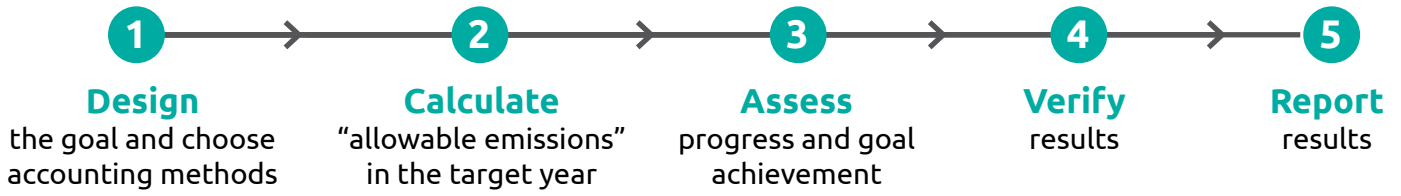# GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL

Mitigation Goal Standard

The Mitigation Goal Standard can help local, state, and national governments design overall emission reduction goals and track their progress toward meeting them.

GOVERNMENTS CAN USE THIS STANDARD TO:

- **Design** a greenhouse gas reduction goal
- **Define** accounting methods for tracking progress
- **Estimate** future emissions levels resulting from the goal
- **Assess** whether a goal has been achieved

FIVE STEPS TO USING THE MITIGATION GOAL STANDARD

1
Design
the goal and choose accounting methods

2
Calculate
"allowable emissions" in the target year

3
Assess
progress and goal achievement

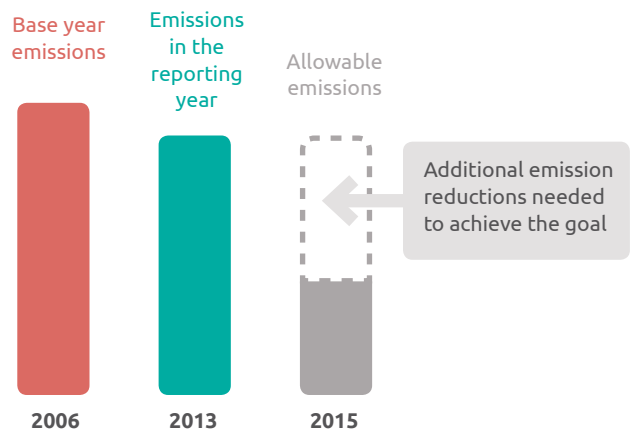**4**
Verify
results

5
Report
results

National governments, cities, and research institutions have already pilot-tested the standard. Three examples show how the standard works at different stages—from designing a goal to assessing progress to evaluating the outcome.

270 participants from 40 countries were involved in developing the standard (as well as the Policy and Action Standard).
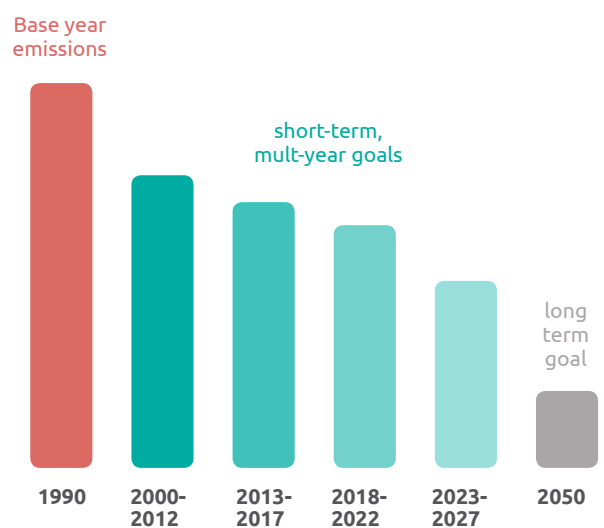
● Mitigation Goal Pilot　● Policy and Action Pilot
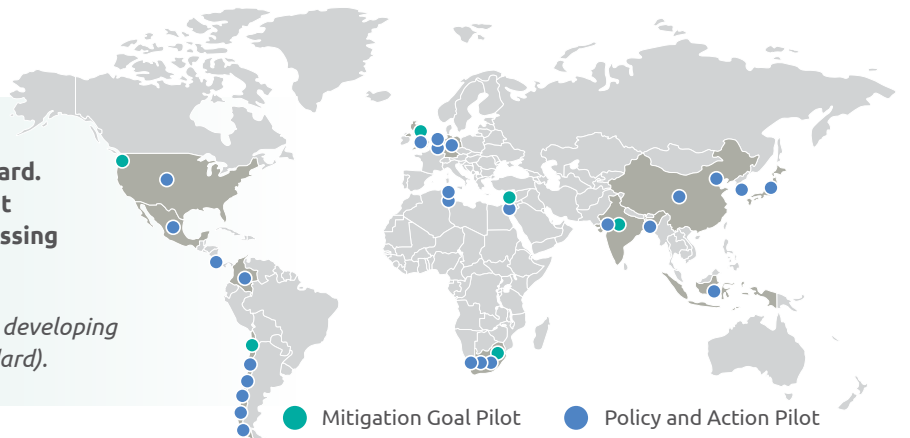
CASE STUDY:
Assessing Progress towards a Mining Goal in South Africa

Promethium Carbon used the Mitigation Goal Standard to assess South Africa's progress in reaching its goal of reducing mining sector emissions 15 percent below 2006 levels by 2015. They found that in 2013, emissions had dropped by 2.7 percent and still needed to decrease by an additional 1.31 megatonnes (Mt CO_2e) to reach the goal on time.

Base year emissions

Emissions in the reporting year

Allowable emissions

Additional emission reductions needed to achieve the goal

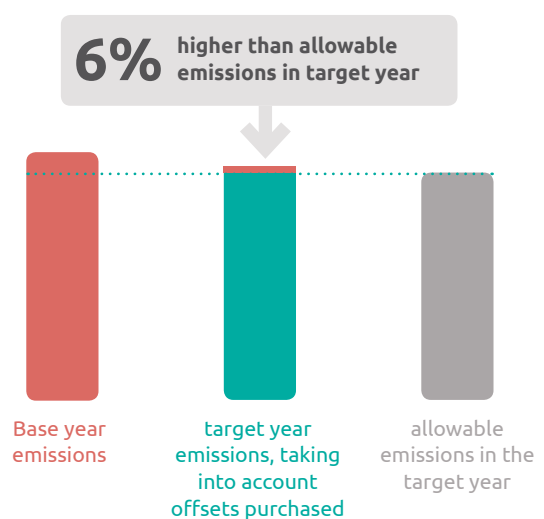**2006**　**2013**　**2015**

CASE STUDY:
Multi-Year Goals in the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom Climate Change Committee used the Mitigation Goal Standard to report on the design of their goals under the Climate Change Act of 2008. The government has adopted a series of fixed level, cumulative multi-year goals in an effort to meet a long-term goal of reducing emissions by at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The assessment showed the benefits of coupled short-term and long-term goals, which can help ensure that a long-term emission reduction pathway is realized, as well as multi-year goals, which are designed to limit cumulative emissions over several years and can allow some year-to-year flexibility.

Base year emissions

short-term, mult-year goals

long term goal

1990　**2000-2012**　**2013-2017**　**2018-2022**　**2023-2027**　**2050**

CASE STUDY:
Assessing achievement of Seattle's Goal

In 2005, the U.S. city of Seattle adopted a goal to cut emissions 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. The Stockholm Environment Institute used the Mitigation Goal Standard and found that the city exceeded its allowable emissions in 2012 by 0.34 Mt CO2e—6 percent higher than the level needed to meet its goal.

6% higher than allowable emissions in target year

Base year emissions

target year emissions, taking into account offsets purchased

allowable emissions in the target year

LEARN MORE: Access the Mitigation Goal standard on our website at **www.ghgprotocol.org/mitigation-goal-standard**

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