Singapore to phase out unabated coal power by 2050

4 November 2021 – Singapore has joined the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, one of 28 new members and one of the first countries in Asia to do so. Singapore has also signed the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition statement initiated by the UK COP26 Presidency.

Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA)¹

1 Singapore’s membership of the PPCA, reflects its efforts to progressively phase out the use of unabated coal. Under the PPCA Declaration, Singapore has committed to continue phasing out the use of unabated coal in its electricity mix by 2050, and to restrict direct Government finance of unabated coal power internationally. Since independence, Singapore’s reliance on coal has been marginal, and makes up less than 2 per cent of its power generation capacity today.

2 Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu announced Singapore’s membership to the PPCA at the COP-26 Energy Day Presidency Event on 4 November 2021. She said, “The burning of coal is putting billions of people at immediate risk. This is why Singapore has decided to join the Powering Past Coal Alliance, one of the first countries in Asia to do so. Singapore is fully committed to accelerating the transition to a low-carbon future. We will transform our industry, economy, and society to be more energy and carbon efficient, and to adopt more low-carbon energy in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.”

3 As part of our energy transition and other initiatives under the Singapore Green Plan 2030, Singapore aims to use low-carbon energy sources across our economy. To further decarbonise the power sector, Singapore will harness and tap on these four switches to transform our energy supply - natural gas, solar, regional power grids, and emerging low-carbon alternatives.

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¹ The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) was launched by Canada and the UK at COP23, and is a coalition of national and sub-national governments, businesses and organisations working to advance the transition from unabated coal power generation to clean energy. For more information on the PPCA, visit https://www.poweringpastcoal.org/about/who-we-are
B) Global Coal to Clean Power Transition

5 In addition to its membership in the PPCA, Singapore has signed the Global Coal to Clean Power transition statement. This is a commitment to international efforts and collaboration to shift away from unabated coal power generation in the 2040s (or as soon as possible thereafter), cease issuances of new permits, and end direct Government support for new unabated coal-fired power generation projects worldwide. The Global Coal to Clean Power Transition statement was initiated by the UK COP-26 Presidency as a declaration to accelerate international momentum for global energy transition.

6 Although Singapore is a small city-state with limited options to deploy renewable energy at scale, our commitment to phase out coal complements our plans to transition to a low-carbon future, set out under the Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS).

7 Effective international cooperation is needed to tackle climate change, a complex global challenge, and every country must do its part. Singapore seeks to work with international and regional partners to enable effective collaborations, strengthen consensus and in turn galvanise collective global climate action.

Annex A Transcript of Video Message by Minister Grace Fu’s announcing Singapore’s membership to the PPCA

Annex B Factsheet for Singapore’s Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategy

Annex C Singapore Green Plan 2030

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For media enquiries, please contact:

**National Climate Change Secretariat**
Mr Wong Ruqin  
Assistant Director, Corporate Communications Division  
Tel: 9322 0694  
E-mail: wong_ruqin@pmo.gov.sg

**Ministry of Trade and Industry**
Ms Naadiah Badib  
Assistant Director, Communications and Engagement Division  
Tel: 6332 5083  
E-mail: Naadiah_Badib@mti.gov.sg

**Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment**
Ms Joanna Wong  
Senior Executive, Communications & 3P Partnership  
Tel: 9296 6797  
E-mail: joanna_wong@mse.gov.sg
ANNEX A

TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO MESSAGE BY MINISTER GRACE FU ANNOUNCING SINGAPORE’S MEMBERSHIP TO THE POWERING PAST COAL ALLIANCE (PPCA)

Scheduled for broadcast at the COP26 Energy Day Presidency Event, 4 Nov, 2355HRS (Singapore Time)

Partners of the Powering Past Coal Alliance,
Greetings from Singapore.

It is clear to all of us that the burning of coal is putting billions of people at immediate risk. This is why Singapore has decided to join the Powering Past Coal Alliance today, one of the first countries in Asia to do so.

Singapore’s membership to the PPCA expresses our long-term commitment to clean energy and tangible climate action. We have been an early mover in the shift away from coal. The fact is that our reliance on coal has been marginal since the day of our independence in the 1960s. Since the start of the century, we shifted almost entirely to cleaner natural gas for power generation. Today, coal makes up less than 2% of Singapore’s power generation capacity.

We intend to do better. As part of our energy reset, we are putting solar panels on our rooftops and reservoirs. As a small-island nation, we have limited options to deploy renewable energy at scale. We are pursuing the importation of clean energy, and investing in clean energy R&D, such as hydrogen. We are fully committed to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

We will continue to nurture the growth of our clean energy companies. This will also support the energy transition for the countries in our region and contribute to new economic opportunities. We are working with financial institutions to develop a vibrant green finance ecosystem to support Asia’s transition towards greater sustainability.

Through this Alliance, we look forward to forging new collaborations and contributing to global climate action. We look forward to working with you closely.

2. Singapore’s LEDS sets out our aspiration to halve our emissions from its peak to 33MtCO$_2$e by 2050, with a view to achieving net zero emissions as soon as viable in the second half of the century.

3. Singapore will take concrete actions across all sectors to facilitate the low-carbon transition, building on our long-standing emphasis on sustainable development. The Government’s strategy to achieve our LEDS aspiration will have three thrusts.

   a. Transformations in industry, economy and society, e.g. more renewable energy, greater energy efficiency, reducing energy consumption;

   b. Adoption of advanced low-carbon technologies, e.g. carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), use of low-carbon hydrogen; and

   c. Effective international collaboration, e.g. international climate action, regional power grids, market-based mechanisms.
Infographic: Charting Singapore’s Low-Carbon Future

Charting Singapore’s Low-Carbon Future

MITIGATION

Transformations in Industry, Economy, Society

POWER GENERATION
- Energy efficiency
- At least 5 Coal- or
- Combined cycle gas
- Low-carbon technologies

INDUSTRY
- Energy efficiency
- Technology
- Solutions
- Low-carbon technologies

TRANSPORT
- Zero-emission vehicles
- Public transport
- Cycling and walking

BUILDINGS
- New buildings
- Retrofitting
- Energy efficiency
- Low-emission

HOUSEHOLDS
- Energy efficiency
- Labelling
- Programs
- Energy saving

WASTE & WATER
- Circular economy
- Waste
- Recycling
- Energy efficiency
- Desalination
- Water treatment

CARBON TAX
Initial rate of S$5/tCO₂e to S$10-5S15/tCO₂e by 2030

Adoption of Advanced Low-Carbon Technologies

- Carbon capture, utilisation and storage, use of low-carbon hydrogen

Effective International Collaboration

- International climate action, regional power grids, market-based mechanisms

Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)

Halve emissions from its peak to 33 MtCO₂e by 2050 & net zero emissions as soon as viable in the second half of the century

Enhanced 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Peak emissions at 65 MtCO₂e around 2030

Based on current projections, this will allow us to achieve a 36% reduction in emissions intensity from 2005 levels by 2030.

ADAPTATION

Coastal Protection, Water Resources & Drainage
- Protecting our coastline from sea level rise
- Ensuring water resilience, holistic stormwater management, and flood protection

Biodiversity & Greenery
- Strengthening resilience of our biodiversity and ecosystems

Buildings & Infrastructure
- Keeping our buildings and infrastructure safe

Public Health & Food Security
- Strengthening resilience in public health and our food supply

Network Infrastructure
- Keeping our essential services, including transport and network infrastructure, running well

Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect
- Mitigating the UHI effect to strengthen our resilience in the face of rising temperatures

For more details on Singapore’s LEDS, please refer to this [link](#).
The Singapore Green Plan 2030 is a national sustainability movement which seeks to rally bold and collective action to tackle climate change.

City in Nature
Green, Livable and Sustainable Home for Singaporeans
- Plant 1 million more trees, and have every household within a 10-minute walk from a park by 2030
- Develop over 130 ha of new parks, and enhance around 170 ha of existing parks with more lush vegetation and natural landscapes by 2025
- Add 1000 ha of green spaces by 2035

Sustainable Living
Strengthen Green Efforts in Schools
- Introduce an Eco Stewardship Programme to enhance environmental education in all schools
- Work towards two-thirds reduction of net carbon emissions from schools sector by 2030
- At least 20% of schools to be carbon neutral by 2030

Green Commutes
- 75% of trips during peak periods to be on mass public transport by 2030
- Triple cycling-paths network to 1.320 km by 2030, from 467 km in 2020
- Expand rail network to 360 km by early 2020s, from around 230 km today

Green Citizenry:
- Reduce waste and consumption
- Reduce amount of waste and landfill per capita per day by 20% by 2025, and 30% by 2030
- Reduce household water consumption to 130 litres per capita per day

Energy Reset
Cleaner-energy Vehicles
- New diesel car and taxi registrations to cease from 2025, and all new car and taxi registrations to be of cleaner-energy models from 2030
- Further revise road tax structure to bring down road tax for mass-market electric cars
- Target 60,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points by 2030, with 7 EV-ready Towns by 2025

Greener Infrastructure & Buildings
- Green 80% of Singapore’s buildings (by Gross Floor Area) by 2030
- 80% of new buildings (by Gross Floor Area) to be Super Low Energy buildings from 2030
- Best-in-class green buildings to see 80% improvement in energy efficiency (over 2005) by 2030

Sustainable Towns & Districts
- Reduce energy consumption in HDB towns by 10% by 2030

Green Energy
- Quadruple solar energy deployment to 1.4 gigawatt-peak by 2030
- Tap on cleaner electricity imports, and increase R&D on renewable energy and emerging low-carbon technologies

Green Economy
Sustainability as New Engine of Jobs and Growth
- New Enterprise Sustainability Programme to help local enterprises adopt sustainability best practices
- Develop Singapore to be a carbon services hub, and a leading centre for green finance in Asia and globally
- Develop Jurong Island to be a sustainable energy and chemicals park
- Leverage opportunities in sustainable industries to create good jobs for Singaporeans

Resilient Future
Safeguarding our Coasts against Rising Sea Levels
- 350 ha dedicated to coastal and drainage flood protection measures
- Formulation of coastal protection plans for City-East Coast, North-West Coast (Lim Chu Kang and Sungei Kedut) and Jurong Island by 2030

Safeguarding Food Security
- Produce 30% of our nutritional needs locally and sustainably by 2030, through developing land and sea space and skilled workforce, funding support, and promoting R&D

Keeping Singapore Cool
- Moderate the rise in urban heat, such as with cool paint and by increasing greenery

For more information on the Singapore Green Plan 2030, please refer to this link