

Four Learnings, One Year into Our Net-Zero Journey

To BCG's network around the world,

In September 2020, we announced our pledge to achieve net-zero climate impact by 2030 and to become climate positive after that. We were proud of this announcement and deeply committed to making it real, but the [progress and activity](#) since then have exceeded my expectations.

As I reflect on this past year, four lessons jump out at me, and I hope they can be helpful for you as your organizations take on this challenge.

- **Building Internal Ownership of Reduction Targets.** When we initially announced our commitments, we were already rethinking our approach to travel and working models. COVID-19 brought with it countless challenges, but it also accelerated that shift, providing BCG with a unique opportunity to pilot new approaches worldwide. What we found is that we can go further and faster than we originally thought. By embedding targets into our business at the local level, rethinking our approach to travel, and adapting to different ways of working, we'll be able to substantially reduce our emissions and improve the work experience for our people, while providing clients greater access to our global experts and continuing to deliver high value.
- **Using Supply Chain Power to Expand Our Impact.** The carbon intensive portion of our supply chain centers on air travel. By committing to the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) market, we've been able to set even more ambitious targets. We've signed long-term SAF purchase agreements with SkyNRG, United Airlines' Eco-Skies Alliance, and Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel to help scale that market, and we expect to sign many more. SAF can result in up to 80% less lifecycle CO₂ emissions compared with conventional fossil jet fuel

The changes we're making to our travel norms, along with our support of SAF and broader airline-emissions efficiency efforts, have allowed us to increase our business travel emissions goal from a 30% reduction per FTE by 2025 to 48.5%. When combined with our target to reduce energy- and electricity-related emission by 92% per FTE, this means we can halve our total emissions intensity by 2025—an exciting new goal that has been validated by the Science Based Targets initiative as aligned with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

- **Working Across Boundaries.** We've realized that working within our own organization and across our supply chain is important, but we can do even more by building bridges to other climate leaders. One example of this happened just yesterday, when we became a founding partner of [Breakthrough Energy Catalyst](#), thanks in part to the great support from BCG's incoming CEO Christoph Schweizer. This new fund, championed by Bill Gates, will help build the foundation of the net-zero economy by bringing together businesses, governments, philanthropies, and individuals to invest in critical climate technologies.
- **Increasing Impact Around the World.** All the above work is critical, but the most important action BCG can take is to expand our impact with clients and in society. Over the past year, we've broadened BCG's [Center for Climate & Sustainability](#), working with more than 300 clients on their sustainability agendas. We're continuing to support the UK government as the consulting partner for the UN COP26 climate change conference, focused on accelerating business contributions to the global climate agenda. And we're working in Germany, China, South Africa, and beyond to help those regions realize their climate ambitions

Of course, your organization's sustainability journey will not be the same as BCG's. Every path will be unique, presenting its own challenges and lessons along the way. But having been deeply involved in BCG's climate journey so far, I can say that setting a broad mandate and unleashing the creativity of our teams—giving them room to explore, experiment, and invest—has moved us further and in more innovative ways than I envisioned when we made our net-zero announcement one year ago.

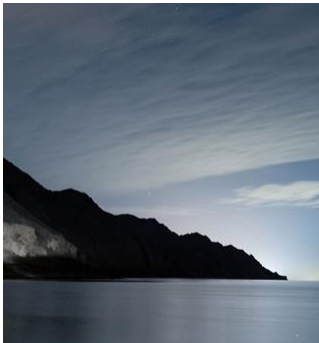
Please see below to read more about this work.

Until next week,



Rich Lesser
Chief Executive Officer

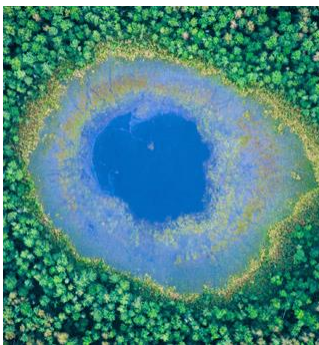
Further Reading



BCG's Net-Zero Strategy

While we expect to have the biggest climate impact through our client work, we know that we must also walk the talk by reducing the negative impact of our own footprint as quickly as we can. BCG will have a net-zero climate impact by 2030.

[READ MORE →](#)



BCG's Net-Zero Pledge, One Year Later

The climate actions we've taken so far, the lessons we've learned—and a new target aimed at cutting our emissions intensity in half by 2025.

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BCG Center for Climate & Sustainability

We partner with businesses and governments to help them transform commitments into action and build a decarbonized, more sustainable world.

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