



ACCOUNTING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY

TOP TEN TIPS FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S
CHARITABLE FUND



“The recovery from the impact that the pandemic has had – and is having – on lives and livelihoods, has to be structured in a way that rapidly builds a genuinely resilient, sustainable and decarbonized future. The actions we take – or fail to take – now will most certainly define our future, and that of generations to come.”

HRH The Prince of Wales’s speech at the A4S Summit 2020

“Climate change presents significant risk and opportunity. It is not an issue that can be tackled alone. CFOs must come together and play a leadership role in response to climate change risks.”

Geraldine Matchett, Co-Chief Executive Officer & Chief Financial Officer and Member of the Managing Board, Royal DSM



“It’s fundamental for every good business to manage and communicate risks and opportunities. We are already obliged to disclose material risk. Climate change is no different.”

Graeme Pitkethly, Chief Financial Officer, Unilever

“Companies need to demonstrate they’re making progress and there’s a commitment to allocating capital and resources towards making an impact.”

Ray Young, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, ADM



TOP TEN TIPS FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO

1

Sign the A4S CFO Net Zero Statement of Support

Join your peers and commit to playing your part in the transition towards a net zero emissions world.

[See the A4S Statement of Support](#)

2

Gain the buy in of the rest of your board and executive management team

Demonstrate the business case for change. Finance can actively support executive management to adopt a sustainable business model that delivers sustainable outcomes.

[Watch this webinar on Engaging the Board and Executive Management to learn more](#)

[See our project on Engaging the Board and Executive Management](#)

3

Commit to a science-based target

Set and validate a science-based target to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with limiting global average temperature increases to 1.5°C.

[Visit www.sciencebasedtargets.org](http://www.sciencebasedtargets.org)

4

Link incentives to your targets

Integrate your climate targets into your organizational goals and incentive schemes to promote sustainable value creation.

[Hear from the CFOs of Mars and Royal DSM on how they are incentivizing action](#)

5

Equip your finance team with the skills to respond

Ensure finance professionals have the skills and competencies to support the business in delivering financial returns in the short and long term, while generating positive value for society and operating within environmental constraints.

[Sign up for the A4S Academy](#)

[Listen to our podcast on 'Innovation During a Crisis'](#)

6

Embed your net zero targets into your decision-making processes, including budgeting and capital investment

Recognize the commercial value sustainability delivers in capital projects and decision making.

[The A4S Essential Guide to Strategic Planning, Budgeting and Forecasting](#)

[The A4S Essential Guide to Capex](#)

7

Incorporate sustainability into your financing strategy and investor communications

Explore how treasury and investor relations activities can support the organization's strategic sustainability goals, responding to growing interest from debt and equity providers on climate and other ESG risks and opportunities.

[The A4S Essential Guide to Debt Finance](#)

[The A4S Essential Guide to Enhancing Investor Engagement](#)

[Listen to our podcast episode 'Banking on a Sustainable Recovery'](#)

8

Publish your net zero emissions transition pathway

Outline your trajectory towards net zero emissions, including interim targets and a clear roadmap.

[See our work on net zero, including guidance and practical examples](#)

[Read the Goal 13 Impact Platform Emerging Findings Report on how companies are managing the transition](#)

9

Engage with your pension fund chair

Work with your organization's pension fund and other retirement plans to identify the practical steps to protect your employees' pension assets from climate risk.

[Download our top tips for sponsors of pension schemes](#)

[Watch this webinar on sustainable pensions to learn more](#)

10

Report annually against the TCFD recommendations

Commit to implementation of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations by signing the A4S CFO TCFD Statement of Support and incorporate the recommendations into your annual report and investor communications.

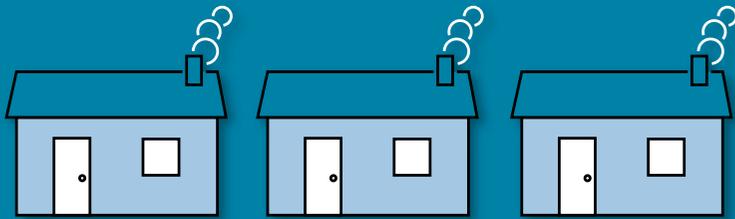
[Explore our work on TCFD including guidance, case studies and reporting examples](#)

[Watch this webinar on reporting frameworks to learn more](#)

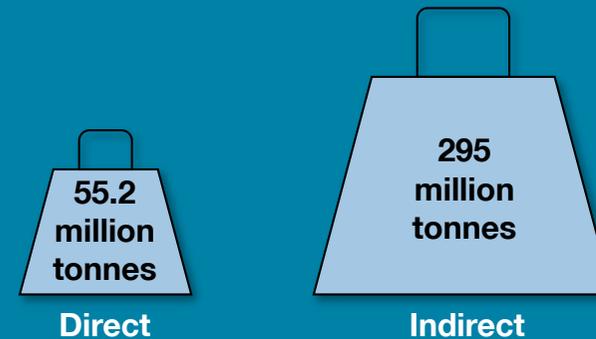
CFO NET ZERO STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

A4S engages CFOs and their finance teams by bringing together those who are prepared to lead by example. We equip them with the practical tools, approaches and confidence they need to build sustainability into everything they do.

Our initial 50 signatories have the opportunity to influence at least 350.2 million tonnes of emissions, based on today's reporting.



That's the same as removing over 42 million homes' energy use for one year.



That's 55.2 million tonnes of direct emissions they are collectively responsible for, with the opportunity to influence 295 million tonnes of indirect emissions.

[To find out more click here](#)

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[The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project \(A4S\)](#)



[ThePrincesA4S](https://www.youtube.com/ThePrincesA4S)



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