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Hello. My name is Ian Sutton — a warm welcome to you. This video is the second in a series to do with the realities and practicalities of meeting 'Net Zero by 2050' targets. In these videos we discuss what the phrase 'Net Zero by 2050' means, why it is important, why so many companies have committed to it, and — above all — whether it can be achieved given engineering, project management and financial realities.

In this particular video we take a look at the origin of the term 'Net Zero by 2050'.

In addition to the videos we also have web pages and written material to do with Net Zero and climate change technology. The links to the pages are provided in the description that goes with this video.

Once more, welcome.

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First we have the web site Net Zero by 2050: Technology for a Changing Climate. At this site we look at many of the technical options that are proposed for dealing with climate change. We also list the videos that are currently available.

<https://www.technology-climate-change.com/>
<https://www.technology-climate-change.com/videos-technology-changing-climate>

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Next is the site Sutton Technical Books. In addition to our process engineering and process safety management books we are working on the manuscript of Net Zero by 2050: Technology for a Changing Climate. This book is currently in draft form — we will update information to do with its status on a regular basis.

<https://iansutton.com/book-net-zero>

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If you would like to join in a conversation to do with Net Zero, particularly as it applies to industry, please check out our LinkedIn site.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8989467/>

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The Net Zero by 2050 phrase originates with the IPCC, an acronym that stands for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is a United Nations organization that provides world leaders with authoritative guidance on all aspects of climate change. At its web site the IPCC says of itself,

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on the current state of knowledge about climate

change.

The IPCC is composed of a large number of scientists who review and summarize the latest climate literature, The IPCC does not carry out original work, it simply reports on the work of others.

Because the IPCC reviews so many documents, and because it reports to the world's governments, the organization tends to be conservative; its findings tend to understate the severity of climate change. This conservatism can be frustrating to environmentalists, but it does mean that the organization cannot be accused of being alarmist.

What the IPCC is not is a group of engineers and project managers. And they are what is needed now as we implement climate change programs.

<https://iansutton.com/ipcc-intergovernmental-panel-climate-change>

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One of the most important IPCC reports was published in the year 2018. Its title was 'Global Warming of 1.5°C'. The report covers a wide range of scenarios, but much of what it says can be summarized in the three goals shown here.

We will discuss what these targets mean in detail in future videos. In this video, however, we would like to focus on just one phrase from that report that has received widespread attention.

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The language of IPCC reports is generally specialized and difficult to understand. For example, the 1.5°C report contains the sentence we see here. To put it mildly, this sentence is difficult to read. It actually has a reading grade level of 25. Only a specialist would understand this statement. Yet what is being said is actually very important to all of us.

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This is what the journal Bloomberg Green said about the sentence that we have just read.

Like most statements the IPCC sets down, the most important sentence ever written is just terrible—clunky and jargon-filled . . . it may turn out to be the grammatical unit that saved the world. If not, it'll be remembered as the last, best warning we ignored before it was too late.

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Let's look at the same sentence once more. This time I have highlighted the words "net zero around 2050".

A modified form of these words becomes 'Net Zero by 2050'. This is a phrase that anyone can understand. It has lots of zeros in it, and the year 2050 is halfway through this millennium. (It is also far enough out to create the illusion that we have sufficient time to meet this goal. Indeed, those who are of a more cynical disposition, may say that the date is far enough out that today's leaders will not be

around to witness the results of the actions that they take now. We will see.)

Whether the goal can actually be achieved is a question that is very much up for debate. Indeed, that question forms the basis for these videos

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It is vital to recognize that our opinions, wishes and attitudes make no difference, unless they are expressed in action. The laws of physics, thermodynamics, biology and ecology could care less about our goals and programs — they are going to do what they are going to do. As is so often the case, Homer Simpson says it best.

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Well, that concludes this second video in the series. The first two videos have provided some background to the idea of 'Net Zero by 2050'. I hope that you have found them useful and interesting. Remember, if you would like to learn more, please check out the links shown in the description section.

Thank you for joining us.