

The Madrid Call for Fast Action on Super Pollutants

Actions we can take today to address the climate crisis will save millions of lives and help stabilize our climate. Specifically, we can reduce super pollutants—including methane, fluorocarbons, and black carbon—to save more than 2 million lives each year, enjoy cleaner air, and better grow food where it is most needed.¹

We, the undersigned, **call on governments to create super pollutant action plans and include them as part of their new Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, submitted by the time of COP26 in 2020.**

We further call on business leaders, health and climate experts, civil society groups, funders, and citizens across the globe to take immediate vigorous action to reduce super pollutant emissions. **Taking action today on emissions of super pollutants, also referred to as short-lived climate pollutants, [will yield](#) most of the climate mitigation feasible by 2050.**

Reducing super pollutants alongside CO₂ is the only approach to climate mitigation that avoids global temperature rise breaching both the 1.5- and 2-degree Celsius limits between now and the end of the century, thereby avoiding disastrous and irreversible consequences for our communities and our planet.²

Super pollutants have an [outsized warming impact](#) on our climate. They remain in the atmosphere for a shorter time than CO₂ but are extra potent, accelerating the rate at which the climate is warming today.³ Slowing down the rate of warming would reduce the risk of triggering dangerous climate tipping points—impacts that cannot be undone, such as runaway melting of polar ice. Several super pollutants cause air pollution and lead to health problems, ranging from more people suffering from asthma to more premature death from heart and lung diseases. Swift action means an opportunity to avoid millions of premature deaths and to save billions of dollars in environmental damages on the path to climate stabilization.

In the next decade, countries need to adopt measures that can slow the temperature increase, while contributing to the long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Action is needed on all fronts, and every sector and organization have the power to take specific steps now. Countries have the [opportunity to prioritize both near- and long-term action](#) in 2020 as they prepare their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in response to the Paris Agreement.⁴

Combating super pollutants comes with a big advantage: it is eminently feasible. The solutions are well known and tested, and implementation has started in many parts of the world. Alternatives exist for fluorocarbons, control of methane leakage from oil and gas production is straightforward, and substitutes for diesel, wood, coal, and other polluting fuels are rapidly being deployed. These solutions are not just cost-competitive, they are massive cost savers when health and other benefits are taken into account. These solutions need to be scaled up—quickly. Reducing super pollutants at scale will take us much closer to meeting many of our [sustainable development goals](#), including alleviating poverty and hunger, achieving good health and well-being, and creating sustainable cities and communities.⁵

There are opportunities throughout the economy to reduce super pollutants, including:

- Eliminating soot from transport and households by adopting standards requiring filters and soot-free vehicles and stove/boiler programs, replacing non-compliant vehicles, stoves and boilers, and banning ships with heavy fuel oil in the Arctic, all while developing goals for zero-carbon transport and households.
- Drastically reducing fugitive natural gas emissions throughout the oil and gas supply chains by stopping venting and flaring, using advanced sensing equipment to locate leaks, and implementing straightforward fixes.
- Fully implementing and enforcing the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol while improving the efficiency of the appliances that use them, actively deploying the use of climate-friendly replacements for refrigerants, and tackling gases already contained in equipment through a comprehensive approach to servicing, collection, and disposal programs.

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition maintains a **comprehensive set of opportunities**⁶ [here](#).

It's time to act on fast-acting super pollutants. We have the know-how. What we need is your commitment.

Following is a list of the Super Pollutant Summit attendees in Sofia, Bulgaria where the Call for Fast Action was initially conceived and those who subsequently contributed to its drafting:

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NOTES

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