CO₂e to climate neutrality as defined in the context of the city's Mission still exists. The most challenging sector is road transport. The city of Lahti commits itself to deliver bold climate action that will enable it to achieve the indicated goal on time. This will be done in a fair and just way doing no significant harm and leaving no one behind. The holistic approach ties the climate work to other strategic goals of the citys, such as economic vitality, nature positivity and climate adaptation. Following the guidelines and actions to reach our climate-neutrality goal will bring us also multiple cobenefits, such as well-being and health of citizens. Reducing emissions in traffic will, for instance, lead to enhanced air quality. Similarly, changes in food systems or increased biking and walking can have positive impacts on both health and climate. The city of Lahti is involved in research and development projects regarding planetary lifestyle, which in turn can both have a positive impact on nature, citizens plus reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The city and the strategic partners have identified several co-benefits of climate work that can support the economic vitality of the region such as new possibilities for multistakeholder collaboration, new investments, financing opportunities, support for RDI-sector, new innovations and business opportunities leading to economic sustainability, improved economic competitiveness and employment. This all builds a common trust that Lahti region will succeed and flourish also in the future.

3 Key priorities and strategic interventions

This is the core section of the Commitments document that should summarise **at least 3 or 4 systemic strategic priorities** that need to be implemented for your city to become climate neutral by 2030. These should be meaningful changes that will have a profound impact on reducing GHG emissions in your city, like decarbonising the heating system in the city or generating 100% energy from renewables. The





individual commitments between your city and other stakeholders should address these key priorities and contribute to reaching them. The annexed 2030 Climate Neutrality Action Plan should describe all interventions, including those to reach your priorities as well as all further actions, in detail and describe how your city plans to implement them.

Your text

Based on the emission data and estimated emission gap as well as the expertise among the partners, we identified three key priorities that need to be urgently addressed to achieve 2030 climate neutrality goal: cutting emissions of transport, decarbonising energy production and enabling sustainable consumption. Below we describe the need for systemic change in these sectors and a comprehensive list of planned actions can be found in Lahti's Action Plan Module B2.

Cutting emissions of transport

In 2021 almost half of city's production-based emissions came from road transport. We estimate that the national trend in road transport emissions and the currently planned actions in the Climate Program and SUMP, such as low emission public transport and increasing the share of sustainable mobility can lead to reduction of 40 kt CO₂e, but is not sufficient for climate neutrality. An additional reduction of 13,7 kt CO₂e, is required to reach the Mission climate-neutrality target by 2030. That equals to a reduction of 35 % of the road transport emissions between 2021-2030. No single action can reduce the road traffic emissions enough and a systemic change with multiple levers are needed to enable the needed reductions. We also acknowledge that the city has somewhat limited possibilities to affect the emissions in road transport. Climate and transport politics and regulations at the national and EU level have a strong impact of the local transport emissions, especially the drive through traffic which covers 60% of the road traffic emissions in Lahti.

Lahti's Pilot City Project "Systemic Change Towards Sustainable Commuting in Lahti" is an important step towards understanding the complex patterns of urban mobility and identifying the most important levers to enable to change together with academic partners, health- and wellbeing authority, local business sector and other members of the mobility ecosystem in Lahti. In addition, we are planning a thematic regional year of sustainable mobility for 2025. The idea is to pilot and provide proof of concept for identified possible actions during this concept year and identify the best actions to scale up before 2030.

Most importantly we aim to accelerate the modal shift towards sustainable mobility. Our residents are used to relying on their private cars and COVID-pandemic has made public transport less attractive. To succeed with our climate-neutrality target, strong participative approach is crucial for the public to accept possible new regulations and start utilising new solutions. We need to improve conditions for biking and walking by putting more effort in the infrastructure, and by making them appealing choices also for those citizens who normally choose their own cars as a way of transportation. We expect the modal shift to take time and identify electrification of the road traffic as another key are of work for succeeding with our target. On one hand the city can accelerate the local shift in private cars by promoting available incentives for charging infra and ensuring sufficient public charging network. On the other hand, as one of the most important nodes in the national road network we can facilitate the national transition by supporting infra of charging stations for green mobility. The emissions from road transport have remained similar in Lahti throughout recent decades and it has, similarly than in most cities around the world, been difficult to reduce them. Yet, we believe that with collaboration, we can reach emission reductions. The city of Lahti and the stakeholders signing this contract can support their personnel in choosing other possibilities than private cars for commuting. Some stakeholders already provide their personnel monetary support for buying electronic bikes. The city of Lahti is also planning campaigns to inspire people to choose walking as a way of transport. The change does not need to be abrupt, rather than a smooth transition where one can begin with choosing other than their own car at least one day per week. In logistics we need to, together, ensure that the network of new motive power stations for instance for EV charging, renewable hydrogen, and methane, is sufficient. This encourages companies to invest in fleet using renewable power sources and aid in reducing emissions from logistic chains. The atmosphere among operators is already favourable to the change, and we are committed to grab the opportunity and work together with them to make it happen.





Decarbonising energy production

The city owned district heating company is one of the key actors of Lahti's climate work. It has already cut its emissions by 90% by shifting from charcoal to combustion of biomass and waste. Its new openings include a power to gas production utilising the CO_2 emissions of the existing biomass power plant. If successful, the latter would turn the city's district heating into a carbon sink and reduce the emission gap by 100 kt CO2e by 2030. This collaboration is dependent on private sectors actors but also on funding from national government or EU and the investment decision is still to be made. Hence the city needs to be prepared for a plan B if needed.

Second important part of energy production is the separate heating. A cut of 80 kt CO₂e is expected as households and industry shift from separate oil and electric heating to sustainable alternatives. Recent problems in fuel availability and high electricity costs have accelerated this shift. The financial support from national government to energy renovations of private households and private sector is strong driver for the change as well and we rely on this support from national level to meet our local climate goals.

The city owned buildings are already part of the district heating network but we examine the possibilities for local energy production especially through solar energy in both old and new buildings. Energy efficiency is also important part of our climate work but since the district heating is already close to fossil free, it's direct impact on emissions are modest and the main motivations are financial sustainability and energy sufficiency.

Investments in wind and solar power and recognising the potential spots for power plants are also crucial in decarbonising energy production. Since the sector is developing fast now a regional cross municipal vision and plan for scattered energy production is much needed. We are also closely following the development of carbon capture techniques in energy and heat production.

Enabling sustainable consumption

To restrict global warming to 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial times, a systemic change is needed in how we live. Sustainable consumption of citizens is possible only if there are sustainable options for them to choose. This means, for instance, creating possibilities for more carbon-neutral private construction, as by supporting the use of wood and other materials with low carbon footprint. Moreover, more climate-friendly options need to be available in food, mobility, and consumption of other goods. Enabling sustainable consumption is cross-cutting topic which can impact emissions across emission scopes and thematic topics of climate work including transport and energy production as described above.

City of Lahti has been actively involved in developing calculations for consumption-based emissions, aka the carbon footprint, with consultation company Sitowise and researchers from the Natural Resources Institute Finland. The calculations include energy consumption, construction sector, transport, food, and other goods and services. In the latest calculations from 2022, Lahti's emissions were 7.2 t CO2e per resident. An estimated 40-70 % reduction in consumption-based emissions can be achieved by choosing low-carbon options in the consumption of goods and services. According to the researchers developing the calculations, especially the food sector shows high potential for emission reductions. Plant-based and climate-friendly food and drink options should be available and promoted to citizens not only from climate, but also from their health aspects. Serving climate-friendly food first in line in self-service lunch buffet restaurants instead of leaving it to the end of line as last option, would make it easier for personnel to choose that option. If the kitchen personnel need more education for preparing tasty and climate-friendly food, that should be offered by the employer.

More sustainable logistic chains, as described above under Cutting emissions of traffic, have a direct impact also in making sustainable consumption possible. Circular economy is tightly tied into sustainable consumption, and Lahti with its stakeholders have tremendous opportunities to include principles of circular economy in their actions and investments even more than before. City of Lahti has recently published a roadmap to circular economy and aims to be waste free in 2050. The city follows and participates in research around the topic by for instance leading the StopWa project,





where the possibilities to use construction waste for stormwater management is studied. Due to the already made efforts, knowledge and needs in circular economy, Lahti region has potential to act as a hub for circular economy innovations.

4 **Principles and process**

Highlight the key principles that will guide your city as it implements its Climate City Contract, like accountability, transparency, or an open attitude to new approaches. The process should encompass principles like **co-creation**, **innovation**, **multi-actor and citizen engagement**, and should be **systemic and demand-driven in nature**. It should also be based on **monitoring** and **joint learning**. The Commitments Guidance document provides more specific guidance on how integrate these principles into your own process.

Your text

Lahti has a long history of collaboration with different actors in both environmental and climate work. Thus, we are working as a strong team across sectors, within the city organisation and with stakeholders and key partners, to develop an effective Climate City Contract. With this contract the city of Lahti and its partners commit to collaboration, and mutual support regarding actions under the three key priorities set in section 3 of the contract. No specific emission reduction targets are required from partners, and no monetary obligations are involved. Part of the contract partners are, however, closely involved in the action portfolio. We commit in the common emission reduction targets as stated in this contract, and highlight that the Climate City Contract and participation in the EU Cities Mission can bring new funding and innovation possibilities for the stakeholders.

Build a Strong Mandate

The city council and city board have given their mandate to climate work in Lahti by accepting the city strategy where climate neutrality was set as a goal, and by accepting the Climate Program that acts as a basis for the Action Plan. During the European Green Capital Year 2021, citizens of Lahti took surveys regarding climate and environment work. The results showed that our city also has a mandate of our citizens when it comes to climate work.

Our city strategy is based on sustainability as a whole, and we are committed to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in terms of economic, social and economic sustainability, We let citizens take part in the decision-making, for instance via the Lahden Suunta master plan process. We provide guidance and advice for citizens and bringing topics into Partnership tables (*Kumppanuuspöytä*), which represent citizens regionally from different parts of city. The idea of Partnership tables is to include citizens more closely to the development and decisions regarding their own neighbourhood and everyday life.

Our transition team works on two levels as we have a steering group along with a working group of experts. The experts in the working group come from the key city departments of the city of Lahti, and involve people working on environmental policy, urban planning, housing and environment, transport and infrastructure planning. Other experts are invited to join the working group meetings based on the discussed topics. The steering group has members from the management level of the city of Lahti. In addition the largest city-owned companies are represented. We work closely with research institutes, technology sector, and welfare services in terms of low-carbon innovations and enhancing planetary lifestyle in Lahti, and thus have representatives from the universities, Wellbeing services of county Päijät-Häme and Technology Industries of Finland in the steering group.

Climate work is also a regional priority and the regional council of Päijät-Häme has set a regional goal for climate neutrality by 2030 and is currentlu tarnsforming its climate road map in to a regional sustainability programme addressing holistically also biodiversity, climate adaptation, and wellbeing goals. This smooth regional collaboration is a huge asset for city's climate work and enables joint projects and actions and fast scaling of succeful actions region wide. The council has provided City



of Lahti financial support for the coordination of the Mission work and is an active member of the transition team steering and working groups.

Co-designing a Portfolio

The Climate Program of the city of Lahti, which acts as a base for Lahti's Action Plan, was accepted by the City Board in June 2023. The whole process of updating took almost a year and included hearing from and workshops with key city departments. Altogether approximately 70 people, who were either working in different city departments, or stakeholders participated in the update work. For the suggested list of actions the impacts on emissions and economics of the city were assessed to understand the remaining emission gap. The resulting scenarios indicated that most significant challenges are ahead especially in transport sector and somewhat also in energy sector. Achieving climate-neutrality in these sectors will require systemic change in the society. Further actions for the challenging sectors were identified in stakeholder workshops.

Lahti receives support for its local mission work from the consulting company Sitowise, in terms of compiling the Action Plan, Investment Plan, and the Climate City Contract. The Investment Plan is based on the Action Plan, and the financial administration from the City of Lahti supported and helped in this work. Sitowise is also involved in the national level support together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development. The six Finnish cities chosen to EU cities mission have a network working together to form a strong shared understanding on a national level.

The emission calculations and scenarios until 2030 were also conducted by the consultation company Sitowise. The Action Plan itself was prepared with close help from Net Zero Cities City Adviser to ensure a smooth transformation of Climate Program into the Action Plan format. The steering group of the transition team follows the work done in the cities mission regularly.

Together with an expert from consulting company Sitowise, we organized two events for local stakeholders to create a multi-actor coalition of key partners for climate mitigation. The events were workshops, where stakeholders were working together on the commitments and gave their valuable feedback and improvements especially on the key priorities and strategic interventions, and the principles and processes defined in this contract. After these steps every stakeholder who signs the contract can stand behind the common commitments.

Take action

Lahti has a remarkable history in climate work and has for long had targets regarding climate neutrality. Our Climate Program lists actions to meet our climate neutrality target, along with a schedule for the realisation of actions. We are also strong actors in circular economy, with an existing road map to circular economy including concrete targets and actions. The city is actively involved in research and development projects both internationally and with local academic partners LAB and LUT Universities. We collaborate and share ideas with other cities, mainly the other five Finnish EU mission cities and those that are also located in Päijät-Häme region. With such collaboration we could affect the sustainability of procurements in the cities, such as those involved in school transport.

The stakeholders involved in the Climate City Contract already consider climate, environment and responsibility from their own point of view. They may have their own emission reduction targets, which by no means contradict with the ones of Lahti, but support the common target. With Climate City Contract we take the next step towards climate-neutrality together with our key partners. Closing the emission gap will require actions, effort, and investments from all the partners involved in the contract. Collaboration between the city of Lahti and its stakeholders covers various aspects from ensuring sufficient labour force and knowledge, sufficient infrastructure, research collaboration. Holistic work of the whole ecosystem built around the actors involved in the cities mission is required for reaching the climate neutrality target. At the same time the holistic approach brings new opportunities for stakeholders and makes Lahti even more attractive for new investments and companies.





Learn & Reflect

The city of Lahti updates its Climate Program annually, and repeats the calculations for productionbased and use-based emissions regularly. We continuously monitor the realisation of actions listed our Climate Program via our online Climate Watch (Ilmastovahti) system. Our plan is that the city's climate actions and the required financing are updated annually as part of the city budgeting process. We will update the Climate City Contract every two years. Our following steps are developing indicators for our actions so that their effects can be followed in an easier and more consistent manner.

Make it a New Normal

The climate work in Lahti, and the expertise of the local business sector and universities meet in the sectors of carbon neutral construction, circular economy, and low emission traffic. Clusters of local experts are built around these topics. The city provides platforms such as Pippo-Kujala smart-infra industrial estate and the carbon-neutral Ranta-Kartano district and neighboring sport arena where new technologies can be developed and piloted. Smart technologies, digitalisation, innovative and sustainable procurements and promotion of circular economy are among the key methods. Thus, we have a good and solid base for accelerating the change and making it a new normal. Nevertheless, trying to affect people's behaviour is a task with several challenges. The city of Lahti will be working on an interaction plan related to how its own climate work considers the stakeholders of the city, the residents, and the various departments inside the city to reduce the silo-structure in decision-making. The city of Lahti is also planning a project, together with LAB University of Applied Sciences, focusing on how to communicate the challenging actions that are needed for instance in transport sector in a way that they are more acceptable among local politicians and citizens. Communication plays a strong role in making it a new normal and is one channel of collaboration between the parties of this Climate City Contract. It is important to communicate the concrete actions that the parties of the contract make in their own part to show example to those who are not that far along yet with their climate work.





5 Signatories

Include a list of stakeholders who have committed to help your city achieve its goal to reach climate neutrality by 2030. Detailed commitments and agreements between individuals or groups of stakeholders should be appended to this Commitments document. This list will likely increase over time.

Name of the institution	Sector/Area	Legal form	Name of the responsible person	Position of the responsible person
City of Lahti	Municipal	Municipality	Mika Mäkinen	
Lahti Energia Oy	Energy	Municipal company	Jouni Haikarainen	Chief Executive Officer
Lahti Region Development Ladec Oy	Municipal/Region	Municipal company	Tomi Tura	Chief Executive Officer
Lahden Pysäköinti Oy	Parking	Municipal company	Eeva Jauro	Chief Executive Officer
Lahti Aqua Oy	Water	Municipal company	Jouni Lillman	Chief Executive Officer
Lahden Talot Oy	Housing	Municipal company	Jukka Anttonen	Chief Executive Officer
Spatium Toimitilat Oy	Premises	Municipal company	Jouni kanervo	Chief Executive Officer
Salpakierto Oy	Waste	Municipal company	Johanna Rusanen	Chief Executive Officer
Regional Council of Päijät- Häme	Region	Regional authority	Niina Pautola-Mol	Regional Mayor
Päijät-Hämeen Ateriapalvelut	Food	Company partly owned by the city	Päivi Karttunen	Chief Executive Officer
Päijät-Hämeen Hyvinvointialue	Social and healthcare	Regional authority	Jukka Santala	Chief of Department





Kempower Oyj	Electric charging infrastructure	Company	Not known	Not known
Fazer Group	Bakery and Food	Company	Joséphine Mickwitz	EVP Head of Communications and Sustainability
Wipak Oy	Packaging	Company	Tuija Suur-Hamari	Managing Director
Stora Enso Packaging Oy	Packaging	Company	Heli Ristola-Wall	Chief Executive Officer
Osuuskunta Hämeenmaa	Daily consumer goods	Company	Olli Vormisto	Chief Executive Officer
LAB University of Applied Sciences	Research	University	Turo Kilpeläinen	The President and CEO
LUT University	Research	University	Juha-Matti Saksa	Rector
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland	National Policy	Ministry	Not known	Not known
Ministry of the Environment	National Policy	Ministry	Not known	Not known
Ministry of Transport and Communications	National Policy	Ministry	Not known	Not known





6 Contract with signatures

I, the undersigned, hereby commit to help make the City of Lahti climate neutral by 2030. We agree on the joint ambition and commitments, as formulated in the City Lahti's Climate City Contract.

In Lahti on _____

Mika Mäkinen, Mayor of Lahti

Partner signatures and their respective commitments to be found in the Appendix.