

Report: Most nations fall far short in plans to curb warming

September 15 2021, by Seth Borenstein



In this Wednesday, June 9, 2021 file photo, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, center, looks at a solar panel as he visits the Scottish Power Carland Cross Windfarm in Newquay, Cornwall, England. A report released on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 by Climate Action Tracker says only one nation, tiny The Gambia in Africa, has plans in line with limiting warming to the agreed upon goal set by the 2015 Paris agreement. The United Kingdom is the only developed nation that comes even close. Credit: AP Photo/Jon Super, Pool

Nearly every nation is coming up short—most of them far short—in their efforts to fight climate change, and the world is unlikely to hold warming to the internationally agreed-upon limit, according to a new scientific report.

Only one [nation](#)—tiny The Gambia in Africa—is on track to cut emissions and undertake its share of actions to keep the world from exceeding the [Paris agreement](#) goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times, the report said.

Only one industrialized nation—the United Kingdom—is even close to doing what it should to cut emissions of heat-trapping gases and finance clean energy for poorer nations, the [Climate Action Tracker](#) reported Wednesday.

In May, after [U.S. President Joe Biden's climate summit](#), enough nations had promised big enough carbon pollution cuts that the tracker said the "emissions gap"—the difference between emissions projections with pledges and what's required to meet the 1.5 degree goal—dropped 11%.

"That momentum has not been maintained," said report co-author Bill Hare, CEO of Climate Analytics. "We're running short of countries stepping up with additional emission commitments to close the gap."

Unlike its previous reports, which just looked at promises to cut carbon pollution and policy changes, the new ratings include money issues. Finance is critical to [climate negotiations this fall in Scotland](#), so the report examined commitments by rich nations to help pay for [clean energy](#) for poor nations, said Hare, a [climate](#) scientist.



In this Monday, Nov. 30, 2015 file photo, world leaders pose for a group photo at the COP21, United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Le Bourget, outside Paris. A report released on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 by Climate Action Tracker says only one nation, tiny The Gambia in Africa, has plans in line with limiting warming to the agreed upon goal set by the 2015 Paris agreement. Credit: Jacky Naegelen/Pool Photo via AP

That hurt the United States and European Union rankings.

The report called efforts by the United States, the European Union, Germany and Japan "insufficient" and more in line with [global warming](#) of 3 degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 19th century.

The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees

Fahrenheit) since that time, so these countries are on track to make the world 1.9 degrees Celsius (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than now.

While the U.S. official emissions pledge is almost sufficient, the overall grade "reflects that Biden hasn't got his policies in place," said Hare. The report gave U.S. financial aid commitments the worst grade possible.

China, the highest carbon emitter, and third highest carbon polluter India are what the report calls "highly insufficient" or more in line with 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since [pre-industrial times](#).



In this Wednesday, April 21, 2021 file photo, smoke and steam rise from towers at the coal-fired Urumqi Thermal Power Plant in Urumqi in western China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. A report released on Wednesday, Sept.

15, 2021 by Climate Action Tracker says only one nation, tiny The Gambia in Africa, has plans in line with limiting warming to the agreed upon goal set by the 2015 Paris agreement. Top carbon emitting nation China and third highest carbon polluting nation India are what the report calls "highly insufficient" or more in line with 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times. Credit: AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein

"We just don't see enough action coming from China," Hare said.

Hare said Brazil and Mexico "went backwards" on their fight to curb warming. The report lists Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Thailand on the bottom.

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