



Roadmap for Transformative Action to Achieve Health for All at Net-Zero Emissions

Consensus Study Prospectus

This prospectus summarizes the [NAM Commission on Reimagining Systems for a Healthier Climate Future](#)'s proposed directions for the Roadmap consensus study committee, based on the Commission's work to date (including scoping discussions, convenings, and information-gathering workshops). It is intended to accelerate committee onboarding and support early alignment on the problem framing, intended audiences, and a workable approach to producing a decision-relevant Roadmap. Consistent with National Academies' practice, the committee will refine, validate, and ultimately determine the report's framing, evidence base, and conclusions through the consensus study process.

I. Statement of Direction

The National Academies' ad hoc committee to develop a [Roadmap for Transformative Action to Achieve Health for All at Net-Zero Emissions](#) builds upon the foundational work of the [NAM Commission on Reimagining Systems for a Healthier Climate Future](#). The Roadmap will produce an evidence-based, **decision-support framework** to guide the prioritization of actions that advance health and well-being for all across regions, systems, and scales, while strengthening social and economic resilience in the transition to net-zero emissions.

Recognizing that transformation must unfold across highly diverse contexts—from highly resourced to resource-constrained settings—the Commission further proposes that the Roadmap not prescribe a single set of technical solutions. Instead, it should articulate differentiated pathways for systems change: grounded in evidence, informed by context, and oriented toward practical action across policy, investment, and governance domains.

While health and well-being are the core outcomes that organize the Roadmap, the approach is **explicitly cross-sectoral**—examining the systems that most strongly shape health outcomes, including energy, transport, food and agriculture, industry, the built environment, finance, and governance. This scope is intended to ensure the Roadmap is usable well beyond the health sector and underscores the essential role of non-health expertise on the committee. In this respect, the Roadmap differs from health-sector action plans (e.g., the [Belém Health Action Plan](#)), which are primarily oriented to actions within the health system; this Roadmap is designed to navigate the multi-sector transitions that determine whether health gains are realized and sustained.

Importantly, the report will position **mitigation and adaptation** not as parallel tracks, but as interdependent and mutually reinforcing approaches in achieving healthier climate futures for all—recognizing that their balance and sequencing will necessarily differ across contexts.

II. Goals & Vision for Success

The Roadmap is intended to be both strategically ambitious and practically useful. Specifically, it seeks to:

- Provide a shared framework to guide priority-setting for governments, multilaterals, funders, and private-sector actors—informing policy design, portfolio planning, and investment decisions that advance health, equity, climate, and economic resilience
- Identify high-impact, system-level interventions and leverage points that align health, well-being, and climate objectives and that can be scaled through financing, governance reforms, policy innovation, or technology diffusion
- Outline multiple routes of transformation that reflect diverse contextual and structural conditions, including institutional capacity, fiscal space, infrastructure readiness, and political economy dynamics
- Translate evidence into implementation-focused resources, including decision criteria, trade-off assessment tools, risk/benefit analyses, and case-based exemplars that demonstrate how systems transformation can unfold in practice
- Inform the post-2030/SDG development discourse by positioning health, well-being, equity, and resilience as core outcomes of climate-aligned growth, investment, and policy strategies

What success could look like (illustrative):

- The framework is used by decision-makers to guide portfolio design, policy packages, and investment theses
- Adoption and/or scaling of high-impact systems interventions by funders and governments, and mobilization of capital aligned with the pathways articulated in the report
- Case-informed pilots are initiated across diverse contexts, with common metrics for health, well-being, equity, climate, and economic resilience outcomes that can be tracked and learned from over time

III. How the Committee Will Approach the Work

Building on the Commission's Contributions

The Roadmap should be anchored in the Commission's work to date. Syntheses and recordings of Commission information-gathering workshops, initial scoping meetings, and other background materials should directly inform the committee's deliberations. These materials will enable the committee to quickly identify core themes, tensions, and opportunities that warrant deeper exploration through the consensus study process.

Proposed Theory of Transformation

The Commission proposes a theory of transformation to help organize the committee's work: systems change tends to emerge through reinforcing shifts across **three tiers**:

1. **Conceptual & Normative Paradigms:** High-level models, narratives, and worldviews that shape how societies define progress and well-being—such as green growth, post-growth/degrowth, Indigenous and community knowledge systems, and other alternative development pathways. These paradigms influence what is considered desirable, acceptable, and politically possible, and thus frame the space for action.

2. **National Structures & Policies:** Policy, legal, regulatory, governance, and financial mechanisms at the national level that embed long-term institutional change and create enabling environments for cross-system, health- and climate-aligned action. Examples may include fiscal reforms, regulatory standards, social protection architectures, or national development plans that explicitly link climate, health, well-being, and equity goals.
3. **Subnational and Place-Based Structures & Innovations:** City, regional, and community-led initiatives that demonstrate how transformative principles are operationalized in practice, often serving as early testing grounds for integrated health–climate solutions. These efforts reveal how context-specific governance, social cohesion, and local capacities shape implementation and can generate early, measurable co-benefits for health, well-being, climate, equity, and economic resilience.

The Commission offers this as an organizing lens for evidence review, case selection, and synthesis; the committee may refine it as needed.

Evidence Gathering & Case Examples

In addition to drawing on the Commission’s outputs, the committee will engage a wider body of knowledge and expertise. This may include additional public meetings, expert consultations, calls for information, and/or targeted literature scans to strengthen its evidence base.

Case Examples

Case examples should be a central feature of the Roadmap. Building on efforts such as [WHO ATACH](#) and the [Pathfinder Initiative](#), the committee will curate cross-systems examples that highlight early signals of conceptual, structural, or institutional shifts with potential for broader impact. These may include national policies that reimagine the relationship between health, climate, equity, and development (e.g., rights-of-nature provisions, planetary health strategies) as well as subnational or community-led initiatives that begin to operationalize these principles in practice.

Rather than emphasizing outcomes at scale, the case examples will illustrate how transformative approaches are being conceived, tested, and adapted—shedding light on the enabling conditions, policy windows, institutional arrangements, and societal values that shape their emergence. These insights will help the committee identify promising pathways for change across diverse contexts and clarify how ambitious ideas can be governed, financed, and implemented over time.

IV. Anticipated Impact

By combining systems thinking, practical exemplars, and strategic foresight, the Roadmap report will serve as both a strategic guide and a springboard for implementation, enabling funders, governments, and private sector actors to:

- Identify high-value priority investment areas with the greatest health, well-being, equity, climate, and economic returns
- Design and sequence policies and financial instruments that unlock systems change
- Coordinate multisectoral efforts toward equitable, sustainable, and resilient societies at net-zero

Importantly, the Roadmap report will also lay the groundwork for a new phase of applied action and coalition-building led by the NAM, Commission, and partners beginning in 2027. This next phase will focus on operationalizing the report's findings, for example testing and scaling high-impact, high-value interventions; fostering shared accountability mechanisms; and advancing investment platforms that accelerate the transition toward healthier, more equitable and resilient economies within planetary boundaries.