



December 2023

Environmental Message

United Nations Climate Change Conference

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly referred to as COP28 is meeting this week in the United Arab Emirates. UNFCCC stands for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change) is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. COP28 is the 28th United Nations Climate Change conference, being held from 30 November until 12 December 2023 at Expo City, Dubai. The conference has been held annually since the first UN climate agreement in 1992. The COP conferences are intended for governments to agree on policies to limit global temperature rises and adapt to impacts associated with climate change.

COP28 is the first COP to discuss the impact of climate change on public health. The World Health Organization called on ministers of health to raise their voices for health as the driving force behind climate action, leading by example with climate-friendly healthcare systems, and advocating for climate finance that safeguards human well-being.

In anticipation of COP 28 the United Nations, the United Nations published the first two-year assessment of global progress in slowing down climate change, called the "global stocktake" in September 2023. This type of overview was established during COP26 in Glasgow and is scheduled to be repeated every five years. Among the 17 key findings of the report are:

- The Paris Agreement and the resulting climate action significantly helped in reducing emissions. In 2011 the projected warming by 2100 was 3.7-4.8°C. After COP27 it was 2.4-2.6°C, respectively and in the best case, if all pledges are accomplished, 1.7-2.1°C.
- As of September 2023, the world is not on track to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement. For having a more than 50% chance of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C and more than 67% chance of limiting it to 2°C, global emissions must peak by the year 2025.
- Trillions of dollars are needed for limiting warming to 1.5°C. Financial flows need to significantly change.
- Effective international cooperation and collaboration are crucial for reaching the targets of the Paris Agreement. COP 28 calls for a robust mitigation outcome that propels a significant reduction in emissions, building on the progress achieved in previous conferences. The emphasis is on accelerating the adoption of renewable energy while laser-focusing on phasing out fossil fuel emissions. This information is important to us as Utility Vegetation Managers as these decisions can impact our operations.

Sources: <https://unfccc.int/cop28>

<https://www.businesstoday.in/opinion/columns/story/accelerating-climate-action-here-are-the-key-priorities-of-cop-28-408111-2023-12-04#:~:text=COP%2028%20calls%20for%20a,phasing%20out%20fossil%20fuel%20emissions.>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference

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