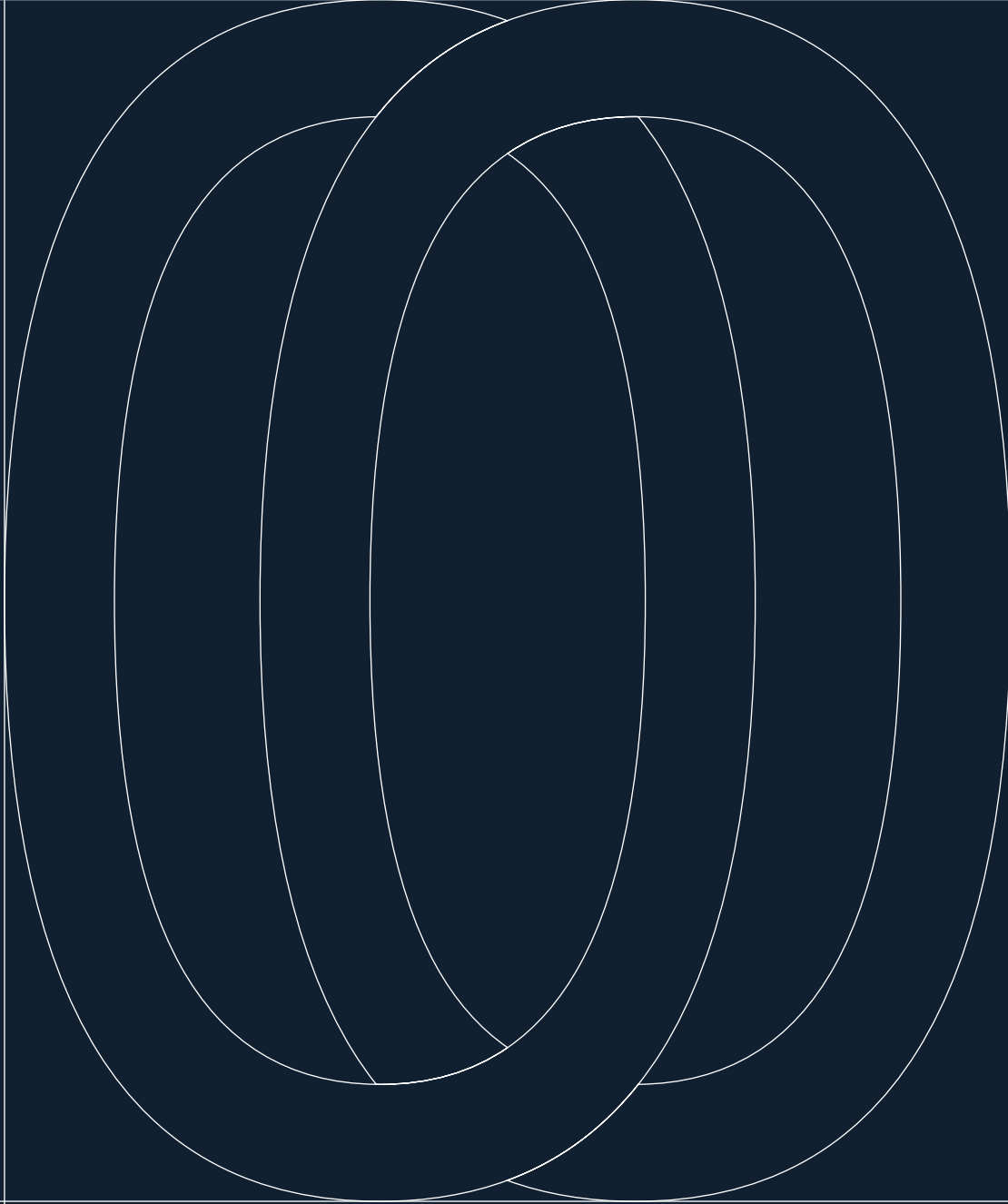


NET ZERO CERTIFICATION

FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS



The Global Network for Zero



The Global Network for Zero (GNFZ) is an international leadership collective of business and policy leaders implementing actionable strategies and solutions to accelerate ESG compliance and the rapid realization of a zero emissions world.

GNFZ was founded on an urgent premise: Humanity is in immediate need of a realigned strategic approach for implementing net zero solutions. GNFZ believes that prioritizing decentralized climate action and incremental paths to decarbonization is the fastest way to scale up implementation across industry sectors.

The harsh truth is that when it comes to the necessary overhauls for a net zero future, we just aren't there yet.

Current approaches have proven they are not aggressive enough to meet the Paris Agreement targets. Today's decarbonization efforts lack structure, leadership and trustworthy measurement tools. In fact, the cross-jurisdictional interoperability and implementation timelines yielded from emerging rules in the EU, US and beyond have often resulted in little more than corporate greenwashing and a false sense of progress.

GNFZ is closing the accountability loopholes currently plaguing the path to a zero emissions future and delivering a concrete, actionable plan for acceleration – one that fills the leadership void, unifies implementation efforts and provides solutions that eliminate the traditional market barriers businesses face in achieving net zero.

The work we are doing is designed to not only heap the pressure on leaders, but to equip them with the resources they need to meet their net zero targets with efficiency and effect.

Introducing GNFZ's Net Zero Certification

<p>THE CHARGE</p> <p>GNFZ's singular charge is to help businesses accelerate the emissions reduction of their operations, supply chains, buildings, products and more. By prioritizing the highest emitting sectors, our strategy employs an ambitious, integrated solution designed to do two things: DEFINE and DRIVE the necessary progress for decarbonization.</p>	
	<p>A REVOLUTIONARY NET ZERO PLATFORM</p> <p>To support this work, we have launched a decentralized, peer-to-peer platform that provides individuals, businesses and organizations with end-to-end support in accelerating progress toward hitting their net zero targets.</p> <p>Specifically, the platform allows network members to assess their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, helps them identify strategies and partnerships for reaching their goals and independently verifies and certifies their net zero achievements.</p>

Defining Net Zero

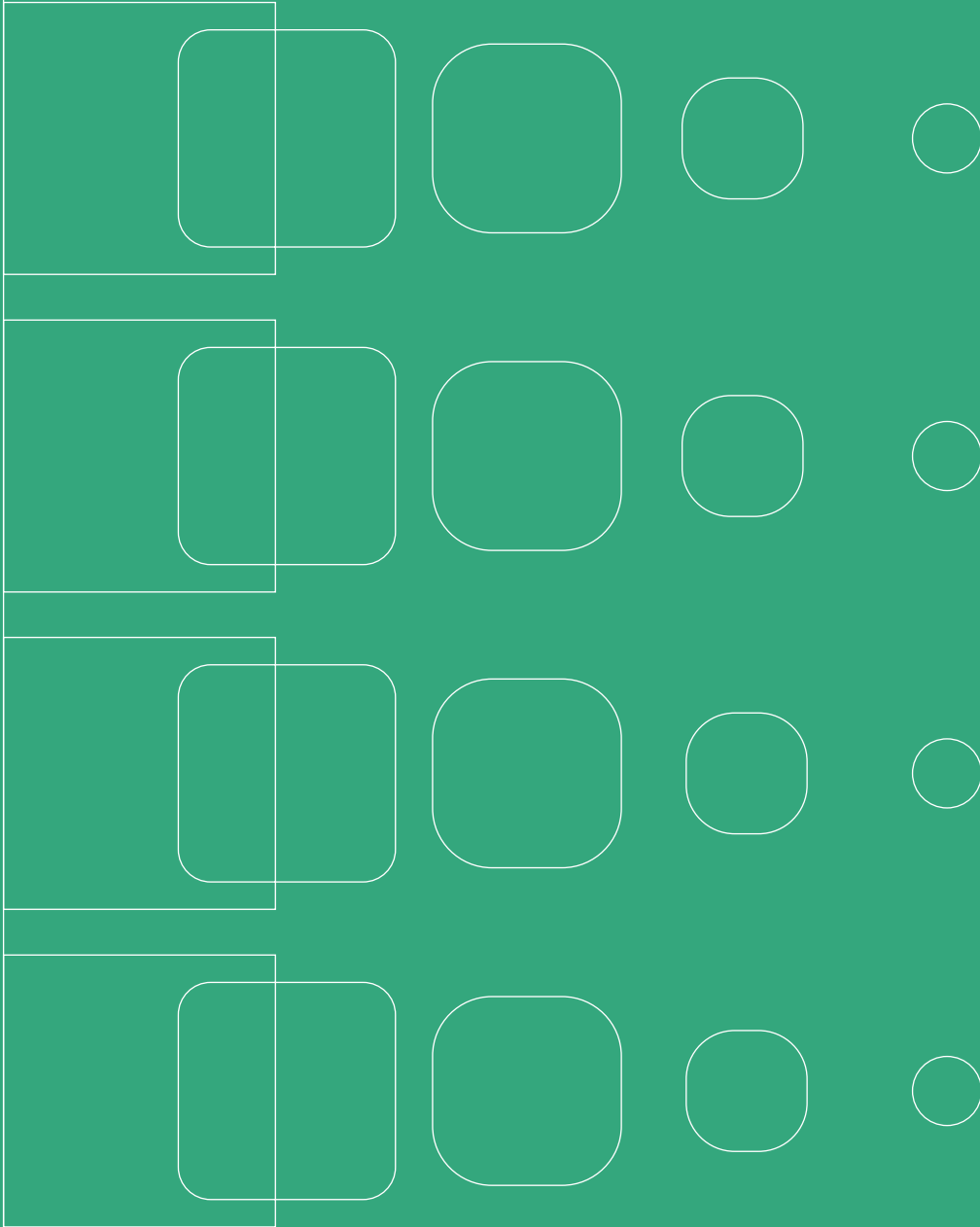
Companies all over the world are making net zero commitments, but despite good intentions, they do not always know how to achieve them. The reason they may struggle with implementation is simpler than one might imagine. GNFZ conducted independent research in 2022 and learned that while some leaders are already aware of their true Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, others are creating their own piecemeal metrics. Some are even ignoring Scope 3 emissions altogether. This not only leads to market confusion, but also dangerously undermines the efficacy of the net zero movement.

To fulfill their net zero commitments, organizations must have a consistent definition of what net zero actually means.

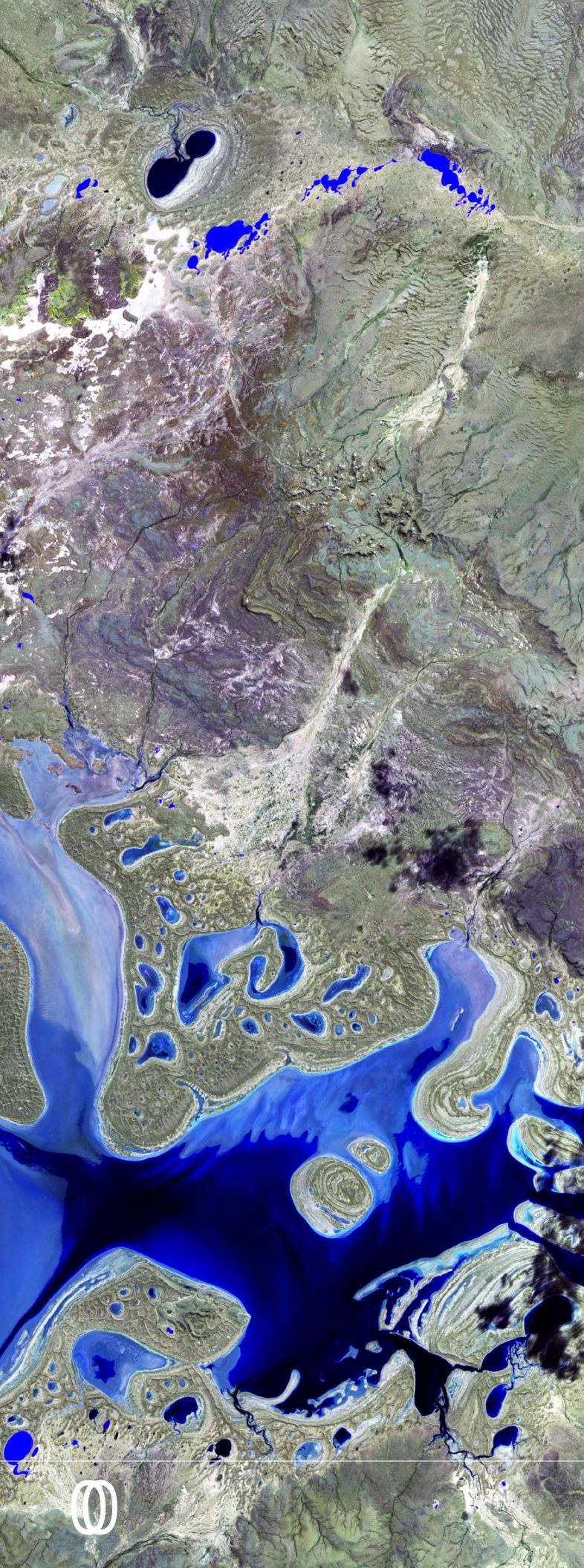
Through its platform, GNFZ helps companies properly tackle their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, and have a common definition for net zero.

Driving Net Zero

Driving a decarbonized world will include the digitization of climate data, decentralization of climate action and delivery of transformational new standards applicable across sectors – which is where the second part of GNFZ's net zero solution comes in.



Digitization of Climate Data



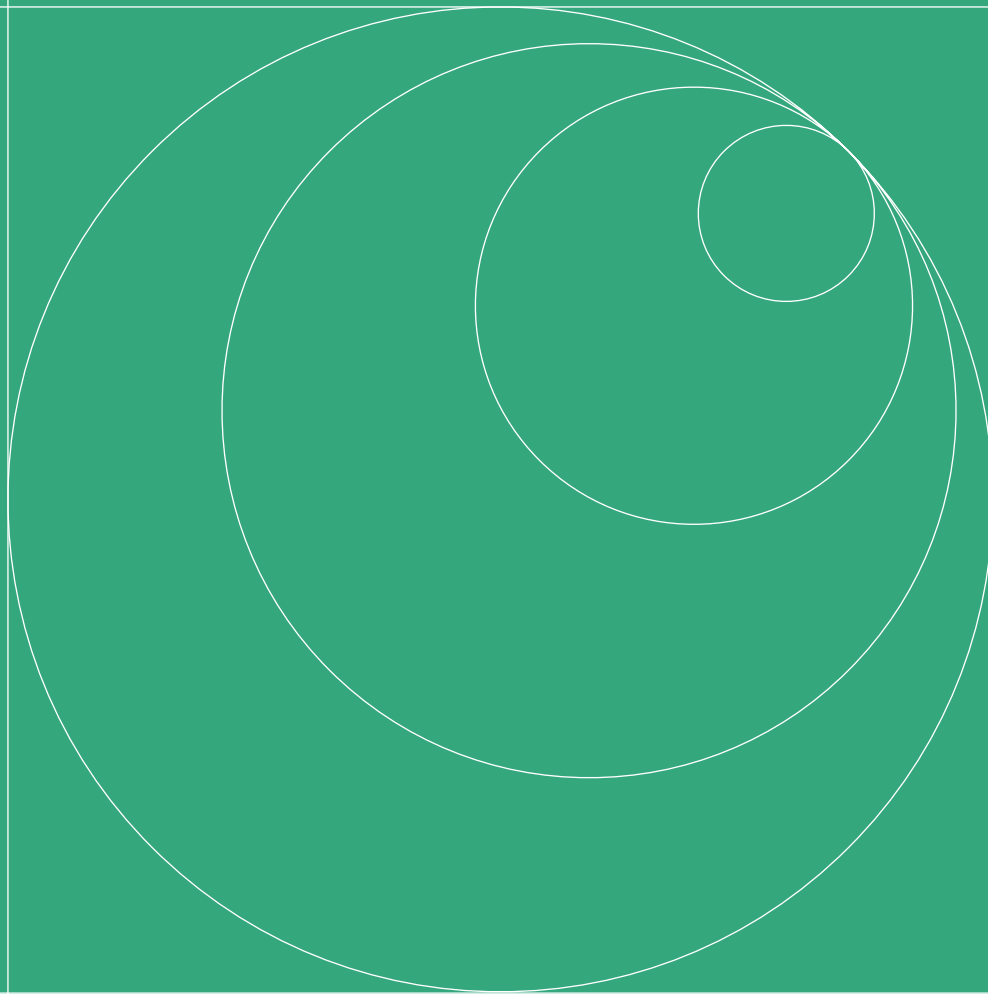
Digitization of Climate Data

Digitization of climate data means using digital technologies to collect, store, process and share data related to climate change and its impacts. Digitization of climate data helps improve the accuracy and accessibility of climate information for various stakeholders.

Full digitization of climate data and its measurement is critical to making a dent in the highest emitting sectors. Digitization of climate data specifically enables better monitoring and evaluation of climate actions and progress toward the Paris Agreement goals. It is foundational — because what isn't measured can't be tracked. And when data isn't tracked, we end up exactly where we are now — in net zero no man's land.

Having an honest assessment, baseline understanding and quality data improves decision-making, increases transparency and limits the potential for greenwashing.

With this improved transparency, organizations have an accurate assessment of the progress being made in curbing emissions and, just as importantly, of the work still left to do.



Decentralization of Climate Action

Decentralization of Climate Action

The Paris Agreement recognizes the role of subnational governments (e.g., states, provinces, regions, cities and localities) in climate action and calls for their engagement and support. Decentralization is the most effective approach for involving subnational governments in designing and implementing policies and programs to address the impacts of climate change. By capitalizing on local knowledge, bandwidth and preferences of subnational actors, decentralization enhances the effectiveness and equity of climate responses. Additionally, in an effort to achieve shared goals and synergies, decentralized climate action also fosters coordination and cooperation among different levels of government and various stakeholders.





Recognizing that climate action takes place in a decentralized manner will revolutionize how we break down and understand data – by region, sector, projects and people.

GNFZ's team is uniquely positioned to build a cutting-edge, decentralized technology platform that can accelerate climate action in a way that hasn't been accomplished before. By leveraging feedback from network users and keeping up to date with latest emerging technologies such as AI, machine learning (ML) and blockchain technology, the GNFZ team will establish a next-generation platform unparalleled at evolving and adapting to a rapidly changing climate space.

Not only does the GNFZ team have vast experience in building and deploying global technology platforms, but GNFZ's experts in net zero, carbon emissions reduction, ESG, the UN SDGs and standard setting are committed to delivering on four key tenets of a net zero future.



The GNFZ community can expect a platform that is...

	<p>An inclusive platform where anyone can be a meaningful contributor to accelerating change and the realization of a zero-emissions world.</p>
	<p>A collaborative platform with a peer-to-peer network that assesses, consults on and validates each other's work; where network members share lessons, successes and net zero best practices.</p>
	<p>A flexible platform that recognizes there are many standards and carbon accounting methodologies and tools already available and enables users to choose their own preferred method and practices.</p>
	<p>A transparent platform that fights greenwashing, empowers users to access trustworthy measurement tools and resources, and also certifies the compliance of net zero goals and efforts.</p>

Delivering Transformational New Standards with Cross-Sector Reach

[The platform](#) enables anyone to take action on climate change. Companies and organizations that use it can benefit from accessing the latest knowledge across sectors. Though the platform is based on the GHG protocol and uses this as the default methodology to calculate Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, it offers flexibility for companies to choose either the GHG Protocol or any existing standard and frameworks (such as SBTi, GRI, SASB, TCFD, green building programs, etc.) or even propose their own set of best practices to calculate the carbon emissions. The platform supports people, companies and organizations in achieving net zero by:

- Guiding them through the whole process – from assessing emissions of their buildings, operations, assets, products, etc. to recognizing them for achieving critical net zero milestones along the way.
- Providing them with a consistent method to calculate their greenhouse gas emissions and obtain net zero certification.
- Helping them calculate their carbon footprint based on a standard, method or approach that meets their requirement.
 - GNFZ recommends using the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#) as the default method for calculating emissions as it is widely accepted and suitable for various kinds of projects and businesses.
- Supporting them with comparison of different methods and best practices to optimize their net zero implementation.



Key Features and Benefits

[The platform](#) offers the following features and benefits to organizations:

- Anyone can join the network to support other network members as an educator, assessor, advocate, standards developer and/or consultant. Members can also introduce new roles to the network and recruit others to join.
- Ability to track net zero implementation for almost anything in the world – business, product, building, cities, communities and much more.
- Ability to use one or more existing best practices and standards.
- Ability to propose new best practices and standards.
- Ability to calculate and inventory their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emission sources based on the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#) or by pursuing the preferred carbon calculation method of choice.
- Ability to share implementation plans and targets.
- Request implementation support from [a database of GNFZ recognized partners](#) available on the platform.
- Ability to share net zero implementation progress.
- Ability to track and maintain net zero certifications.
- Third-party feedback, validation and certification of emissions calculations, net zero plan and targets; carbon offsets; net zero implementation milestones; and final net zero certification.
- Third-party feedback to improve implementation quality, transparency assessment and avoidance of greenwashing.
- Continuous improvement built into the platform to evolve with market, regulatory and technology needs.
- Support ESG and SDG reporting and communicating achievements to boards, shareholders and stakeholders.
- Marketing, messaging and storytelling support to amplify net zero implementation progress and leadership.

GNFZ's Net Zero Certification for Existing Buildings

Because buildings constitute a large percentage of many organizations' emissions, existing buildings are the best place to start when it comes to putting into place a net zero strategy. However, because the built environment is the highest emitting sector responsible for almost 40% of all emissions, it's also one of the more complex uphill battles on the path to zero.

By assessing a building's emissions baseline, [GNFZ's net zero certification](#) is designed to scale progress with existing buildings by providing an incremental approach to certification — one focused on ensuring all buildings can establish and execute a roadmap to zero.

Key Components

The key components of [our net zero certification for existing buildings](#) include:

- An assessment of inventory emissions sources and calculation of a building's Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
- Ability to set building specific targets, provide submission plans and implementation details.
- An independent third-party net zero certification and recognition for achieving key net zero milestones along the way..
- End-to-end support from GNFZ and its partners – from initial assessment to net zero certification.
- Access to GNFZ's platform to help track the progress of a building toward net zero.
- Ability to include other team members to collaborate on a project.
- Support for implementing an open set of best practices and standards.



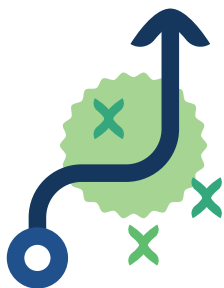
Benefits

[GNFZ's net zero certification for existing buildings](#) offers the following benefits:

- Differs from existing approaches because it is simple, accessible and designed to enable all existing buildings to get to net zero.
- Helps existing buildings get started by focusing on a singular, outcome-driven metric – carbon emissions reduction.
- Offers incremental certification to validate the assessment, plan, implementation and monitoring the net zero journey of existing buildings.
- Provides projects with the opportunity to be recognized throughout the certification process with certificates for reaching critical milestones on the path to net zero.
- Ability to implement net zero strategies based on an open set of best practices and standards.
- Access to a simple but rigorous platform to track progress.
- Offers a nimble, outcome-based and low cost certification process with a more intuitive workflow and reduced documentation requirements.
- Improves external and internal transparency of progress, leading to deeper stakeholder engagement, action and results.
- Allows buildings to take a holistic or incremental approach to implementation to support their unique needs.
- Technology integration support to connect your internal systems with the platform and provide data for external reporting.
- Includes storytelling and stakeholder messaging support.

Process

Existing buildings will realize their net zero transformation in three phases:



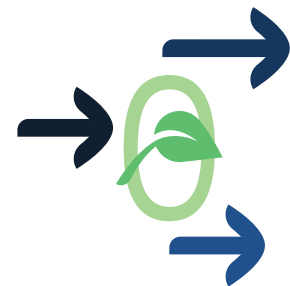
Phase One INITIATE

Conduct an assessment, develop a plan and achieve milestone certificates.



Phase Two IMPLEMENT

Reassessment of emission sources if needed, implementation of plans and strategies and achievement of net zero certification.



Phase Three SUSTAIN

Maintain net zero status in perpetuity.

GNFZ certification

[GNFZ net zero certification](#) verifies that businesses, organizations and individuals have achieved zero carbon emissions through a combination of carbon offsets and implementation of carbon removal strategies. Projects that achieve this certification are recognized as “GNFZ certified.”

GNFZ certificates



Net zero milestones recognized along the way

After review and validation by GNFZ, a project is recognized as “GNFZ certified” when it reaches zero carbon emissions. Projects are also recognized throughout the certification process and awarded certificates for the following critical milestones on their path to net zero:

- **Assessment Certificate:** Awarded when a client has performed a detailed inventory of a building’s various emission sources for a reporting period (typically 12 continuous months), calculated their Scope 1, 2 and 3 and provided information of adopted best practices and standards.
- **Net Zero Plan Certificate:** Awarded when a client completes and submits a net zero plan. This is a narrative document that details everything about the building’s net zero implementation. It will typically include information on how the emissions are calculated, the supporting documents they relied on for the calculations, the timeline for implementation, annual or periodic targets for reducing emissions through carbon offsets and carbon removal strategies, challenges and lessons learned, technologies and best practices being used or planned to be adopted and much more. In short, the plan clearly and concisely details the building’s net zero journey from start to finish.
- **Carbon Offset Certificate:** Awarded when a client has reported their planned carbon offsets budget and tracked its actual progress against the plan. The planned carbon offsets and emissions should match what is specified in the net zero plan. The project team will also report the actual carbon offset purchased, during the reporting period and should provide all documents that are relevant to the purchase of carbon offsets, including any certificates, supporting literature, etc. GNFZ will also work with clients to ensure they choose high quality carbon credits.
- **Net Zero Milestone Certificate:** Awarded when a client achieves their planned emissions reduction for a milestone they have established in their plan. The project team must report its net zero milestone achieved with any supporting documents, based on the net zero plan it has shared.





Initiate

In this phase, the client will complete their building's initial emissions assessment and subsequently set a net zero plan with targets and achieve milestone certificates.

After creating a profile on the platform, the client will then follow these steps to obtain net zero certification for their building:

1. Engage a GNFZ partner and/or your in-house team if preferred for implementation support.
2. Enter information about the building and tag it to group it into a campus, portfolio, fund, REIT or organization to enable the portfolio view.
3. Invite team members to collaborate.
4. Perform a detailed inventory of the building's various emission sources.
5. Calculate Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
6. Provide information on any of the adopted best practices and standards.
7. Request assessment review of emission sources, calculations and best practices to receive a net zero assessment certificate.
8. Share a net zero implementation plan.
9. Request implementation plan review to receive a net zero plan certificate.
10. Share carbon offsets and net zero targets.
11. Request carbon offset review to receive a carbon offset certificate.
12. Request net zero milestone review to receive a net zero milestone certificate.
13. If net zero emissions achieved, request for net zero certification to receive a net zero certificate and final net zero certification.
14. Continuously monitor net zero status to maintain your certification.



Implement

In this phase, the client will annually validate and make any required adjustments to their building's initial and prior year emissions assessment, plan, targets and subsequent impact to their certifications. The validation must be completed between January 1 – March 15 of each year. This phase will continue until the net zero certification is achieved.

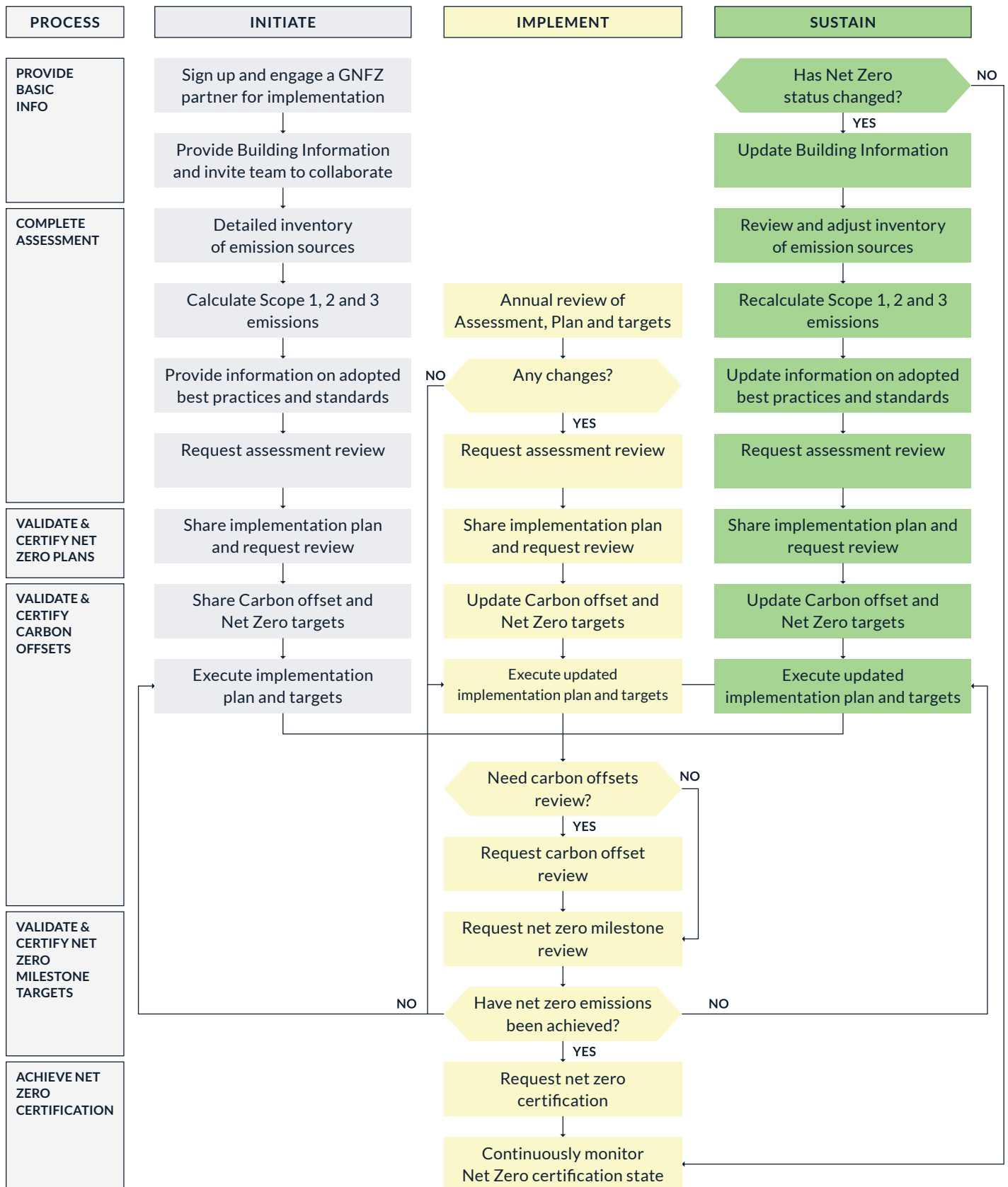


Sustain

In this phase, the client will continue to monitor and ensure their building maintains its net zero certification. In case of material changes to its emissions, the building will obtain its updated certifications by following the steps outlined in the Initiate and Implement phases.

On an annual basis, GNFZ will publicize a progress report that transparently shares all projects' assessment and certification results and the progress projects have made toward their net zero commitments.

GNFZ Net Zero Solution: Process



**Access the
platform and get
started today.**

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP

