

Achieving net zero  
氣候變化挑戰下如何實現“淨零排放”

詞彙 : *climate* 氣候

We are all aware of the effect greenhouse gas **emissions** is having on our planet and the efforts needed to tackle **climate change**. Most of us are **doing our bit** to minimise our impact on the environment, but despite our collective effort, are we doing enough to achieve **net zero** by 2050?

Net zero means not adding to the amount of **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere. Many countries are doing their bit by changing how they generate and use power, thereby cutting **carbon dioxide** output. And they announced what further steps they were going to take at the recent COP26 summit in Glasgow.

In the UK, the government has been setting out its plans to achieve net zero by 2050. It's recently announced an end date for the sale of **gas boilers**, which are used for heating homes. The idea is to replace them with **heat pumps**. It's offering homeowners grants of up to £5,000 to get them installed. Another initiative in the UK is a big push towards **electric vehicles**. There are to be financial **incentives** for car manufacturers, and more charging points are to be installed in streets. And there's to be a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

But not all emissions can be reduced to zero, so those remaining will have to be compensated for, or **offset**. One way to do this is to plant thousands of trees, which are good at absorbing carbon dioxide. The UK government has pledged to plant 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025. There are other ideas too, but what's certain is this will cost money. The CBI's Tom Thackray told the BBC that "those costs have to be weighed up against the cost of **inaction**."

Whether the UK, or anyone else, reaches net zero remains to be seen. And there's some doubt about how this can be accurately measured anyway. But it's generally recognised that a **global effort** is needed to tackle climate change. Therefore, net zero **targets** only make sense if every other country is moving in the same direction.

詞彙表

emission

排放

climate change

氣候變化

do one's bit	盡一份力
net zero	“淨零排放”（溫室氣體淨排放為零）
greenhouse gas	溫室氣體
carbon dioxide	二氧化碳
gas boiler	燃氣鍋爐
heat pump	熱泵
electric vehicle	電動車輛，電動汽車
incentive	鼓勵，激勵
offset	抵消
inaction	不作為，不行動
global effort	全球攜手努力
target	目標

## 測驗與練習

### 1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. In which city did many world leaders recently meet to discuss reaching net zero?
2. Name one thing the UK government is going to end the sale of.
3. What is the UK government hoping to plant by 2025?
4. True or false? *A few countries need to take action to tackle climate change.*
5. What device needs to be installed more commonly in streets in order to power electric cars?

### 2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. We're \_\_\_\_\_ to tidy up the village by picking up litter.

done our bit	doing our bit	doing your bit	did our bit
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2. The \_\_\_\_\_ for writing this script is we're allowed to go home early.

inaction	offset	incentive	targets
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3. Kevin has set us a \_\_\_\_\_ to do double the amount of work this week.

target	targeted	targets	targeting
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4. We're going to \_\_\_\_\_ the cost of the holiday by not spending as much on going out for meals.

offset	do our bit	inaction	emissions
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5. It takes a \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with climate change.

globe effort	global effect	global efforts	global effort
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## 答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. In which city did many world leaders recently meet to discuss reaching net zero?

**Glasgow, UK.**

2. Name one thing the UK government is going to end the sale of.

**It plans to end the sale of gas boilers, and petrol and diesel vehicles.**

3. What is the UK government hoping to plant by 2025?

**The UK government has pledged to plant 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025.**

4. True or false? *A few countries need to take action to tackle climate change.*

**False. It's generally recognised that a global effort is needed to tackle climate change.**

5. What device needs to be installed more commonly in streets in order to power electric cars?

**More charging points need to be installed in streets to power electric cars.**

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. We're **doing our bit** to tidy up the village by picking up litter.

2. The **incentive** for writing this script is we're allowed to go home early.

3. Kevin has set us a **target** to do double the amount of work this week.

4. We're going to **offset** the cost of the holiday by not spending as much on going out for meals.

5. It takes a **global effort** to deal with climate change.