

BP vows to go carbon neutral by 2050

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British oil major BP Plc today pledged to become carbon neutral across its company, including the fuel it sells to customers, by no later than 2050 in an effort to address climate change.

The announcement, coming a week into new CEO Bernard Looney's tenure, further separates the European oil and gas company from its U.S. rivals and comes after its smaller European peer Repsol made a similar pledge in December. BP's move would cut 415 million metric tons from its operations, the equivalent of taking 88 million cars off the road each year.

"This is what we mean by making BP net zero," Looney said in a statement. "It directly addresses all the carbon we get out of the ground as well as all the greenhouse gases we emit from our operations. These will be absolute reductions, which is what the world needs."

BP, for the first time, included a target for its so-called Scope 3 emissions, which are created by end-users and comprise nearly 90 percent of the company's planet-heating emissions. It aimed to become net-zero across its upstream oil and gas portfolio "on an absolute basis" by 2050 or sooner, excluding its stake in Russian oil and gas company Rosneft. Royal Dutch Shell, Repsol and Equinor have all also set Scope 3 targets.

BP also said it would "more actively advocate for policies that support net zero, including carbon pricing." The company already backs a carbon pricing effort in the U.S.

It also planned to install methane detectors at its production sites by 2023 and reduce methane intensity by 50 percent, and boost investments in non-oil and gas fuels.