Overview of Our Lobbying Activities on Climate Policy in 2021

Besides actions taken by our industry associations, Bayer is also directly engaged in selected climate-related lobbying activities with a focus on carbon farming initiatives globally. This is why, among other activities, Bayer representatives were actively participating at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, the UN Food Summit, and the Convention on Biodiversity to discuss the conservation of rain forests and the crucial role of innovation in agriculture to protect the climate and increase resilience against extreme weather events as part of the just transition.

In the U.S., all our lobbying activity on climate change at the federal level has been publicly disclosed through the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House (see here). In 2021, we have engaged with stakeholders primarily concerning the U.S. Build Back Better proposals and the Growing Climate Solutions Act. Additionally, Bayer has supported various open letters to the U.S. government to support adopting the ambitious and attainable target of cutting GHG emissions by at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 (see here). We are also supporting bi-partisan efforts to establish a high standard for carbon farming to mobilise agricultural lands in the effort to reduce and remove carbon emissions.

At the EU, Bayer publishes the main targeted legislative and policy initiatives and all contributions to public consultations, roadmaps as well as meetings with the political level at the European Commission in the EU Transparency Register (see here). In 2021, we have mainly involved in activities on carbon farming and carbon removal certification, such as meetings with EU-Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans (see here) as well as contributions to public consultations on industrial emissions, land use, land-use change and forestry, and on restoring sustainable carbon cycles. In addition, we sponsored or co-organized jointly with POLITICO Europe the climate-related events titled Farming in a climate-neutral Europe, The future of Europe’s agriculture and food production system post-pandemic, and The future of food and farming summit 2021.

In Germany, Bayer and other companies that are part of the Stiftung 2 Grad have appealed to the new German government to declare the transformation to climate neutrality as the focus economic project of the coming legislative period (see here).

In China, Bayer started the “Embrace Green” initiative with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. We provide resources (budget, field demonstration, inviting experts) to train agricultural officials in sustainable development, low emission farming technology, and practices to develop greener agriculture. In 2019-2020, the program reached more than 1,700 officers and other stakeholders in ten provinces.

In Brazil, we worked with several federal states to embrace the possibility of participating in the LEAF coalition. We are a leading member of the “Business movement for Amazon” against illegal deforestation and implored the country to participate in the deforestation commitment brokered at COP 26 and supported the negotiations on Article 6 in Glasgow. Additionally, we have enrolled around 2000 growers in our LATAM carbon farming project and advocate regulations that ensure high-quality carbon credits for the agricultural sector.

In the run-up for COP 27 and COP 28, Bayer is engaged with the host governments of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to support climate action, the inclusion of food systems, a just transition, and proposals related to adaption in human health and agriculture.