



NEWS ROUNDUP

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BUSINESS WORLD

[\[Opinion\] Beyond the basics: Overlooked sustainability issues in Philippine business](#)

By: Ron F. Jabal

“Sustainability” has become a buzzword in corporate circles in the Philippines. It is not unusual to hear or read in the media companies, businesses, and brands trumpeting sustainability initiatives: from reducing plastic use to adopting renewable energy, and planting trees. We even see glossy annual reports from listed companies showcasing various sustainability initiatives — purporting compliance to, and adoption of, ESG principles and UN Sustainable goals.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Investing in a sustainable future through renewable energy](#)

By: Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar

The benefit of investing in renewable energy has never been greater as the impact of climate change to vulnerable communities becomes more costly. We are experiencing the consequences of increasing greenhouse gas emissions yearly — from record heatwaves, destructive storms and rising sea levels. Transitioning to cleaner power sources is one way to help ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

MANILA STANDARD

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By: Ram Superable

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat; it is a reality that the Philippines faces with increasing intensity. With typhoons becoming more destructive, sea levels rising, and extreme heat waves affecting livelihoods, the Senate is stepping up to address these environmental challenges.

THE GUARDIAN

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By: Fiona Harvey

The vast majority of governments are likely to miss a looming deadline to file vital plans that will determine whether or not the world has a chance of avoiding the worst ravages of climate breakdown.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Trump slams paper straws, vows 'back to plastic'](#)

President Donald Trump on Friday raged against eco-friendly paper straws promoted by his predecessor Joe Biden, and pledged that the United States would return to plastic ones.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

[PH adopts sustainable dev't goals, promotes climate finance](#)

The Philippines is taking significant strides in addressing society's most pressing issues by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pursuing climate finance initiatives. The nation's commitment is evident in its national development plans, active participation in global climate summits and innovative financial mechanisms.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRIER

[Climate commission pushes green economy targets](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has reaffirmed the Philippines' dedication to climate action through green economic pathways. The CCC made the commitment as it gathered on Jan. 31 key figures from the government, business and international organizations to fast-track the country's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH reaffirms commitment to promoting green economy](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has reaffirmed the Philippines' dedication to climate action through green economic pathways.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Transparent governance and strategic collaboration build resilient communities](#)

By: Ludwig Federigan

In the next two weeks, I will be moderating in an event organized by the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship; our roundtable discussion will focus on "Building Resilient Communities through Environmental Accountability and Transparent Governance." As one nation, we stand at a pivotal moment in addressing one of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Not business as usual in green push – climate agency](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

It cannot be business as usual as the Philippines targets 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, according to Climate Change Commission (CCC) chairman Robert Borje.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

[\[Opinion\] Beyond the basics: Overlooked sustainability issues in Philippine business](#)

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“Sustainability” has become a buzzword in corporate circles in the Philippines. It is not unusual to hear or read in the media companies, businesses, and brands trumpeting sustainability initiatives: from reducing plastic use to adopting renewable energy, and planting trees. We even see glossy annual reports from listed companies showcasing various sustainability initiatives — purporting compliance to, and adoption of, ESG principles and UN Sustainable goals.

However, by just looking at these news reports and published corporate materials, we can readily see that in the cacophony of these sustainability listings, there seems to be some deep and systemic issues that are not seriously being taken up — which I think are more serious than the current subjects of drum beatings. Truthfully, there are other seemingly basic sustainability issues that businesses need to focus on that are outside headline-friendly causes.

Businesses need to go beyond mere superficial commitments and pay attention to less discussed but equally critical sustainability issues, to shy away from inauthentic rhetoric and gestures towards more substantial and impactful actions that can also be high-profile and celebrated by businesses and brands.

There are several sustainability issues that are worthy of attention and yet not explored and embraced by many Filipino businesses and brands. Among others, these issues include water resource management, electronic waste disposal, sustainable housing, and preservation of cultural heritage. Clearly, these initiatives can also be considered as essential in managing and protecting the environment as they have the potential to promote long-term business resilience and overall societal good — *raison d’être* of any well-meaning corporate sustainability programs.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: NEXT CRISIS

One of the major issues that confront the country is water resource management. Clearly, the news headlines do not necessarily foreground this issue, especially during La Niña season, but water scarcity is an existential threat to industries and communities alike. Water may not be an obvious concern given the archipelagic nature of the country, but the Philippines lacks clean and accessible water. Studies show that we are suffering from over-extraction of groundwater and there is pollution of freshwater sources both of which exacerbate the current water resource management crisis. Surely, most of us have experienced water shortages during the dry season, and scientists are predicting that the shortage will get worse in the years ahead.

Evidently, corporations, especially in manufacturing, agriculture, and energy, happen to be the biggest water customers. Unfortunately, very few of these corporations have the proper, and enough, measures related to water conservation. Few of them have systems involving rainwater harvesting, and fewer still have watershed protection programs.

Business enterprises need to take proactive measures in reducing their operational risks, thereby contributing to a water-secure country — which is a highly necessary and yet rarely talked-about sustainability issue and concern. For example, partnering with local governments in rehabilitating a watershed can surely ensure a continuous supply of water and yet we hardly see any such initiatives. It is about time companies and businesses take full cognizance of this sustainability issue before it is too late.

E-WASTE: THE INVISIBLE MOUNTAIN

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E-waste, which is largely not included in corporate sustainability programs, has flooded our daily lives since the widespread adoption of technology and the onslaught of the digital revolution. Everyone knows and understands that e-waste contains hazardous materials such as lead and mercury, which can leak into the environment if not disposed of appropriately. And yet there is not enough infrastructure in the Philippines for recycling e-waste, and thus most is dumped in landfills or informal recycling centers, which poses serious health risks to the workers.

This problem calls for aggressive and serious action by tech companies and retailers. For one, implementing aggressive take-back programs for old devices, public education campaigns on e-waste disposal, and investments in proper recycling facilities can really help. I think this is one of the areas where tech brands and other related business enterprises can really show off their leadership in environmental protection and management.

URBAN LIVABILITY AND GREEN SPACES: A FORGOTTEN PRIORITY

You only need to walk or drive around in major cities in the Philippines to witness how rapid urbanization has transformed them into sprawling metropolises, often at the cost of green spaces. More and more people are experiencing that their mental health and physical well-being are deteriorating due to urban heat islands, bad air quality, and the lack of recreational areas. Unfortunately, not all real estate developers and businesses involved in designing cities and communities choose sustainable urban landscapes and designs.

Indeed, we cannot overly emphasize that green buildings, vertical gardens, and public parks should not be treated as after-thought investments. The new norm dictates that mixed-use development that includes green spaces can have the capacity to make the city more habitable and environment friendly. Failure on these fronts promises to condemn cities to eventual uninhabitability — a proposition that ought to concern even the most casual urban investors and common city-dwellers.

MARINE CONSERVATION BEYOND PLASTICS

While corporate campaigns to reduce single-use plastics have gained traction, more comprehensive marine conservation issues remain on the sidelines. Overfishing, coral reef destruction, and mangrove deforestation are critical problems that rarely receive corporate attention.

Marine resource-dependent industries, such as fisheries, tourism, and shipping, are interested in having healthy marine ecosystems. Nevertheless, not many have begun to adopt sustainable practices that might reduce their footprint. For instance, some of the most obvious ways businesses might contribute to the cause involve supporting sustainable fishing, investing in coral reef restoration, and funding projects for mangrove reforestation.

The Philippine economy is basically linked to its seas, and ignoring these broader issues risks environmental degradation and also the collapse of industries depending on marine resources.

SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING FOR EMPLOYEES

Another overlooked sustainability issue is the provision of safe, affordable, and sustainable housing for employees. Most manufacturing and retail workers live in informal settlements that are susceptible to natural disasters and lack basic utilities.

More than a social issue, housing is a sustainability challenge. Poor living conditions lower productivity and harm the well-being of workers, which then drags down business performance. Corporations could collaborate with both government and non-government agencies to develop affordable housing with disaster-resilient designs and sustainable materials. One of the long-term strategies for sustainability could also include financing options or subsidies for employee housing.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION AMID GLOBALIZATION

Quite often, the loss of the cultural heritage of indigenous people is the cost of globalization and modernization. Tourism and industrial ventures disrupt the ways of life of the native people, and corporate sustainability programs rarely address this type of cultural erosion.

However, cultural heritage is something with which businesses can differentiate themselves. Indication of native knowledge through integration in their sustainability practice, promoting local artisans, and the creation of responsible eco-tourism can all serve as a means of adding cultural conservation into the sustainability agenda for the company. Without this, one does not only cause the alienation of the local community but will deny businesses unique and meaningful opportunities for relationship building with their stakeholders.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Whereas most companies invest in climate change mitigation such as carbon footprint reduction, there is a gross underinvestment in climate adaptation. Businesses largely ignore vulnerable communities in flood-prone or typhoon-affected zones.

Businesses can be a vital part of building climate resilience. Constructing disaster-resilient infrastructure, financing early warning systems, and supporting community-based renewable energy projects are practical ways to help communities adapt. Such efforts not only protect vulnerable populations but also keep local markets and supply chains running.

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR OVERLOOKED ISSUES

Why do corporations need to push beyond normal efforts toward sustainability? What's the business case for the adoption of these "alternatives"? Answer: long-term value creation.

1. Risk Mitigation. Non-action in these areas has risks related to business continuity. Businesses that develop proactive action and initiatives with respect to these concerns shield their organizations from potential interruptions.

2. Better Reputation. Studies have shown that consumers and investors increasingly favor businesses that demonstrate genuine and authentic commitments to sustainability. When corporations address and adopt less-publicized issues, they can differentiate their companies from others and assume leadership in corporate responsibility initiatives.

3. Regulatory Compliance and Incentives. It is accepted that governments are beginning to tighten regulations on sustainability. When companies and businesses adopt forward-thinking measures, they may gain a serious competitive edge, potentially through provisions of tax incentives, grants, and/or favorable policies.

4. Strengthened Community Relations. Ultimately, companies will be able to develop better and stronger relationships with their communities when they choose to address housing issues, access to water resources, or preserving cultural elements. Consequently, embracing and pushing forward with these types of initiatives builds stronger ties with stakeholders in the organizations.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The solutions above are not without their challenges because many require long-term strategies, large-scale investments, and the participation of various parties. Companies cannot adopt symbolic approaches but need to include those initiatives into core strategies and plans.

The opportunities, however, far outweigh the obstacles. Holistic approaches to sustainability in Philippine businesses future-proof operations, attract talent and investment, and make meaningful contributions to national development.

The Philippines stands at the crossroads. As it confronts environmental and social challenges, large corporations have the resources and reach to drive systemic change. Not only is this approach an ethical imperative regarding critical sustainability issues such as water resources management, e-waste, sustainable housing, and cultural heritage preservation, but it is also the best strategic investment in the future.

For businesses, time is of the essence. Over and above the basics, solving these deeper issues will be the step that not only builds corporate resilience but makes a legacy of meaningful difference. Sustainability is not less good; it is more good. The Philippine business community should take on this challenge, an agenda as comprehensive as it is transformative.

DAILY TRIBUNE

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By: Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar

The benefit of investing in renewable energy has never been greater as the impact of climate change to vulnerable communities becomes more costly. We are experiencing the consequences of increasing greenhouse gas emissions yearly — from record heatwaves, destructive storms and rising sea levels. Transitioning to cleaner power sources is one way to help ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Countries like Spain, Norway and Costa Rica have shown that a green power shift is achievable by meeting their ambitious renewable energy targets. Spain, for instance, has doubled its wind generation capacity and increased solar production eightfold since 2008. Norway, with its abundant hydropower resources, produces nearly all its electricity from renewable sources. Costa Rica has achieved over 98 percent renewable electricity production for several consecutive years.

In the Philippines, the Aboitiz Group is taking the lead in clean energy investments by developing a diverse portfolio that includes renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and battery energy storage systems. Aligning with the Philippine government's goal of having renewables comprise 35 percent of the country's energy mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040, AboitizPower aspires to build greater green energy capacity by 2030 to achieve a balanced mix between renewable and thermal sources.

Aboitiz's investments in renewables contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal 7 of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy. By harnessing cleaner resources, these projects contribute to global efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

Beyond large-scale renewable projects, we are also pursuing our commitment to greener energy through Aboitiz Foundation's AuroraPH. This flagship initiative under the Aboitiz Future Leaders impact program provides electricity to last-mile schools through solar panels, ensuring students and teachers have access to reliable power.

A year since its launch, AuroraPH has made a profound impact in bridging the digital divide in education. Over 2,000 students and teachers from 11 schools nationwide have benefited from the program through better internet and power connectivity. In partnership with the Department of Education and other stakeholders, we aim to power up to 300 schools in the most remote and underserved communities in the Philippines.

There are economic benefits to investing in renewable energy in addition to driving sustainable development. As the global demand for clean energy rises, the Philippines can position itself as a leader in the green economy by increasing renewable energy investments. New industries can be created by developing expertise in renewable

technologies, battery storage and smart grid systems. Partnerships with foreign stakeholders will spur innovation and technology transfer, enhancing the country's competitiveness.

Investing in renewable energy is more than just meeting targets — it's about building a greener and better world for the next generation. By embracing alternative power sources today, we can pave the way for a future defined by energy security, economic growth and environmental resilience.

MANILA STANDARD

[ADB approves \\$500-m loan to combat climate change](#)

The Philippines has received a significant boost in its battle against climate change, with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approving a substantial \$500-million policy-based loan.

Approved in November 2024, the loan approval underscores the ADB's commitment to supporting the nation as it strives to build resilience against the increasing threats posed by a rapidly changing climate.

The loan will support the second subprogram of the Philippines' Climate Change Action Program (CCAP), a crucial initiative designed to implement the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

The CCAP focuses on accelerating transformative reforms across key sectors—from agriculture and natural resources to energy and transport—steering them towards more climate-resilient and low-carbon pathways.

The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change. Ranked as the country with the highest disaster risk globally (World Risk Index 2022–2024), it has recently been battered by a succession of powerful typhoons, starkly illustrating this vulnerability.

The economic consequences of these climate-related disasters are potentially catastrophic, with estimates suggesting potential losses of up to 7.6% of the nation's gross domestic product by 2030.

“Climate change is exacerbating all major development challenges in the Philippines,” said Pavit Ramachandran, ADB Philippines country director.

“The country's high vulnerability impacts its economic momentum and outlook. This program is part of our commitment to help our host country avert economic damages from future climate change impact, mobilize green investment, and transform its economy,” he said.

The CCAP, initially approved in 2022, is a landmark initiative, representing ADB's first climate policy-based loan in the Asia and Pacific region. It forms a key component of ADB's new country partnership strategy for 2024–2029 and its country climate investment plan, which aims to mobilize \$10 billion in climate finance to support the implementation of the Philippines' NDC and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The Philippines' NDC sets ambitious goals for greenhouse gas emission reduction and adaptation. Subprogram 2 is vital for achieving these ambitions, driving key reforms such as the adoption of the NDC Implementation Plan and NAP 2023–2050, increasing

budget allocations for climate activities, and deploying climate technologies at both national and local levels. The program also strengthens policies and regulations designed to attract climate-related investment in crucial areas like renewable energy and energy efficiency, climate-resilient agriculture, and nature-based solutions.

This significant undertaking is a collaborative effort, with the Agence Française de Développement providing co-financing of \$278.3 million to the Philippine government.

Climate resilience in House's mind amid worsening disasters

By: Maricel Cruz

The House of Representatives will continue to be vigilant against climate change which has caused increasingly severe weather disturbances in the Philippines.

Thus said Speaker Martin Romualdez as the chamber is committed to tackle legislative actions that encourage climate resilience.

“We must be vigilant against climate change to protect our people from falling victim to such tragedies,” said Romualdez who represents the First District of Leyte, one of the provinces hardest hit by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013 that claimed over 6,000 lives.

He said the fight against climate change need everyone's cooperation.

“It takes a whole-of-society approach to combat climate change effectively. We need everyone's cooperation.”

The House was instrumental in the recently enacted Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act which mandates the establishment of permanent, storm-resilient evacuation centers all over the country, which are intended to provide safe refuge for communities during natural disasters.

This landmark measure represents a vital step forward in addressing the challenges faced by communities repeatedly battered by disasters and calamities, enhancing our nation's preparedness and response mechanisms to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

Romualdez actively pushed for the enactment of the measure—that President Marcos signed in December 2024, saying the tragedy that happened during Yolanda and similar strong typhoons should not be repeated.

The centers would be equipped with essential facilities, including healthcare stations and areas for vulnerable groups, to ensure safety and dignity for all evacuees.

“No matter how strong the coming typhoons, we must ensure that our people are prepared,” said Romualdez.

Apart from the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act, the House is also currently deliberating on several measures on climate change resiliency and sustainability.

These include HB 9609 or the Climate Accountability (CLIMA) Act which seeks to establish a legal framework for climate loss and damage accountability.

The bill has been lauded by various environment advocates because the measure, which is the first in the world, has been filed in the Philippine Congress.

“This is a historic proposed law, as this is the first one globally that opens up the possibility for corporate climate accountability to be recognized by a state, and that provides measures to call for reparations mechanisms,” an environment advocacy group said in commending the filing of the bill.

The bill, when enacted into law, puts in place policies and systems to address climate change; protect communities from climate change-induced losses, damages, and human rights harms; and provide mechanisms for accountability and reparations from those responsible for worsening the climate crisis, including corporate interests such as the fossil fuel industry.

Also pending for plenary action is HB 13 which mandates the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) as the principal government institution responsible for ensuring safe, adaptive and disaster resilient communities.

The bill, with Romualdez as the principal author, was recently approved by the joint House Committees on Government Reorganization, and on Disaster Resilience, and has been referred for plenary action.

The DDR shall be the primary government agency responsible for leading, organizing and managing the national effort to reduce disaster risk, prepare for and respond to disasters, recover and rehabilitate, as well as build forward better after the occurrence of disasters.

HB 1937 of Rep. Brian Raymond Yamsuan mandates owners and operators of “environmentally critical” projects to secure insurance coverage that would guarantee sufficient compensation for the possible adverse impact of their operations on affected communities.

The bill provides for this mandatory environmental insurance coverage (MEIC) that institutions and corporations should obtain before they are allowed to start construction or commercial operations of their projects.

Yamsuan said that under the measure, environmentally critical projects are, among others, activities like quarrying, logging, reclamation, mining, major infrastructure projects, and those constructed in areas frequently visited or hard-hit by natural calamities such as floods, typhoons and volcanic activity.

“Our country is the most disaster-prone in Southeast Asia. But we cannot ignore the fact that the calamities we are experiencing now are also due to man-made activities that damage the environment. Despite these realities, there is still no action or policy to ensure adequate compensation for losses resulting from these activities that lead to environmental degradation and cause harm to lives and property. This bill aims to fill this gap,” he said.

Similarly, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte sought the full implementation of eco-friendly programs such as the new law that aims to fuse state planning for sustainable development with environmental protection.

“The devastation brought about by Typhoon Kristine on Bicol and other parts of the country showed that now, more than ever, is the time for the no-nonsense implementation of state policies and programs mitigating the impact of climate change responsible for causing natural disasters of increasing frequency and intensity,” Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte said.

“It behooves our government and civil society to work closer together on the implementation of laws that are meant to ensure that economic growth and development remains not just high but sustainable as well,” he added.

Senate backs climate-resilient PH

By: Ram Superable

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat; it is a reality that the Philippines faces with increasing intensity. With typhoons becoming more destructive, sea levels rising, and extreme heat waves affecting livelihoods, the Senate is stepping up to address these environmental challenges.

In the 19th Congress, several bills and resolutions have been introduced by senators aiming to bolster climate resilience, promote sustainability, and future-proof the nation.

Below is a rundown of the most significant legislative efforts currently in the pipeline.

Senate Bill No. 650: Climate Change Emergency Declaration Act (Author: Senator Imee Marcos)

This bill seeks to officially declare a climate emergency in the Philippines, recognizing the urgency of addressing climate change through aggressive policies and sustainable solutions.

“A need for resiliency and adaptability to the effects of climate change is imperative and the declaration for an environment and climate emergency is necessary for the protection and preservation of the environment,” Marcos stated in her explanatory note.

The bill puts the spotlight on the need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to mitigate climate risks and adapt to their consequences.

The measure also mandates a climate change emergency summit to be held in the second week of September every year, spearheaded by the Climate Change Commission and shall be participated by all relevant stakeholders.

Senate Resolution No. 153: Declaring a Climate and Environmental Emergency (Author: Senator Loren Legarda)

Similar to SB 650, this resolution calls for government agencies, local government units, and various institutions to mobilize resources and align policies with existing climate laws.

LGUs will be encouraged to issue Climate Change Declarations and adopt a “No to Coal” or “No to New Coal Policy” within their respective jurisdictions; and a national integrated risk information system and a national loss and damage registry will be

established to support science-based policy formulation and risk governance at national and subnational levels.

“In declaring a climate emergency, a government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it, stressing the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming,” the senator stated in the resolution.

Senate Bill No. 18: Sustainable Cities and Communities Act (Author: Senator Pia Cayetano)

With urbanization accelerating, this bill proposes a framework to develop environmentally sustainable and resilient cities.

It mandates the integration of green infrastructure, efficient transportation, and waste management systems into urban planning.

The measure also calls on the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to provide the necessary technical assistance and resource augmentation to LGUs to assist them in transitioning into sustainable cities and communities.

“This rapid urban migration resulted from the popular view that urban areas offer better opportunities for the rural poor. However, this has instead led to the increase in the incidence of urban poverty and inequality, as well as homelessness and Informal settlement in our cities,” Cayetano said.

Senate Bill No. 157: National Energy Policy and Framework for a Clean and Just Energy Transition Act (Author: Senator Sherwin Gatchalian)

Recognizing the urgent need for a shift to sustainable energy sources, this bill lays the groundwork for a national energy transition framework.

It seeks to promote renewable energy adoption, increase energy efficiency, and ensure a just transition for workers affected by the gradual phase-out of fossil fuels.

“The Philippine Energy Plan (2020-2040) fails to provide a clear energy transition framework given the country’s NDCs (nationally determined contributions) and the aforementioned policies laid out in RA 7638, RA 9136 and RA 9513,” Gatchalian said.

“Through this bill, it is hoped that the country will be able to comply with its commitments under the Paris Agreement while ensuring that the transition shall be fair and inclusive,” he added.

By aligning the country’s energy policies with climate goals, the bill aims to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Senate Resolution No. 549: Inquiry on the Impacts of Natural Extreme Events, Disasters, and Climate Change on the Agricultural Sector (Author: Senator Joel Villanueva)

This resolution highlights the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change.

With over 10 million Filipinos dependent on agriculture, the resolution calls for an investigation into climate-induced crop losses and the effectiveness of the government’s agricultural insurance programs.

“There is a need for the government to determine the gaps in the current agricultural insurance system and put in place a whole-of-government approach in determining solutions,” Villanueva said.

Senate Bill No. 869: Mandatory Environmental Insurance Coverage Act (Author: Senator Grace Poe)

This measure proposes mandatory environmental insurance for businesses and industries, ensuring that financial resources are available for ecological rehabilitation in cases of environmental disasters.

“There remain lapses in the protection of the people’s right to a healthy and balanced ecology. In particular, environmental degradation and manmade disasters which arise from economic activities are extremely underregulated,” Poe said.

The measure states that the said insurance will be used to compensate for damages and to rehabilitate any environmental impairment caused by their operation.

It will also answer for all claims for the payment of damages to health and property; and the environmental rehabilitation, remediation and clean-up costs and expenses.

Senate Bill No. 2609: Philippine Environmental Assessment System Act (Author: Senator Loren Legarda)

This bill proposes the establishment of a comprehensive environmental assessment system to ensure that all government and private-sector projects comply with stringent environmental protection standards before implementation.

“The bill advocates for the selection of the most environmentally friendly alternatives that can effectively meet national demands and priorities. This approach aims to ensure that environmental factors are considered at a strategic level, providing a comprehensive framework for decision making,” Legarda said.

Senate Bill No. 1887: Climate Change Education Act (Author: Senator Imee Marcos)

Recognizing the role of education in climate action, this bill seeks to integrate climate change topics into the national curriculum to raise awareness and foster proactive environmental stewardship among students.

“Mandating the subject on climate change will help people, especially the youth, in understanding and addressing the impact of global warming, increasing ‘climate change literacy,’ and encouraging changes in their attitudes and behavior to protect and preserve our environment,” Marcos said.

Senate Bill No. 113: National Coastal Greenbelt Act (Author: Senator Nancy Binay)

The bill seeks to create a national framework to protect coastal areas, establish a greenbelt zone, and regulate urban development along the coast to mitigate environmental damage and preserve biodiversity.

“The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, an average of twenty-two (22) tropical cyclones enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility...coastal communities become vulnerable to such tropical storms due their natural exposure and lack of resources for preparation and recovery,” Binay explained.

“Studies from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization show that coastal forests and mangroves are helpful in mitigating cyclone damages and are affordable than artificial sea defenses which, in many cases, were found to be ineffective,” she added.

Senate Bill No. 34: Climate-Resilient Agriculture Act (Author: Senator Lito Lapid)

The proposed measure aims to strengthen the agricultural sector's resilience against the effects of climate change by promoting adaptive practices, sustainable agriculture technologies, and policies.

"The government must exert all efforts to make our agricultural industry more resilient and adaptive to climate change. Our Department of Agriculture must continuously look into innovative ideas and technologies, as well as the best practices, and determine which should be implemented to help our local farmers withstand the challenges brought about by climate change and weather disturbances," Lapid said.

Senate Bill No. 1694: Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act (Author: Senator Raffy Tulfo)

The bill seeks to promote energy efficiency within the industrial sector by encouraging research and development (R&D) activities.

"As we strive to become more self-sufficient in energy generation, it is critical that we not only seek alternative energy sources, but also promote energy efficiency in industries, particularly the energy-intensive manufacturing sector," Tulfo said.

It aims to establish frameworks for the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and processes, reduce energy consumption, and foster sustainable practices to address rising energy costs and environmental concerns.

Senate Bill No. 1561: Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act (Author: Senator Ramon Revilla Jr.)

The proposed measure aims to establish a comprehensive framework for the environmental assessment and management of beaches and coastal areas in the Philippines.

Its goal is to protect and improve the health of coastal ecosystems, monitor environmental conditions, and ensure that beaches remain safe and sustainable for both locals and tourists.

"World class beaches are one of the things that our country is truly proud of. The Philippines is known for its prime beaches, and rest and recreation facilities. Not only does this give pride to our country, but it also provides for employment and income for many of our kababayans," Revilla said.

THE GUARDIAN

[‘Backsliding’: most countries to miss vital climate deadline as Cop30 nears](#)

By: Fiona Harvey

The vast majority of governments are likely to miss a looming deadline to file vital plans that will determine whether or not the world has a chance of avoiding the worst ravages of climate breakdown.

Despite the urgency of the crisis, the UN is relatively relaxed at the prospect of the missed date. Officials are urging countries instead to take time to work harder on their targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions and divest from fossil fuels.

Simon Stiell, the UN's top climate official, said in a speech in Brazil on Thursday: "Because these national plans are among the most important policy documents governments will produce this century, their quality should be the paramount consideration ... Taking a bit more time to ensure these plans are first-rate makes sense, properly outlining how they will contribute to this effort [to tackle the climate crisis] and therefore what rewards they will reap."

New national plans on emissions cuts are urgently needed because current targets are dangerously inadequate. The world must cut carbon by about half this decade, relative to 1990 levels, to have a chance of limiting temperature rises to 1.5C above preindustrial levels, the important threshold that scientists fear is already out of reach.

Governments are working to blueprints set out four years ago that would result in temperature rises of 2.6C to 2.8C by the end of the century, according to the UN's environment programme. Poor countries want to see far faster action from the G20 group of the biggest developed and emerging economies, which are responsible for about 80% of global emissions.

Ilana Seid, Palau's ambassador to the UN and the chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, said: "It is essential that the G20 and other large emitters exhibit their leadership with new [national plans] that show ambitions and tangible progress. We need deep, rapid and sustained reductions commensurate with the 1.5C goal. In this time of unprecedented climate crisis, more than ever we need enhanced international cooperation to truly move the dial forward."

Ali Mohamed, the chair of the African Group of Negotiators and Kenya's special envoy for climate change, said: "It is unacceptable that this devastation [that we are seeing] is caused by the pollution of just a few countries, specifically the G20, and they must take responsibility for their actions."

Given the climate emergency – temperatures exceeded 1.5C above preindustrial levels for a whole year in 2024 for the first time – any delay to the deadline would usually be regarded as a crisis. But this year the world is facing a more immediate potential disaster in the US presidency of Donald Trump. Not only has he withdrawn the country from the Paris agreement, he has also embarked on a trade war with the imposition or threat of heavy tariffs on imports.

This has thrown important trading relationships, including that with China, into disarray. The disruption to geopolitics, already in turmoil after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza, has alarmed climate diplomats. Many privately believe putting off the publication of national plans, at least until Trump's initial flurry of activity has died down, is preferable.

Under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, every five years countries must submit detailed plans – called nationally determined contributions (NDCs) – with clear targets on cutting emissions, or curbing them in the case of poorer countries. These are then discussed at a “conference of the parties” (Cop).

Last time, the deadline was in effect extended by a year: the Cop26 conference in Glasgow was postponed from November 2020 to 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This time, the deadline is technically 10 February – nine months before the Cop30 summit in Brazil this November – but with only a handful of countries so far having submitted plans, it looks likely that most will miss it.

Stiell has urged countries to file their submissions before September, when experts will prepare an official “synthesis report” showing whether the aggregated plans are sufficient to meet the 1.5C limit.

Among the dozen or so countries that have submitted their NDCs so far are Brazil, the host of Cop30; the United Arab Emirates, the host of Cop28 in 2023; and the UK, which under the new prime minister, Keir Starmer, has promised to show climate leadership.

One of the last acts of Joe Biden as US president was to submit a new NDC, but that is now largely symbolic. It will stand as a benchmark for those US states, local governments and businesses that maintain their climate commitments in defiance of the federal government.

Given the impetus in the US behind renewable energy, electric vehicles and other low-carbon technologies, its emissions trajectory may not alter much under Trump for some

time. But the impact of his return will be felt far beyond the country's borders: petrostates and economies that have been laggards in cutting emissions may take cover from his shredding of climate commitments.

Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton White House climate adviser now with American University's Center for Environmental Policy, warned: "Tragically, Trump's re-election will not only mean the temporary curtailment of US climate ambition, but it will take some pressure off China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and other major traditional scofflaw emitters, who are likely to offer less ambitious NDCs than had Democrats won last November."

China holds the key to Cop30: it is the world's biggest emitter by a wide margin and responsible for almost a third of global carbon output – more than all of the developed countries combined. It has invested heavily in renewable energy, and the past two years have broken records in additional clean power generation capacity, with that pace likely to continue this year.

Yet emissions are still rising, albeit at a much slower rate. To meet the global carbon budget would require China to cause its emissions to peak this year, then fall by about a third by 2035. Such drastic cuts are possible, experts say. Li Shuo, the director of the China climate hub at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said: "We believe China is very well positioned to achieve that goal, based on its very rapid low carbon development."

Whether China grasps those opportunities will be a political decision. Within Beijing's top echelons of power, tumultuous arguments rage between those who want to push harder still for the burgeoning green economy, and the advocates of coal. Calculations of the impact of Trump, and his tariffs, will fuel those disagreements further.

"The US backsliding is definitely not good news for China's climate ambition and global climate action," Shuo said. "But China is at the very forefront of the low-carbon economy, which is already yielding a lot of benefits. And China wants to project stability and predictability, on the international stage."

China was at a similar crossroads nearly a decade ago: in early 2016, analysts estimated that China's emissions may have already peaked. Instead, the country made a sharp reversal by returning to coal-fired power. That process began before the election of Trump in November 2016 but was confirmed by his anti-China stance. Could Trump's second ascendancy trigger a similar retrenchment? "I would not rule out a return to coal," Shuo said.

Bernice Lee, a senior adviser at Chatham House, said: “With Trump’s return, there will inevitably be voices – even in China – pushing back against clean energy or arguing against faster decarbonisation. But China has made major investments in clean energy, and its economy is no longer driven solely by coal interests. The signals so far suggest it plans to stay the course.”

India, the world’s fifth largest economy and third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, will also be closely watched. After the gavel came down at Cop29 in November, India’s negotiator criticised the \$1.3tn climate finance deal agreed there as a “travesty of justice” and “betrayal” of developing countries.

Solar and wind power are thriving in India, which is the world’s third biggest producer of renewable energy. But the powerful coal lobby enjoys favour with the authoritarian prime minister, Narendra Modi, who argues that developed countries must take responsibility for cutting emissions while the developing world should expand its carbon footprint.

Climate diplomats told the Guardian it was likely India would frame its targets in terms of emissions intensity rather than absolute cuts to carbon – that is, reducing the amount of carbon per unit of GDP.

For most of the past two decades, the EU has led the world on climate ambition. This year, however, with a populist backlash across the continent threatening the environmental consensus, the two biggest champions – France and Germany – are in the throes of political crisis, and several other governments have taken a rightwing and anti-climate turn. The bloc is not expected to reach agreement on its NDC until this summer.

Japan’s prospective NDC has been criticised by campaigners as too weak but it has not yet been submitted. Canada is facing elections after the resignation of Justin Trudeau, and Australia is also gearing up for political fights over climate in the long run-up to its election.

There is little hope of strong NDCs from two of the biggest climate influencers among the G20: Russia and Saudi Arabia. Neither country is likely to commit to significant cuts, although both are nominally signed up to a net zero target.

Even if China, India, the EU and some other G20 states come forward with relatively strong NDCs, the chances that they will add up globally to the drastic emissions cuts

needed to keep the 1.5C target safe are small. Rachel Kyte, the UK's climate envoy, said: "When you add up all the NDCs, my expectation is they may not get us back on track."

But this need not be the disaster it might appear, she added, as the NDCs could be negotiated and updated. For instance, some NDCs were likely to contain a range of possible targets, some of which might be conditional on countries receiving finance or other support. "These are not static [documents], and the targets are floors, not ceilings," she said.

Quite how dynamic countries are prepared to be is up for debate. At Cop26, countries – in theory – agreed that NDCs should be updated more often than every five years. But since then, few have increased the level of ambition in their plans.

Even if ambition is lacking on the core carbon targets in NDCs, properly focused plans could offer the world a breathing space by going beyond carbon to other greenhouse gases – chiefly methane. Global emissions of methane, which comes from agriculture and escapes from fossil fuel extraction sites, have been rising strongly in recent years, to the increasing concern of scientists, as methane is roughly 80 times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

Cutting methane yields big rewards: halving methane would avoid a 0.25C rise in temperatures by 2030, one study found. Durwood Zaelke, the president of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, said: "Methane is the emergency brake that can slow down warming enough to keep us from going over the cliff of irreversible tipping points. All countries need to target methane in their NDCs."

Some countries already had policies on methane, which should be strengthened, and those without must put them in place, he said. "Our window to act is the next five years, 10 tops. If we don't cut methane now, we'll see the rate of warming continue to accelerate, and we'll soon be past the first series of irreversible tipping points."

NDCs are detailed documents, going far beyond the headline emissions targets. Experts also want them to address the global imperative to "transition away from fossil fuels", agreed at Cop28. All countries are supposed to be tripling their renewable energy generation and doubling energy efficiency, but so far those targets are being missed.

Kyte said governments should see NDCs as an economic opportunity. "NDCs should be investable plans," she said. "And investable plans for sustainable development can be NDCs."

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Trump slams paper straws, vows 'back to plastic'](#)

President Donald Trump on Friday raged against eco-friendly paper straws promoted by his predecessor Joe Biden, and pledged that the United States would return to plastic ones.

The move is his latest on green issues since returning to power, after pulling out of the Paris climate change agreement and ordering deregulations as part of a "drill, baby, drill" agenda.

On Thursday, the Republican's administration also sought to block funding for a network of electric-vehicle charging stations across the country, sparking fury from environmentalists.

Trump pledged action against paper straws, which are unpopular with many consumers but create less plastic pollution.

"I will be signing an Executive Order next week ending the ridiculous Biden push for Paper Straws, which don't work. BACK TO PLASTIC!" he said on social media.

Democrat Biden had announced a target to eliminate single-use plastic utensils like drinking straws by 2035 across government agencies.

The trend for paper drinking straws has long irritated Trump.

"They want to ban straws. Has anyone tried those paper straws? They're not working too good," he said during a campaign rally in the 2020 election against Biden.

"It disintegrates as you drink it, and if you have a nice tie like this tie, you've got no choice."

Trump's campaign team previously sold branded plastic straws with the slogan: "Liberal paper straws don't work."

The president, who calls climate change a scam, has also often targeted electric vehicles despite his close alliance with Tesla chief Elon Musk.

Halting rollout of the \$5 billion national EV charging network would be a major setback to efforts to cut climate-changing emissions, according to green campaigners.

"His administration's move to block funding for a bipartisan effort to build out our national EV charging network is a blatant, illegal power grab," the Evergreen Action group said.

"This program is delivering real benefits to all 50 states -- creating jobs, boosting economic opportunities, and cutting pollution."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA STANDARD

[PH adopts sustainable dev't goals, promotes climate finance](#)

The Philippines is taking significant strides in addressing society's most pressing issues by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pursuing climate finance initiatives. The nation's commitment is evident in its national development plans, active participation in global climate summits and innovative financial mechanisms.

SDGs in national strategy

The Philippines has integrated the 17 SDGs into its economic blueprint, recognizing their crucial role in ending poverty, protecting the environment and climate, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all. The UN is working closely with the Philippines to achieve these goals, aligning its efforts with the country's development priorities. The UN's 2024-2028 Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework complements the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, which aims for deep economic and social transformation, reinvigorating job creation and accelerating poverty reduction.

Climate finance

At the recent COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto showcased the Philippines' climate finance actions. He cited President Marcos Jr.'s leadership and commitment to achieving both rapid economic growth and climate resilience, a goal central to the PDP. Recto highlighted the Department of Finance's (DOF) leading role in balancing economic development and climate action, emphasizing their harmonious relationship when properly contextualized.

The DOF has refined the Medium-Term Fiscal Program to support sustainable economic growth and fiscal discipline, enabling investments in green infrastructure, local adaptation projects, climate education, green jobs, and poverty reduction. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) further guide the country's climate and economic objectives.

Innovative mechanisms

The Philippines has established several innovative financial mechanisms to support its climate goals. The People's Survival Fund, chaired by Recto, channels resources to locally tailored, community-led climate adaptation projects. The Bureau of the Treasury's National Indemnity Insurance Program strengthens disaster preparedness and response by protecting national assets. The Philippines is also the first country to sign the World Bank's Rapid Response Option (RRO), enabling quicker access to resources during crises.

The DOF and the Climate Change Commission co-chair the Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Finance (Green Force) to accelerate the development of a sustainable finance ecosystem and attract green investments. The country is also a pioneer in requiring ESG standards and championing gender inclusivity across all Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

Public-private partnership

Both the government and the private sector are actively issuing sustainability bonds to finance green and social projects, aligning with the Philippines' commitment to the SDGs through its Sustainable Finance Framework. The country's successful bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund Board further strengthens its position in facilitating climate finance access for the Asia-Pacific region.

The UNDP, through the Climate Finance Network and the Accelerating Green and Climate Finance Project, is collaborating with the DOF to develop a comprehensive climate finance strategy for the Philippines.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRIER

[Climate commission pushes green economy targets](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has reaffirmed the Philippines' dedication to climate action through green economic pathways. The CCC made the commitment as it gathered on Jan. 31 key figures from the government, business and international organizations to fast-track the country's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

CCC executive director Robert Borje, reiterated the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent. The forum, organized by the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the German Embassy, provides a vital platform for fostering collective action and developing effective climate solutions. The chamber's president Marie Antoniette Mariano said the forum is a space for meaningful dialogue, alignment of strategies and strengthened partnerships to drive lasting impact.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH reaffirms commitment to promoting green economy](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has reaffirmed the Philippines' dedication to climate action through green economic pathways.

In a news release on Friday, the CCC said the '2025 Sustainability Forum: The Green Economies of Tomorrow' held on Jan. 31 gathered key figures from the government, business, and international organizations to fast-track the country's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

"The private and public sectors are crucial partners in this transformation. The shift to renewable energy, electric vehicles, smart cities, and sustainable agriculture are all areas where we can advance," Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the CCC, said.

He underscored the strong collaboration between these sectors would help drive investments in renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, and green technologies.

During the forum, Borje reiterated the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a crucial target under the Paris Agreement.

He identified energy, transport, waste, industry, and agriculture as the key sectors driving the NDC Implementation Plan (NDCIP).

Meanwhile, Borje also underscored the importance of a just transition plan to ensure that the transition to a low-carbon economy is fair and inclusive, ensuring that workers and vulnerable communities equitably benefit from green economic policies without being left behind.

The forum, organized by the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) in collaboration with the German Embassy, provides a vital platform for fostering collective action and developing effective climate solutions.

GPCCI president Marie Antoniette Mariano said the forum is a space for meaningful dialogue, alignment of strategies, and strengthened partnerships to drive lasting impact.

The discussions also explored ways to align Philippine climate policies with international commitments while addressing local economic and social priorities.

Borje said the Philippines' updated NDC, set to be released this year, would incorporate emerging technologies and evolving priorities, further scaling up both adaptation and mitigation efforts.

During the forum, he also encouraged strong collaboration and collective action among countries and stakeholders in realizing their climate ambitions of a climate-smart, climate-resilient, and low-carbon sustainable future.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Transparent governance and strategic collaboration build resilient communities](#)

By: Ludwig Federigan

In the next two weeks, I will be moderating in an event organized by the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship; our roundtable discussion will focus on "Building Resilient Communities through Environmental Accountability and Transparent Governance." As one nation, we stand at a pivotal moment in addressing one of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change.

The Stratbase Institute-Social Weather Stations' January 2025 Pre-Election Survey revealed that 87 percent of Filipinos responded that they will vote for candidates who advocate "to address the impacts of climate change and enhance disaster preparedness."

The Philippines has always been at the forefront of climate advocacy. Our country's commitment to addressing climate change is evident through various initiatives: the adoption of a National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050; the ongoing updates to our Nationally Determined Contribution; hosting the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage; and the passage of the Extended Producers Responsibility Law. The House of Representatives is on the verge of potentially adopting the Low-Carbon Economy Investment Act and the Climate Accountability Act.

Yet, despite these proactive measures, we find ourselves grappling with a harsh reality: the Philippines remains highly vulnerable to climate change impact, ranking as the most at-risk country from 2022 to 2024, according to the World Risk Report.

This urges us to reflect on how we can further strengthen our governance structures to build resilient communities. At the heart of this challenge lies the need for transparent governance. Transparency is not merely an operational principle but a fundamental underpinning of environmental accountability and community resilience. It fosters trust among stakeholders — government institutions, civil society, the private sector and the academic community — allowing for collective action toward sustainable development.

To build resilient communities, we must institutionalize mechanisms of transparency at all levels of governance. This begins with ensuring that policies and decisions related to climate action are made through inclusive processes. We must engage the affected communities in dialogues — not just one-sided consultations — allowing them to voice their concerns.

Over a week ago, together with former colleagues at the Climate Change Commission (CCC), I joined the Study Group Session on the Localization of the National Adaptation Plan organized by the United Nations International Organization for Migration (UN IOM) in Cotabato City, Maguindanao.

Partnerships

In collaboration with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government, the UN IOM strengthens climate governance by promoting consultative, evidence-based and participatory planning, and decision-making processes. BARMM constituency representatives were present. Incorporating multi-stakeholder feedback into our policymaking processes ensures that initiatives address the immediate needs of communities, are equitable and aligned with their long-term aspirations.

Transparent monitoring and reporting of climate actions and their impacts are essential. Establishing clear metrics for success and accountability encourages stakeholders to remain vigilant in their efforts. When citizens see how funds are allocated, project objectives are met, and the outcomes of initiatives are evaluated and shared candidly. Trust is cultivated, which is pivotal in fostering an engaged and informed populace capable of contributing to community resilience.

In this journey toward resilience, strategic collaboration emerges as an integral part of developing innovative, transformative "green" solutions. No single entity in isolation can tackle climate change's multifaceted challenges. Collaborative frameworks that unite government agencies, local communities, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector are essential.

One promising example lies in enhancing collaborative governance through partnerships between local governments and nonprofit organizations. Such partnerships have demonstrated effectiveness in implementing community-based disaster risk reduction programs. Pooling resources, expertise and grassroots knowledge strengthens the capacity of local governments to act; it also empowers communities to take an active role in disaster preparedness and response. These collaborations share best practices and innovations in sustainability, fostering a spirit of shared responsibility and cooperation.

Academia plays a critical role in research and technical assistance. In the same UN IOM's study group session, the Notre Dame University (NDU) representative emphasized their need and desire to conduct research by establishing baseline data on

BARMM's climate vulnerabilities. Partnerships with academic institutions like NDU can leverage scientific knowledge to inform policy decisions, develop data-driven strategies and educate communities about sustainable practices. This collective intellectual capital forms the basis for innovative solutions to complex environmental problems, aiding in the transition toward a circular economy.

In navigating the complexities of climate change and environmental degradation, we must embrace the principles of transparent governance and strategic collaboration as essential tools in our arsenal. Together, we can build resilient communities capable of confronting the challenges of today and tomorrow.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Not business as usual in green push – climate agency](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

It cannot be business as usual as the Philippines targets 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, according to Climate Change Commission (CCC) chairman Robert Borje.

Borje underscored the need for green innovation as part of the country's commitment in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

He added that the key sectors, including energy, transport, waste, industry and agriculture, are central to the country's NDC Implementation Plan (NDCIP).

"The private and public sectors are crucial partners in this transformation. The shift to renewable energy, electric vehicles, smart cities and sustainable agriculture are all areas where we can advance," Borje said during the 2025 Sustainability Forum: The Green Economies of Tomorrow held in Makati City on Jan. 31.

Key leaders from the private sector, government and international organizations participated in the forum, which focused on accelerating the transition to sustainable, low-carbon economies.

The event was organized by the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) in collaboration with the German embassy.

Borje underscored the need for strong public and private sector collaboration to drive investments in renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure and green technologies.

He noted that green industries not only reduce emissions but also boost economic growth and job creation.

Borje also cited the importance of a just transition to a green economy, ensuring that workers and communities, especially those in vulnerable sectors, receive adequate support.

"This transition must be equitable, inclusive and resilient, leaving no one behind," he added.

GPCCI president Marie Antoniette Mariano said the gathering presents an opportunity to foster collective action and develop effective solutions.

“This forum is a space for meaningful dialogue, alignment of strategies and strengthened partnerships to drive lasting impact,” Mariano said.

The forum also served as a platform to explore how the Philippines can align its climate policies with international commitments while also addressing local development priorities.

Borje highlighted that the Philippines’ updated NDC – set to be released this year – would reflect evolving priorities and emerging technologies, scaling up both adaptation and mitigation efforts.

He urged the private sector to collaborate with the CCC in advancing climate action through green and climate-smart initiatives, emphasizing that “while the journey will not be easy, collective efforts can make it possible.”

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