From a Hundred Billion to a Trillion: Making Climate Finance Verifiable

English podcast + 90-second intro video · COP31 Antalya · 12 November 2026

> Independent draft. Not a UN position, not endorsed, no fund exists, no submission filed, no email sent. Replace [YOUR NAME] before publishing. No MP4 produced.

Presenter introduction

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Presenter introduction — ENGLISH (fill the two brackets before recording)

HOST: "Our guest today is [YOUR NAME], an independent project proposer at COP31 in Antalya. They are
not speaking for any government, the United Nations, the COP31 Presidency, XPRIZE or any company, and
nothing in this conversation has been endorsed by those organisations. What they brought to the
conference is a draft proposal and one question: how does a climate-finance promise become a result
that someone can independently verify?"

YOU (on camera / to the host): "Hi, I'm [YOUR NAME]. I work on [YOUR FIELD OR 'independent climate-
finance research']. I'm at COP31 because the gap between what countries pledge and what can be verified
on the ground is now the biggest obstacle to climate finance. My proposal is deliberately small:
measure first, pay second."

Rules: keep the two disclaimers verbatim in every recording. Do not add a job title, affiliation, award
or partnership that has not been confirmed. Replace [YOUR NAME] and [YOUR FIELD OR ...] before
publishing; until then this is a template, not a biography.
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Podcast script

HOST: Welcome to a COP31 Antalya dispatch. Today's question is simple, and slightly uncomfortable: when a government promises climate money, how would anyone know it was actually delivered? Our guest is [YOUR NAME], an independent project proposer. A quick note before we start: they are not speaking for any government, the United Nations, the COP31 Presidency, XPRIZE or any company, and nothing in this episode has been endorsed by those organisations. No fund exists yet and no submission has been filed.

HOST: So, let's begin with a number. In 2009, in Copenhagen, developed countries pledged one hundred billion dollars a year by 2020. The OECD confirmed the goal was met for the first time in 2022, at 116 billion dollars — two years late. In 2024 it reached 136.7 billion dollars. But only about 29 percent of that was grants; loans were counted at face value, and there is still no common accounting method. [YOUR NAME], why begin with a fifteen-year-old pledge?

GUEST: Because it taught us the exact lesson this proposal is built on. A pledge is not a delivery, and an announced figure is not a disbursed, independently verified one. The successor goals are much bigger: at least 300 billion dollars a year in public finance by 2035, and at least 1.3 trillion dollars a year in total flows. Yet the new multi-year pledges announced here at COP31 are reported at about 11.7 billion dollars a year — roughly 70 percent below the earlier pace. If we simply announce a bigger number, we repeat the same problem at a larger scale. So my proposal starts one step earlier: with measurement.

HOST: And the trillion-dollar figure in your title. Is that a budget?

GUEST: No — and I want to be very precise, because this is where these ideas usually go wrong. One trillion dollars a year is UNEP's estimate of what food loss and waste costs the global economy. One point three to one point six trillion dollars is the estimated size of the waste-management market. Neither is money sitting in an account. UNEP and ISWA estimate a potential net gain of 108.5 billion dollars a year from circular measures. And the World Bank finds that collection alone absorbs 60 to 70 percent of waste-management

costs. Fifteen to twenty million informal workers collect roughly 58 percent of the plastic that is recycled — work that mostly never appears in official statistics.

HOST: You also mention an envelope of around two trillion dollars.

GUEST: As a hypothesis, clearly labelled. Once you include uncollected, unweighed and unmanifested waste, plus health and climate externalities, the total addressable value may be of the order of two trillion dollars a year. But no authoritative source publishes that figure, and the published categories overlap — they must not be added together. The first deliverable of my proposal is therefore a published measurement baseline, not a funding claim. And the often-quoted eight trillion dollars a year is an independent analytical estimate of total global climate investment needs. It is not a United Nations target.

HOST: Where does XPRIZE come in?

GUEST: As precedent, not as a partner. The 100 million dollar XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition launched in 2021 and closed in April 2025. It paid only against verified results: more than a thousand net tonnes of CO2 actually removed, rigorous monitoring, a cost path below 100 dollars a tonne, and a credible route to gigatonne scale. Mati Carbon won 50 million dollars. Two of the four main winners are, in substance, waste-to-value businesses: NetZero, which turns crop residues into biochar in Brazil, and Vaulted Deep, a waste-management company that permanently stores unusable organic waste underground. My proposal applies that same discipline to waste and methane: pay only for what can be independently verified.

HOST: What is the actual machinery?

GUEST: Four layers. One: a digital waste manifest, weighing at source and a chain of custody — this turns what I call hidden or unmanifested waste into data. Two: independent measurement, reporting and verification, with AI-assisted measurement of food waste in commercial kitchens, where documented reductions run from 20 to 53 percent. I also say plainly that evidence in households, which produce most food waste, is much weaker. Three: fair integration of informal workers through cooperatives, voluntary identification with consent, documented per-tonne payments, safety equipment and insurance. Four: a public payment ledger and an annual report to the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance, so verified flows can be reflected in reporting toward the 1.3 trillion dollar goal. The money for milestone payments comes from extended producer responsibility fees, methane and carbon credit revenues, green public procurement and blended finance. Catalytic capital — not a trillion-dollar pot.

HOST: What do you actually want from COP31?

GUEST: One sentence. The presidency-led cover decision is being drafted now and closes on 20 November. I'm asking delegations to consider one sentence recognising results-based waste-to-value finance as an implementation pathway toward the agreed 1.3 trillion dollar a year goal — with no new fund, no new obligations and no reopening of agreed text. Alongside that, a twelve-month pilot with cities and businesses in the One Billion Challenge, with five public indicators: percentage of waste weighed, percentage with a digital manifest, share of informal collection registered, tonnes of methane avoided, and cost per tonne.

HOST: And what are you not claiming?

GUEST: That anyone has endorsed it. That any money has been pledged. That a submission has been filed, or an email sent. Only a Party — a government — can file a formal UNFCCC submission. These are drafts written so a delegation can adopt, amend or decline them. I'm an independent proposer asking a question on the record: would your delegation nominate a focal point to review the draft?

HOST: The full proposal, a source-linked fact-check sheet, and one-page pavilion handouts in English, Turkish, Spanish, German, Japanese and Persian are available with this episode. Every figure comes with its source on the same page. This has been an independent COP31 Antalya dispatch, not an official UN podcast and not an endorsement by any organisation mentioned. [YOUR NAME], thank you.

GUEST: Thank you.

Intro video — 90-second shot list

Time	Caption	Visual	Voiceover
00:00–00:08	In 2009: a $100bn/yr pledge. Delivered in 2022 — two years late.	Split screen: a clean numeric card '2009 → 2022' over the waste-to-value hero illustration. No logos, no flags.	HOST: In 2009 the world pledged 100 billion dollars a year for climate finance. It was delivered for the first time in 2022 — two years late.
00:08–00:22	[YOUR NAME] · Independent project proposer · COP31 Antalya · Not speaking for any government or institution	Presenter on camera, or a plain name card if filming is not possible. Lower-third caption only; no invented logo or title.	HOST: This is [YOUR NAME], an independent project proposer at COP31 in Antalya — not representing any government, the UN, XPRIZE or a company. Nothing here is endorsed.
00:22–00:38	The gap: pledges ≠ verified delivery. Agreed goal: $1.3tn/yr by 2035. New COP31 pledges: ~$11.7bn/yr.	Animated three-step number line: 100bn → 300bn → 1.3tn, then a small ~11.7bn marker. Source captions at bottom.	YOU: The problem isn't the size of the number. It's that a pledge is not a delivery. The agreed goal is now 1.3 trillion dollars a year by 2035, while new pledges here are down about 70 percent.
00:38–00:54	$1tn/yr = addressable value, NOT a budget · Collection = 60–70% of costs · 15–20m informal workers	Three verified-pathway illustration (crushed basalt, biochar, organic-waste storage) with a thin measurement loop; caption 'illustration, not a photograph'.	YOU: One trillion dollars is the estimated value already tied up in food loss and waste — not a fund. And 60 to 70 percent of waste-management cost is simply collection. Most of that work is invisible in official statistics.
00:54–01:12	Precedent: XPRIZE $100M paid only against verified results · 2 of 4 main winners = waste-to-value	Split card: 'XPRIZE 2021–2025' beside 'Mati Carbon $50M · NetZero $15M · Vaulted Deep $8M'. Small print: 'precedent, not partnership'.	YOU: XPRIZE showed the discipline: pay only for verified tonnes and verified methane avoided. Two of its four main winners were waste-to-value businesses. That's the model, not an endorsement.
01:12–01:30	The ask: ONE sentence in the COP31 cover decision · Results-based waste-to-value finance · No new fund · No new obligations	End card with three bullets, the hashtag #OneBillionChallenge, and a line: 'Independent draft — not endorsed — no submission filed'.	YOU: So the ask is one sentence in the cover decision being drafted now, plus a twelve-month pilot with five public indicators. Measure first. Pay second. Would your delegation nominate a focal point to review the draft?

Production notes

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Production notes
- Runtime 90 seconds; voiceover ~150 words. Use the same two voices as the podcast (HOST + YOU).
- All images are AI-generated ILLUSTRATIONS, not documentary photographs — keep that caption on screen.
- No UN, COP31, XPRIZE, government or company logos; no flags; no endorsement implied.
- Replace [YOUR NAME] before publishing. Do not add a job title, award or partnership that has not been confirmed.
- Numbers shown on screen must carry their source in the description or the fact-check sheet linked in the description: PAVILION_PROPOSAL_ALL.pdf, pavilion_proposal_numbers.csv.
- Suggested description line: "Independent COP31 Antalya draft. Not a UN position, not endorsed, no fund exists, no submission filed, no email sent."
- No video file has been produced by this workspace — this is a script, shot list and caption set, plus a self-contained HTML storyboard and a separate audio narration.
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Sources

1. UK House of Commons Library — $100bn pledge and 2022 delivery — https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9999/
2. WRI / OECD — $100bn goal first met in 2022 — https://www.wri.org/news/statement-oecd-report-shows-developed-countries-met-100b-goal-first-time
3. The Hindu, 12 Nov 2026 — $136.7bn in 2024, grants ~29% — https://www.thehindu.com/business/why-the-same-climate-finance-dispute-returns-at-every-un-climate-summit/article71690224.ece

4. UNFCCC — agreed $300bn/yr and $1.3tn/yr goals — https://unfccc.int/news/cop31-must-supercharge-solutions-un-climate-chief-on-opening-day-of-cop31
5. UNEP — food loss and waste ~$1tn/yr, 8-10% of emissions — https://www.unep.org/en/news-and-stories/press-release/food-waste-focus-world-marks-international-day-zero-waste
6. World Bank — collection 60-70% of costs — https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/352371563196189492/pdf/Solid-and-industrial-hazardous-waste-management-assessment-options-and-actions-areas.pdf
7. G20 W&CE 2025 — 15-20m informal workers, 58% of plastic recycling — https://g20re.org/pdf/202503/ECSWG_Waste_and_Circular_Economy_W_CE.pdf
8. UNEP/ISWA — $108.5bn net annual gain — https://valorinternational.globo.com/environment/news/2026/11/04/cop31-bets-on-zero-waste-and-the-circular-economy.ghtml
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