

## COP 26 Report #3



From the Environmental Working Group as of November 10, 2021

Global cooperation (to keep average temperature from exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels) is perhaps the most important ingredient in achieving a stable climate. So, the Environmental Working Group is closely watching the UN's Climate Summit (COP 26), which began this this weekend in Glasgow. This is the third in a series of reports on the climate conference in Glasgow.

- You can see the **first report** by clicking [here](#).
- You can see the **second report** by clicking [here](#).

In this final week of the summit, there is **good news and bad news**:

Good news: John Kerry, the US Special Envoy for Climate, who has been attending climate summits since 1992 says it is "far from business as usual...I have never counted as many initiatives and as much real money-real money- being put on the table." Kerry's optimism is apparent in a 40-minute interview with Thomas Friedman. You can see it by [clicking here](#).

Bad news: It doesn't look like the summit will end Friday with an agreement that will achieve the 1.5 degree C goal. "Recent climate action announcements might give the impression that we are on track to turn things around," UN Secretary General Guterres said. "This is an illusion."

“The reality is you’ve got two different truths going on,” said Helen Mountford, vice president for climate and economics at the World Resources Institute. “We’ve made much more progress than we ever could’ve imagined a couple years ago. But it’s still nowhere near enough.” ([Plumber and Friedman, NY Times](#)).

**Follow up schedule:** An important issue being debated this week is whether countries should have to come back to the United Nations more frequently, perhaps annually, with stronger short-term plans to cut emissions. As it stands now, governments aren’t expected to submit new pledges until 2025. It doesn’t seem wise to wait 4 years, which will be only be 5 years from 2030 - the target year by which so many of the goals must be achieved. This seems a formula for disaster, given that we know current pledges are not sufficient.

### Climate Injustice

The least responsible for the climate crisis are suffering the most by its impact. And so far, the wealthy nations, most responsible for the damage are not doing their share to make amends.

A decade ago, the world’s wealthiest nations pledged to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 to help poorer countries transition to cleaner energy and protect themselves against the growing dangers from heat waves, floods, droughts, and wildfires as the planet heats up.

So far, those promises have not been met. By [one estimate](#), wealthy countries are still falling short by tens of billions of dollars per year. And critics [have said](#) that even this money has been poorly targeted. A large fraction of aid to date has been handed out as loans, which developing countries often struggle to repay. And only a tiny sliver of financing has gone toward efforts to adapt to climate change. ([Plumber and Friedman, NY Times](#)).

Here we are with 2 days to go. It seems that although global climate cooperation is at an all-time high in terms of activity, the summit will likely not end with commitments sufficient to achieve the 1.5 degree C target. Nor is there positive indications that climate injustice will be righted. Let’s hope for some remarkable happenings in the closing days.

Tune in next week for a final report on COP 26.

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[Return to Homepage](#)