

China, US, and EU to corner over 90% of available 1.5°C carbon space by 2050: CEEW

- *China, US and EU would corner 45 per cent of available 1.5°C carbon space by 2030*
- *202 GtCO₂ of additional carbon space would be available if these nations turn net-negative by sequestering emissions*

New Delhi, 9 November 2021: China, United States, and the European Union are likely to occupy more than 90 per cent of the available 1.5°C carbon space by 2050, according to an independent study released today by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). This would leave little room for developing nations like India to grow their economies in the coming decades. Also, the three big emitters would consume 45 per cent of the available carbon space by 2030. India, on the other hand, would emit 59 per cent less than China, 58 per cent less than the US, and 49 per cent less than the EU, from 1850 to 2100, on a cumulative basis, despite turning net-zero two decades later than the US and the EU and a decade later than China. The CEEW analysis takes into account the existing net-zero pledges of these countries.

The study '*The Carbon Space Implications of Net Negative Targets*' also estimates that the net-zero commitments made by the ten big emitters are inadequate and would surpass the 1.5°C carbon space by 33 per cent by 2050. Therefore, the US, China and the EU should consider advancing their respective net-zero years by a decade and aim to turn net negative by 2050. This would help contain the warming of the planet within the 1.5-degree Celsius carbon budget threshold suggested by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s recently released report.

Dr Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, CEEW, said, "CEEW's analysis highlights that the current net-zero pledges of China, the US and the EU are highly insufficient to keep the 1.5°C target alive while meeting climate justice goals. These countries, in particular, need to bend their emissions curves faster and announce more ambitious 2030 goals along with achieving net-negative emissions by 2050. This would ensure that planetary boundaries are not breached and emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are given time to pursue a just and sustainable low-carbon transition."

The CEEW report also highlights that 81GtCO₂ of carbon space could be available for developing nations if China were to advance its net-zero year to 2050 and peak by 2025. If the US and the EU were to reach net-zero emissions ten years sooner than their current targets, then carbon space freed up would be 14.5 GtCO₂ and 18.4 GtCO₂, respectively. A further 202 GtCO₂ of carbon space could be available for developing countries if these three nations also succeed in sequestering their carbon dioxide emissions between 2050 and 2100.

Dr Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow, CEEW said, "The world cannot avoid historical emissions now, but the future course of action has to change. The US, EU and China all have to do much more. The massiveness of China's future emissions needs to sink in. There is nothing in China's net-zero pledge that could be celebrated, as its post-2020 emissions would by itself increase the global temperature by almost 0.33°C."



Developing countries continue to demand for the delivery of climate justice, ramping up of climate finance, and additional financial support for loss and damage during the ongoing climate negotiations in Glasgow.

The study '*The Carbon Space Implications of Net Negative Targets*' can be accessed [here](#).

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Methodology

The analysis involved collecting historical emissions data, estimating future emission trajectories, and evaluating the share of carbon space consumed by the leading emitting nations. For this analysis, the following nations have been considered: China, the US, India, the EU, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Japan, Canada, Mexico, and Brazil. These countries were chosen based on their relatively high current share in total global emissions and the availability of explicit public information regarding their future vision and targets.

About CEEW

The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) is one of Asia's leading not-for-profit policy research institutions. The Council uses data, integrated analysis, and strategic outreach to explain – and change – the use, reuse, and misuse of resources. It prides itself on the independence of its high-quality research, develops partnerships with public and private institutions, and engages with wider public. In 2021, CEEW once again featured extensively across ten categories in the 2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. The Council has also been consistently ranked among the world's top climate change think tanks. Follow us on Twitter [@CEEWIndia](#) for the latest updates.