NEWPATHWAYS Dinner at COP31

From Pathways to Implementation – Financing an Equitable Transition Away from Fossil Fuels

Date: Thursday, 12 November 2026
Time: 18:30–22:00 (drinks reception from 18:30; core dinner programme from 19:00–21:30), followed by optional informal networking.
Location Antalya, Türkiye
Format: Invitation-only dinner and moderated roundtable
Participants: Approximately 25–30 policymakers, negotiators, finance actors, researchers and civil society representatives

Background

The transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF) is moving from a question of ambition towards one of implementation. Building on **the first International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels**, co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands in Santa Marta, Colombia, in April 2026, the international TAFF process is creating space for countries and other stakeholders to consider how to advance just, orderly and equitable transitions away from fossil fuels. This momentum will continue with the second International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, to be co-hosted by Tuvalu and Ireland in the Pacific in July 2027. Preparations for this follow-up conference offer an opportunity to deepen cooperation between researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders on the practical challenges of implementation.

Alongside this political momentum, the scientific community is contributing evidence on the global pathways needed to transition away from fossil fuels and the transformations required to achieve them. **The Science Panel for the Global Energy Transition (SPGET)**, launched in Santa Marta, aims to support countries with scientific evidence on how to transition away from fossil fuels rapidly and feasibly, in line with the Paris Agreement's temperature goals, and on the energy system transformations needed to achieve this transition.

The **NEWPATHWAYS project** complements this work by developing global and national low-emission transformation pathways aligned with the Paris Agreement, while accounting for equity, finance and sustainable development. Meanwhile, ongoing policy and scientific discussions on how to ensure that the transition away from fossil fuels is just and equitable, alongside emerging concepts such as *equitable transitions away from fossil fuels* ('ETAFFs'), are helping to identify the implications of different transition pathways, including their trade-offs, opportunities and the ways in which national circumstances and development priorities can be taken into account.

Translating this political and scientific momentum into implementation raises important questions: What do equitable transition pathways require in practice? How can countries finance the changes needed to deliver them? Moving away from fossil fuels involves not only transforming energy systems, but also addressing economic dependence on fossil fuel production, managing distributional impacts and mobilising investment in decentralised energy systems and diversified economic activities.

Climate finance is central to these challenges, yet questions remain about whether existing financial flows and instruments are adequate, accessible and aligned with countries' different transition needs. Existing initiatives, including Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs), have sought to mobilise finance for transitions in coal-dependent economies, with different levels of success.

Against this backdrop, this COP31 dinner will bring together policymakers, negotiators, finance actors, researchers and civil society **to explore how global transition pathways can inform equitable national transitions and the financing needed to implement them**. Drawing on the emerging SPGET analysis of the recent literature on global energy transition pathways and their implications for transitioning away from fossil fuels, NEWPATHWAYS research on national pathways and climate finance, and emerging research on ETAFF, the discussion will connect the scientific evidence on what the transition requires with the policy and financing challenges of delivering it in different national contexts.

Objectives

This NEWPATHWAYS COP31 dinner aims to:

- Explore how global energy transition pathways can inform the implementation of an equitable transition away from fossil fuels.
- Discuss how countries' different circumstances and development priorities shape equitable transition pathways.
- Identify the energy-system transformations required to achieve the transition away from fossil fuels.
- Consider what types of finance and financial instruments are needed to support implementation, and how international finance can better respond to different national needs.
- Identify opportunities for cooperation between researchers, policymakers and finance actors in the lead-up to the next international TAFF conference in 2027.

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
18:30–19:00	**Welcome drinks, registration and networking**
19:00–19:30	**Welcome and introductions** – Opening remarks, participant introductions and icebreaker.
19:30–21:30	**Moderated roundtable discussion: From pathways to implementation** Open exchange exploring three interconnected themes: 1. Global energy transition pathways: What does the transition require? 2. National pathways and ETAFFs: How can transitions be equitable in practice? 3. Financing implementation: How can we make the transition happen?
21:30–22:00	**Closing reflections and informal networking**