



## SME Climate Hub – Duke Austin & Co Ltd.’s Pledge

Duke Austin & Co Ltd joins SME Climate Hub and commits to halve greenhouse gas emissions before 2030 towards net zero before 2050.

Duke Austin & Co Ltd announced today that they have become one of the first companies to join the SME Climate Hub, a new groundbreaking one-stop-shop climate action platform for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to curb carbon emissions, build business resilience and take climate leadership.

The SME Climate Hub is co-hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, the We Mean Business coalition and the United Nations Race to Zero campaign, and has received support from several supply chain leaders, including BT Group, Ericsson, IKEA, Telia and Unilever, as well as funding support from Amazon and Verizon.

Duke Austin & Co Ltd has become one of the first signatories to the UN-recognized “SME Climate Commitment”, which forms part of the [SME Climate Hub](#). In making this commitment, Duke Austin & Co Ltd has pledged to halve its carbon emissions by 2030, achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and to regularly report on progress towards these aims.

On the logic behind the company’s decision to join the initiative, Company Director, William Austin said “Since moving to our offices at The Observatory, we have been committed to reducing our carbon footprint. Installing ground heat source heating, by using hybrid and full electric vehicles we have signaled our corporate intent for over 14 years. We very much welcome this Global Initiative enabling us to join with the many smaller businesses who wish to ‘do their bit’. Our management is becoming more supportive of reducing travel by close association with regional partners, and by using modern communication methods to engage remotely with those with whom we work. Together, we can make a real difference.”

The SME Climate Hub was launched at the start of the UN General Assembly Week and New York Climate Week by the High-Level Climate Action Champion for the United Kingdom, Nigel Topping and has received initial financial support from Amazon and Verizon, through their partnership with the ‘We Mean Business’ coalition.

The SME Climate Hub will provide SMEs with a range of accessible tools and resources to help them reduce emissions and build business resilience. The platform will couple these tailored resources with opportunities for businesses to unlock direct commercial incentives – from government tax breaks to procurement preferences provided by major businesses such as BT Group, Ericsson, Ikea, Telia and Unilever, who have all agreed to work with their SME suppliers to improve climate performance and also provide concrete tools, share knowledge and exchange best practices for implementing robust climate strategies through the SME Climate Hub.

One of the most pressing existential threats to SMEs is climate emergency. It has the potential to slow economic growth by causing material damage; limiting resource availability; causing shifts in demand; leading to business interruptions and production disruptions; causing supply chain interference; and forcing business closures. With 40 to 60 percent of small businesses never reopening after a disaster, curbing carbon emissions and building business resilience is critical.

### **About the SME Climate Hub**

The SME Climate Hub is an initiative founded by the International Chamber of Commerce, the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, the We Mean Business coalition and the UNFCCC Race to Zero campaign, with the aim of supporting small and medium-sized businesses to build business resilience. The SME Climate Hub provides a one-stop-shop for SMEs to commit to climate action and access tools, incentives and other resources designed to make it easier than ever for small and medium-sized businesses to cut carbon emissions, bring innovative green solutions to market and build business resilience.

For more information about the SME Climate Hub, visit: [www.smeclimatehub.org](http://www.smeclimatehub.org)

### **About the SME Climate Commitment:**

The SME Climate Hub provides any business with less than 500 employees with the opportunity to publicly demonstrate its commitment to climate action by signing the SME Climate Commitment. Making the commitment means that your business will start to take immediate climate action in order to:

1. Halve greenhouse gas emissions before 2030
2. Achieve net zero emissions before 2050
3. Disclose progress on a yearly basis

For more information about the SME Climate Commitment, visit: <https://www.smeclimatehub.org/sme-climate-commitment>

### **About the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**

ICC is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries with a mission to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere.

Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation -- in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world's leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

We act as the primary voice of the real economy in a range of intergovernmental organizations – from the United Nations to the World Trade Organization – championing the needs of local business in global decision making. Find out more at: [iccwbo.org](http://iccwbo.org)

### **About Exponential Roadmap Initiative**

The Exponential Roadmap Initiative brings together technology innovators, scientists, companies and NGOs, with the mission to accelerate climate action exponentially. The initiative has released the [Exponential Roadmap](#), highlighting the 36 solutions that can scale exponentially to halve Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 worldwide, and the [1.5°C Business Playbook](#), a guideline for companies and organisations of all sizes to set a 1.5°C aligned strategy and move to action. Find out more at: [exponentialroadmap.org](http://exponentialroadmap.org).

### **About the UNFCCC Race to Zero Campaign**

The UNFCCC Race to Zero campaign is an international campaign that brings together an unprecedented coalition of real economy actors and 120 governments committed to achieve net zero carbon emission by no later than 2050. These real economy actors include: 1,128 companies, 452 cities, 22 regions, 549 universities, 45 of the biggest investors and 2,100 chambers of commerce – creating the largest ever alliance committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by no later than 2050: the “Climate Ambition Alliance.”

### **About the We Mean Business coalition**

We Mean Business is a global coalition of nonprofit organizations working with the world's most influential businesses to take action on climate change. The coalition brings together seven organizations: [BSR](#), [CDP](#), [Ceres](#), [The B Team](#), [The Climate Group](#), [The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group](#) and the [World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#). Together we catalyze business action to drive policy ambition and accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy. Find out more at: [wemeanbusinesscoalition.org](http://wemeanbusinesscoalition.org).