

***UIAA Climate Action: commit,
move, together, now!***

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

For Member Federations

Getting started

The **Climate Action Plan for UIAA Member Federations** proposes actions and suggests resources that mountain clubs and associations can draw on to help develop and evaluate their own climate actions plans. This plan is focused on **first steps**.

Member Federations in different parts of the world will be at different stages in acting on climate change, so this is not a prescriptive plan. Rather it is a set of resources that each mountaineering association can evaluate and tailor for their own needs.

This document is made up of science-based recommendations and actions suggested by different UIAA Member Federations. The key takeaway is to **inspire** and help your association take those **important first steps to climate action**.

If your association has other advice or finds an effective way to alter any of the suggestions mentioned here, we hope you will report your experience to mountainprotection@theuiaa.org

4 Climate Action Pillars

COMMIT

Commit to take climate action & set priorities

MITIGATE

Set mitigation targets:

- Measure/lower carbon footprint
- Avoid, reduce, compensate

ADAPT

Adaptation measures:

- Strategies - local, regional, national
- Risk reduction
- Sustainability

ADVOCATE

INFLUENCE

EDUCATE

COMMIT

Take the First Step



Committing to climate change action and setting priorities is all about defining tangible and measurable targets that work for your federation. These targets can vary in scope – they can be simple or complex; they can borrow from UIAA operational targets or be tailored completely differently.

Be prepared for pushback – a few individuals or groups may feel it is not the role of mountain associations to address climate change issues.

The UIAA respectfully recognizes these views. However, it is the scientifically based opinion of the UIAA that climate change forms a real and existential threat to mountaineering and mountain communities. We need to continue the UIAA tradition of mountain leadership and step up to face this challenge.

HOW?

- ▶ Make climate change action a topic at the executive level of your organisation.
- ▶ Create a climate change action position within your federation. Include terms of reference for the position.
- ▶ Reach out to your members for their climate change priorities.
- ▶ Have a climate change action component at your federation's next General Assembly.
- ▶ Make a public statement on committing to climate change action.

Examples from UIAA Member Associations

German Alpine Club commits to being [carbon neutral by 2030](#).

Mountain Club of South Africa publishes its [stance on climate change](#).

British Mountaineering Council commits to [The Climate Project](#) - nature-based solutions to address the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Italian Alpine Club committed its 101 Congress (Nov, 2023) to the theme of [Mountains in the Age of Climate Change](#).

American Alpine Club commits to climate change action through [political advocacy, scientific research, and sustainable resource development](#).

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
FOR UIAA MEMBERS**

MITIGATE

Lower your Impact



Mitigation is about avoidance, reduction, and compensation of Green House Gases (GHG) used in areas controlled by your federation.

It is important for Member Federations to define their own specific tangible and measurable mitigation targets. Several of the examples here use GHG emissions calculators. But there is no reason a federation can't start with something quicker and easier to measure and then progress as experience builds.

For example, keep track of the number of club trips where carpooling was used. And aim to increase the number. Or keep track of helicopter servicing trips used from year to year, and aim to decrease them (or hold steady) as time goes on.

Focus on the "low-hanging fruit", so easy-to-implement measures first.

Resources: [free calculator the UIAA uses](#)

HOW?

- ▶ **Start collecting data on emissions generated by your organisation. Then calculate the footprint.**
- ▶ **Evaluate and prioritize where your federation could avoid, reduce and (only then) compensate emissions. Use this information to help formulate a climate action strategy.**
- ▶ **Travel often is responsible for the largest chunk of caused emissions. Address it accordingly.**
- ▶ **Start small – maybe individual huts, high profile club events, and/or selected club/association infrastructure (i.e. office).**

Examples from UIAA Member Associations

The Slovenian Alpine Association is encouraging its members to approach mountains using public transportation, walking or biking-

The Indian Mountaineering Foundation encourages smaller expeditions, and limited number of expeditions to one particular mountain area.

New Zealand Alpine Club has produced a [climbing trip emissions calculator tool](#).

Nepal Mountaineering Association conducted a [pre-feasibility study on replacing fossil fuels](#) with solar and/or wind energy at Everest Base Camp.

The Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Federation is exploring a own compensation fund.

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
FOR UIAA MEMBERS**

ADAPT

Increase Resilience



UIAA

Climate adaptation is key to a climate resilient future. In the context of mountaineering, adaptation means finding new or alternate ways of going about our activities facing increasing and intensifying weather extremes, floods, droughts, reduced food and water security.

Member Federations know their playgrounds the best and are aware of arising risks and needs for taking alternate routes. Under this pillar, it is key for Member Federations to address its priorities in managing the direct impacts of climate change.

For many Federations adaptation is what they are being forced to do, because climate change is knocking at their doors.

Within the world of mountaineering adaptation often revolves around water (droughts, floods, ice melting).

HOW?

- ▶ Evaluate where and how climate change forces your Federation and its members to climb differently.
- ▶ Update how objective risk is being assessed for mountain hazards in a changing climate.
- ▶ Make sure adaptation actions address longer-term climate impacts and aren't simple quick-fixes.
- ▶ Adapt huts, trails and infrastructure to predicted climate change scenarios e.g. renovate, close or (re)move huts; mitigate external hazards e.g. stream diversion, trail realignment.

Examples from UIAA Member Associations

Korean Alpine Federation has been exploring (artificial) alternatives for its ice climbers, as winters are warmer and ice falls become riskier to climb.

Climbing and Mountaineering Belgium started a whatsapp group for mountain guides to warn about (weather related) dangerous routes.

Parks Canada and the Alpine Club of Canada [removed the Abbot Pass Hut](#) due to significant ice receding.

French Alpine Federation with other stakeholders, [issue statement on closure of the Goûter route on Mont Blanc](#) for several weeks during peak season due to dangerous rock fall.

Western Caspian University is constructing forest belts in mountainous regions.

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
FOR UIAA MEMBERS**

ADVOCATE

Tell your Story



Advocacy is all about education and influence. Member Federations have an inherent role in informing their individual members about important mountaineering topics, and in this context about climate change and how to take action.

This is the time for inspirational stories and sharing the journey that you as a Federation have been and continue to be on. It is also the platform to share challenges you have faced.

Through telling compelling and relevant stories, readers become educated indirectly, yet sometimes more effectively. Because they care.

In many countries advocacy can go beyond the realm of the federation and its members, with Federations requesting change in national policies.

HOW?

- ▶ Use the power of storytelling and share what your federation and mountaineers are witnessing in climate change (action) through your platforms such as magazines, social media, website, newsletter, etc.
- ▶ Educate your staff, volunteers, clubs and sections about climate change (action) and use opportunities to facilitate a change in perception and behavior.
- ▶ Create an exchange platform for your members to get inspiration from and share stories.

Examples from UIAA Member Associations

American Alpine Club president spoke as "[An Imperfect Advocate](#)" showing that each and everyone can have a voice for the climate.

Swiss Alpine Club [supports the Glacier Initiative](#), publicly and politically committing to climate change.

Alpine Club of Canada publishes a yearly [State of the Mountains Report](#).

UIAA Mountain Voices [podcast on climate change](#).

The Alpine Club educates on [travel and climate change](#).

[Story from the Andes](#) on witnessing shrinking glaciers.

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
FOR UIAA MEMBERS**



More on climate action

www.theuiaa.org/climate-change/

Get in touch with examples, best practices, challenges mountainprotection@theuiaa.org