Carbon neutral

vs net zero.

What's the difference?



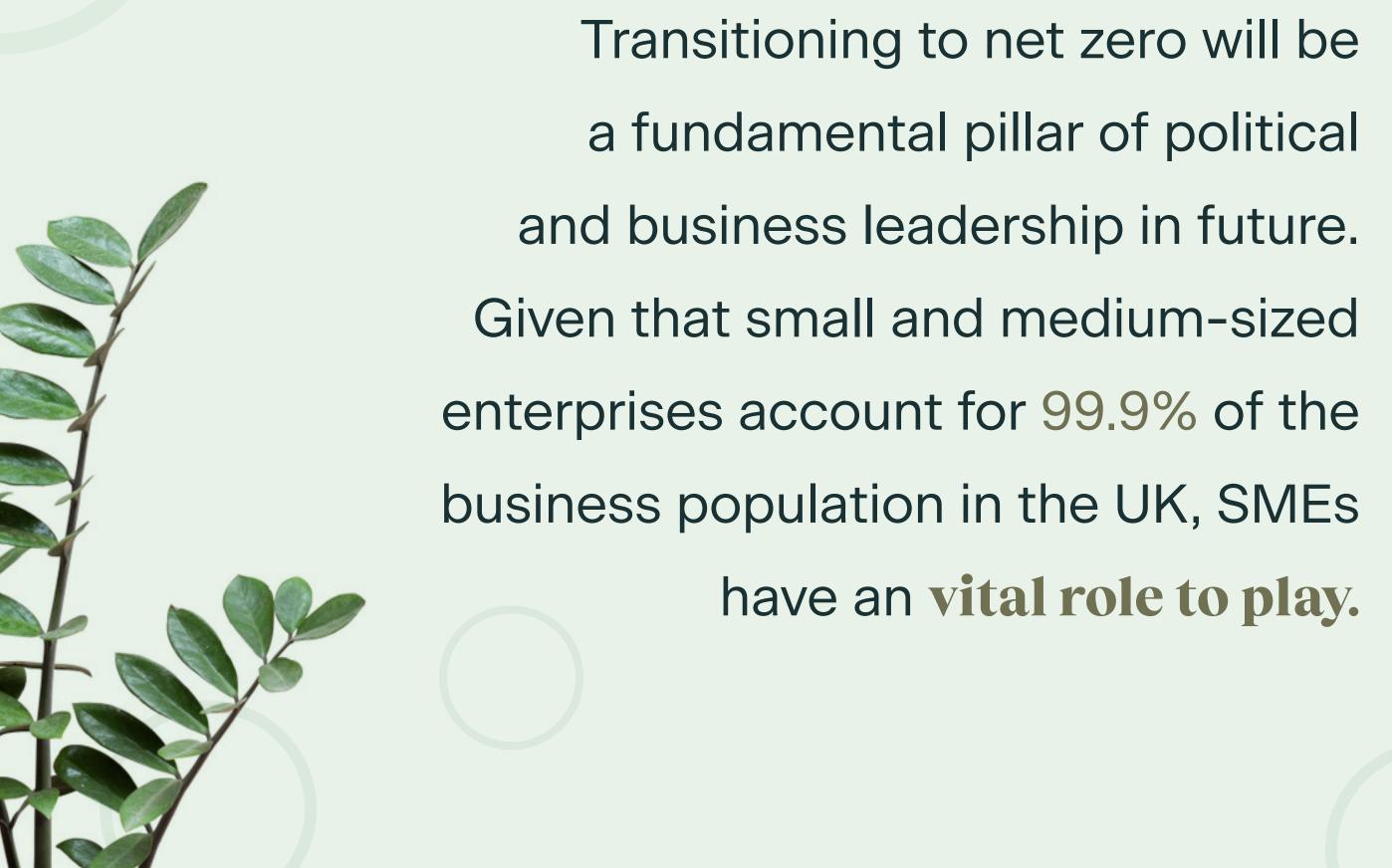


Why is it so important?

As the UK and global community ramp up ambition towards net zero – key to achieving our goal of limiting global warming to less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels – it's critical to understand the terminology and what your business should be striving for.



What does it mean for my business?



The main differences

Carbon neutral / net zero carbon



Carbon neutrality relates to the balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. Carbon neutral is often seen as a pathway to net zero.

Net zero carbon emissions is the balance between the total GHG emissions released and the total amount of GHG emissions removed from the atmosphere annually.

Measurement

Carbon neutral net zero carbon



While both carbon neutral and net zero requires a company to measure Scope 1 and 2 emissions, when Scope 3 emissions account for more than 40% of a company's footprint, net zero requires these emissions to be incorporated within targets. Scope 3 measurement is encouraged when a business becomes carbon neutral but it is not mandatory.

Reduction and offsetting

Carbon neutral net zero carbon



To be carbon neutral, a reduction plan is required for Scope 1 and 2 but not required for Scope 3. Carbon neutral requires buying offsets equivalent to the total carbon footprint.

Companies must make a minimum 90% reduction across all three scopes in comparison to the baseline. Carbon removal offsets can be used to to balance residual emissions by a maximum of 10%.

At Planet Mark, we have been helping organisations radically reduce carbon emissions since 2013, pre- regulation and prelegislation. We will help you create a trajectory to net zero and provide the support needed to dissect the data, track progress and engage your employees in the journey. Join us today.

