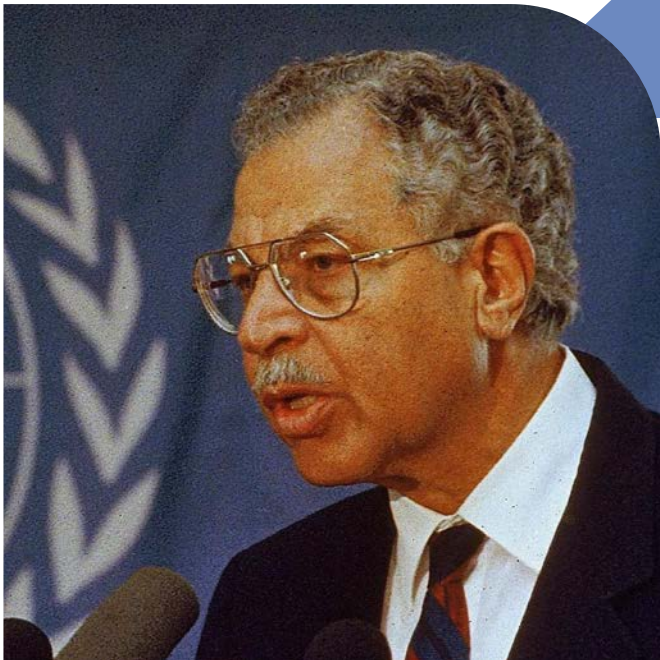




Climate Leaders



Mostafa Tolba

Mostafa Tolba was Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 1976 to 1992. During his tenure, he orchestrated the **Montreal Protocol**, the first international treaty to achieve universal ratification and set the stage for international climate governance. He was driven by values of community, cooperation, and sustainable development. Under his leadership, UNEP took a long-term, definitive stance on protecting the ozone layer from depletion. His effective negotiating tactics further opened a dialogue between developing and developed nations. Through pragmatism and action-based, scientific leadership, Tolba held governments accountable and secured legally binding commitments to fully phase out ozone-depleting substances. To this day, the Montreal Protocol is hailed as a landmark of multinational coordination.

Christiana Figueres

As Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Christiana Figueres facilitated negotiations for the **2015 Paris Agreement**. She was born and raised in Costa Rica, which influenced her pursuits in biodiversity conservation.

Throughout the Paris negotiations, Figueres served as a pillar for collaborative diplomacy and effective decision-making. She coined the term *stubborn optimism* - a mindset of gritty resilience in the face of enormous complexities - and used it as a catalyst for change. Through adaptive communication styles, Figueres was skilled at convincing nations to invest in the long-term well-being of the environment by personalizing the issue of climate change for even the most skeptical actors. As a result, Figueres produced a structured commitment by diverse actors to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, a concrete objective solidified by scientific evidence.



Marina Silva

Marina Silva has served as a leader in environmental protection for Brazil. She grew up illiterate as a rubber tapper in the Amazonian rainforest, later dedicating her early career to grassroots movements fighting for the rights of laborers and Indigenous peoples.

From 2003 to 2008, Silva served as Minister of the Environment for Brazil. Here, she led the development of the **Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon**. Its effectiveness was rooted in Silva's practice of multi-centered leadership, in which all ministries were engaged in implementing solutions to protect the Amazon. This was coupled with Silva's transparent approach to community consultations. The plan ultimately detailed strategies in the short and long term to end deforestation and illegal land occupation. This would not have been possible without Silva's structural guidance and visionary thinking.

Mary Barra

Mary Barra has acted as Chair and CEO of General Motors since 2014. Her extensive background at GM as an engineer, Human Resources Director, and Vice President has given her the institutional knowledge needed to engage workers, consumers, and shareholders alike. After stepping into top leadership, Barra transformed the company's culture and put sustainability at the forefront of GM's work. She is actively leading its mission of **all-electric vehicles (EVs) by 2035** by investing in green infrastructure and encouraging technological innovation. GM has further begun producing annual sustainability reports and emission targets based on Paris Agreement guidelines. Barra has reduced hierarchical barriers, increased diversity, and promoted ethical and transparent business practices to lead the company into the future. As a result, she has made GM a top competitor in the auto transition to EVs and is regarded as a prime example of private-sector ingenuity.



William Peduto



Bill Peduto served as Mayor of Pittsburgh from 2014 to 2022. Some of his most notable actions while in public service include his ardent commitment to environmental protection and climate action. During his tenure, he led the development and implementation of the **2018 Climate Action Plan 3.0**.

CAP 3.0 has produced tangible strategies to increase Pittsburgh's resiliency and commit to carbon neutrality by 2050. Peduto was personally involved in extensive collaborations and engagement with non-profits, private businesses, and community stakeholders. In a city historically plagued by dirty industries, Peduto consistently took a definitive stance on environmental practices by publicly aligning with scientific evidence on climate change. He communicated the need for urgent and innovative action, which helped placed Pittsburgh on the map as a leading city in sustainability.