

MARCH 2022

Recapping COP26

Four Months after COP26 - Reviewing the global promises made.



The United Nations (UN) Conference of Parties (COP) was held last year from Oct 31st to Nov 12th, 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland.

The conference is in alignment with the UN's [Global Sustainable Development Goals](#) on climate action; with the ultimate objective of bringing world leaders together to discuss and agree on actionable strategies that would help combat climate change.

At COP26, a number of pertinent issues related to developing territories, including the Caribbean Region, were presented and debated.

Readers will recall that one of the most notable contributions came from the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honourable Mia Mottley, Q.C., M.P. who gave a [highly passionate and detailed speech](#) about the dire impact rising temperatures and sea levels will have on small island nations, should the [G20 countries](#) of the world fail to keep their promise to lower emissions.

• The Pledge to keep 1.5 Degree Celsius Goal Within Reach

At the current CO₂ emission rates, the global temperature is currently at risk of rising at least 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Scientists have continually warned that an increase above that temperature could result in an [environmental catastrophe](#).



Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, and Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

This could come in the form of life-threatening heatwaves and severe droughts, which would negatively affect human and animal life. This gradual change in temperature would cause the extinction of many plant and animal species.

All representatives at the conference agreed to pledge energy strategies that would further cut their respective nation's carbon dioxide emissions.

• The Pledge to Phase-Down Coal

History was made at the conference as for the first time, all countries committed to the eventual [phasing out of the use of coal by 2030 in developed countries](#).

It is estimated that as much as 40% of all CO₂ emissions are due to the use of coal as a form of fuel.

• The Pledge to Phase-In Electric Vehicles

Reportedly, road transportation equates to an average of 10% of all the world's CO₂ emissions. Consequently, the UN issued a stern call at COP26 for all member states to begin the phasing-in of electric vehicles as one of the more effective and immediate measures to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Most advanced market economies committed to [ensure that all new car sales are 'zero emission vehicles' by 2035](#).

● The Pledge to Mobilise Finance

The UN and other developed countries have agreed to make available more than 1 billion US dollars in grants and funding towards green projects in developing regions.

Fortunately, Trinidad and Tobago is already a beneficiary of similar funding and technical expertise regarding a number of [renewable energy projects and training from the United Nations](#).

● Our Country's Pledge

In keeping with the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals agenda, as well as this country's National Development Strategy (Vision 2030), [Trinidad and Tobago committed to the following](#):

● Review of Workforce Policies and Training

Re-skilling and the future preparation of this country's workforce in achievement of cleaner, greener and more sustainable communities and cities, remain a major focal point.

As such, Trinidad and Tobago committed to revising and implementing more modern policies and training opportunities towards the establishment of a low carbon economy.



Flooding in Barrackpore, Trinidad - 12th December 2019. Source: Youtube Footage via [Ansari Backsh](#)

● Incentivising the Use of Electric Vehicles

Pledges were made to make the transition from gasoline to electric vehicles. At present, [there are no importation duties or taxes on electric and battery powered vehicles](#).

● Commissioning of a Utility-Scale Solar Farm

As a country, we agreed to establish the largest solar renewable energy project in the Caribbean, with the capacity of 112 megawatts. It is intended for the farm's capacity to service 30% of the population by 2030.

● Adoption of Green Hydrogen as Feedstock for Petrochemical Sector

We pledged to invest in [greener hydrogen](#) sources to power our petrochemical and refinement plants.

● Exploration of Carbon Capture Projects

We pledged exploration of [carbon sequestration](#) projects. This is a form of 'carbon capture' which involves the storage of carbon underground, instead of releasing it into the atmosphere.

● Closing Thoughts on COP26

Trinidad and Tobago, like many other CARICOM nations, have already begun to feel the effects of climate change through rising sea levels, hotter dry seasons, more intense hurricane seasons and flash flooding.

In light of these catastrophic natural disasters that have cost hundreds of millions of dollars in damage, and loss of life the world over; we must hold the leaders of the world accountable for the pledges made at the United Nation's COP 26 Conference.

Together, we can build a greener and more resilient future for all.



Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley delivers his speech to the COP26 conference members

Get Involved!

The HADCO Recycling Division operates two specialised companies that are committed to changing the ways in which Trinidad and Tobago reduces and recycles its waste.

Organisations and individuals who are interested in responsibly disposing of any of the materials listed below can schedule a free collection with us! Collections are also done in Tobago.



For waste paper, cardboard, Tetra Pak and aluminium cans, please contact:

New Age Recycling: (868) 290-2970 / 2975
or visit www.NewAgeRecyclingTT.com



For waste vegetable oil and used lead acid batteries, please contact:

Ecoimpact Company Limited: (868) 633-3609
or visit www.EcoimpactTT.com



For more information visit us at
<http://hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling/>

