


Climate Change Position



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Climate change is a serious risk to human health and our business. The World Health Organization identifies climate change as “the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century.”¹ The direct and indirect impacts to health are already being felt around the world due to extreme weather events, the spread of infectious diseases, and degradation of air quality. These impacts often burden the most vulnerable and least served portions of our society (e.g., children, elderly, and the poor) the hardest. Additionally, climate change poses threats to global stability,² which affects Biogen’s ability to make the advanced therapies we offer accessible to more people around the world.

As a science-based company, Biogen supports the conclusions of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that, based on overwhelming scientific evidence, we need to keep the global temperature rise to below 2 degrees C, as agreed upon by 195 countries, including the United States, at the COP21 Paris Agreement in December 2015. We also support implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Without immediate and continued action to reduce anthropogenic GHG emissions, the global temperature rise is on track to exceed the 2 degree C rise, which could have severe consequences to human health and well-being.

Biogen believes international bodies and national governments have an important role to play in providing a framework for a transition to a low-carbon economy and fulfilling our collective obligations under the Paris Agreement. We believe the role of government also includes the following: setting targets and performing transparent tracking and reporting, implementing market-based mechanisms that spur investment in cost-effective renewable energy and a low-carbon economy, supporting innovation and removing barriers to the transition to low-carbon solutions, and promoting and supporting appropriate climate adaptation measures.

We believe that meeting the global challenge of climate change will require businesses to take actions that go beyond the regulatory requirements. Businesses must take responsibility for the greenhouse gas emissions from their operations and throughout their value chain. This means implementing voluntary reductions in greenhouse gasses (GHGs) by improving the energy efficiency of operations and products, transitioning to low carbon energy and driving GHG reductions throughout the supply chain.

Climate Change Position

As a company built on innovation, we are not content to settle with past achievements, including carbon neutrality, so we are developing a comprehensive climate change strategy to generate a net positive impact on our business and society and to transition our business to the low-carbon economy of the future.

As a responsible life sciences company committed to improving human health, Biogen strives to be a leader in making the transition to a low-carbon economy and in 2014, we reached a significant milestone in that transition by achieving carbon neutrality.³ Biogen has a three-pronged approach it uses to maintain carbon neutrality: driving sustainability internally, working with our suppliers and investing in a diverse portfolio of reliable energy sources including renewable energy. We have a goal to reduce GHG intensity of operations by 80 percent by 2020, using 2006 as our baseline. Our progress towards that goal, 72 percent in 2015, will make it easier and less costly to continue to neutralize our emissions and maintain carbon neutrality through investments in credible, certified projects. Through our engagement with our suppliers on GHG emissions, we are working to reduce scope 3 emissions,⁴ which account for 70% of our carbon footprint, while also playing an influential role in driving GHG emissions reductions of our industry's supply chain.

We believe that leadership on climate change also means engaging stakeholders and being advocates for sustainable climate policies, so we are participating in advocacy initiatives with other like-minded businesses around the world to recognize that climate change is a business issue to be addressed. In 2015, we joined the We Mean Business coalition and signed the American Business Act on Climate Pledge to demonstrate our support of the COP21 conference target of limiting warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius. We also joined the RE 100 Initiative and achieved the target of sourcing 100 percent of electricity from renewable sources, avoiding the GHG emissions generated by the default grid mix.⁵ We support efforts to align carbon emissions reduction efforts with scientific consensus and science-based targets and we are in the process of having our science-based targets recognized by the Science Based Targets initiative, a joint initiative by CDP, the UN Global Compact, WRI and WWF.

As a company built on innovation, we are not content to settle with past achievements, including carbon neutrality, so we are developing a comprehensive climate change strategy to generate a net positive impact on our business and society and to transition our business to the low-carbon economy of the future. This includes working with suppliers to reduce their own carbon footprints, exploring further opportunities to generate our own power through co-generation and renewable energy, educating our employees and continuing to support them with infrastructure that accommodates cleaner commuting like driving electric cars and bicycling.

At Biogen, we believe all governments and businesses have important roles and responsibilities to address this monumental 21st century issue, and we will continue to implement our current initiatives and seek additional opportunities to do our part to achieve this critical collective climate goal.

¹ <http://www.who.int/globalchange/global-campaign/cop21/en/>

² <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/605221>

³ Carbon neutrality is defined as having achieved a state in which the net amount of carbon dioxide and other GHGs emitted into the atmosphere is zero due to actions taken to reduce or offset those emissions.

⁴ Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in emissions from the generation of purchased energy) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.

⁵ Default grid mix is defined by the composition of electricity generation sources within the particular grid region.