

CDP States and Regions 2021: Frequently Asked Questions

What is CDP and its States and Regions program?

CDP is a global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states and regions. Founded in 2000 and working with more than 590 investors with over \$110 trillion in assets, CDP pioneered using capital markets and corporate procurement to motivate companies to disclose their environmental impacts, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard water resources and protect forests. Over 10,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2020, including more than 9,600 companies worth over 50% of global market capitalization, and over 940 cities, states and regions, representing a combined population of over 2.6 billion. Fully TCFD aligned, CDP holds the largest environmental database in the world, and CDP scores are widely used to drive investment and procurement decisions towards a zero carbon, sustainable and resilient economy. CDP is a founding member of the Science Based Targets initiative, We Mean Business Coalition, The Investor Agenda and the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative. Visit cdp.net or follow us @CDP to find out more.

CDP's States and Regions program provides a global platform for subnational governments to disclose environmental information on greenhouse gas emissions, climate change risks, and mitigation and adaptation strategies. In 2020, the program collected, analysed, and delivered data to participating subnational governments. Over 130 state and regional governments disclose to CDP from 32 countries, representing over 672 million people, 21% of the global economy and over 5GtCO₂e. The climate actions disclosed by states and regions, as well as CDP analysis, can be viewed and downloaded on our [Open Data Portal](#).

Why should I participate and report our state/region's climate change data through CDP?

Through CDP, states and regions can measure, manage and disclose their environmental impacts and access networks and shared information from subnational governments all over the world. The main benefits of reporting through us include:

- ▼ **Demonstrating transparency and accountability:** By publicly reporting your environmental data to CDP's states and regions questionnaire, you can display your commitment to tackle the climate crisis and become an attractive and competitive area for economic development and investment.
- ▼ **Showcasing your actions and ambition:** Present your plans, targets and progress through CDP's data partners, such as the [RegionsAdapt initiative](#) and the [UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal](#), an online platform powered by CDP's data where actors from around the globe – including states and regions - can display their commitments to act on climate change.
- ▼ **Accessing actionable insights:** Use our [Open Data Portal](#) to learn more about the latest disclosed data and receive unique insights to support your decision-making processes.
- ▼ **Joining our network:** Make use of the global network of governments and corporations dedicated to tackling climate change. Use CDP states and regions disclosure as a way to engage with peers, track progress annually and compile all environmental data in one accessible place.
- ▼ **Identify gaps and opportunities:** The reporting process could identify potential gaps and opportunities within your government's climate strategy, giving you baseline of your current conditions and the areas to pursue for further improvement.

- ▼ **Engage with investors:** Make use of [CDP's Matchmaker program](#) showcasing climate and resiliency projects to the capital markets, explore resources to support [sustainable infrastructure projects](#), and learn more about the CDP's [supply chain program](#).
- ▼ **Easy to report:** There is no minimum reporting requirement.
- ▼ **Reporting is free of charge.**

In 2020, [over 130 state and regional governments](#) disclosed their environmental data to CDP and are playing their part to accelerate climate action. You can access their publicly disclosed data from 2020 [here](#).

What is the timeline for responding?

The timeline for the 2021 reporting period for states and regions is as follows:

- ▼ Reporting platform opening and start of disclosure: **late-March 2021**
- ▼ States and regions response submission deadline: **29th July 2021**

How do I register and gain access to the questionnaire and the platform?

States and regions can respond to the questionnaire by using CDP's reporting platform. This can be accessed through an individual activation link sent by email from CDP. Simply follow the instructions to CDP's secure online platform, which hosts the 2021 questionnaire. If you have not received an activation link and would like to participate, please email statesandregions@cdp.net to enquire about further steps.

Is there a fee for responding?

Responding to CDP States and Regions 2021 questionnaire is completely free of charge.

Is there a minimum amount of data that needs to be reported?

Reporting to the states and regions questionnaire is completely voluntary at all stages and there is no minimum amount of data that needs to be reported. However, states and regions that have joined the RegionsAdapt initiative, through our reporting partner Regions4, are required to answer the Introduction, Governance, Risks and Adaptation as well as Water sections of the 2021 questionnaire.

States and regions from the [following countries](#) will be invited to answer the Forest section of the 2021 questionnaire.

Please answer the questions comprehensively while also assessing the relevance of the information you provide. Where you do not have all the information requested, please respond with what you have as this is more valuable than no response.

Can I submit my response privately?

Please note that public disclosure is mandatory for the 2021 reporting period. Submitting 'Publicly' means that the response will be made visible on CDP's website, shared with partners and report writers, posted on CDP's [Open Data Portal](#) and used in analysis combined with any other information about the responding state or region from other public sources. For more information, please refer to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

I am having trouble with the questionnaire on the platform. Where can I find help?

CDP offers various resources to help you when responding to the states and regions questionnaire. These include:

- ▼ [States and Regions 2021 Online Reporting Guidance](#): This provides detailed step-by-step instructions for completing the online questionnaire. Please make use of this document when you are filling out the questionnaire.
- ▼ Webinars are held throughout the disclosure cycle and will cover procedures such as signing up, activating the questionnaire and best practices in reporting. They can be found through the reporting dashboard. To view the recordings from our 2020 states and regions webinars, please click [here](#).

- ▼ For additional help, please feel free to reach us at statesandregions@cdp.net.

What type of information is requested by CDP?

The CDP States and Regions 2021 questionnaire includes both qualitative and quantitative questions. The themes include:

- ▼ **Introduction:** Your state/region's profile and geographical information (e.g. government leader, population, GDP, land area, average temperature).
- ▼ **Governance:** Your government's master planning for handling states and regions as well as the economic opportunities that result from climate change.
- ▼ **Emissions – Regions-wide:** Your region-wide GHG emissions inventory.
- ▼ **Strategy:** Your state/region's emissions reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets as well as the climate actions you take across 11 sectors (agriculture, buildings and lighting, energy, finance and economy, governance, industry, land use, transport, waste, water and health).
- ▼ **Risks and adaptation:** Your climate change adaptation plans as well as the physical risks and socio-economic risks affecting your state/region.
- ▼ **Water:** The water supply risks and associated adaptation actions relevant for your state/region.
- ▼ **Forest*:** Your state/region's work to manage deforestation and/or forest degradation impacts.

*CDP's Forest Module is available for a [target list of countries](#) selected if they or at least one of their sub-national governments had endorsed the New York Declaration on Forests.

What is done with the data once the questionnaire is completed?

The data collected by CDP is then used by various entities after submission and analysis. The disclosed data is used by CDP to power the following tools and resources:

- ▼ [Open Data Portal](#) (ODP): The ODP is an online data resource, which allows the public view all data publicly reported to CDP from companies, cities, states and regions.
- ▼ Regions4 publishes an annual report using the data disclosed on risks and adaptation by the states and regions that have joined the RegionsAdapt initiative. The latest RegionsAdapt Brief Report can be found [here](#).
- ▼ The [UNFCCC's Global Climate Action Portal](#) (formerly the NAZCA Platform) is powered by CDP's data.

For more information on how we use your data, please refer to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

Can I have my response from last year copied over to pre-populate this year's questionnaire?

Yes. If you submitted a response to the 2020 questionnaire or from previous years up to 2018, your answers will be auto populated in to your 2021 questionnaire where applicable. Please review the auto-populated answers carefully and update the data where relevant when completing your 2021 response.

This data/question is not relevant for our state/region. Do I have to report/answer it?

If a certain question in the questionnaire is not relevant for your state/region, then you do not need to respond to it. It is also okay to answer "No" to questions if you do not have the information it is asking for. Please take care when not responding to a question or answering "No" and check that you have understood what the question is asking for. We welcome states and regions to report as much or as little information as they have on the topics covered in our questionnaire.

If I have already submitted my state/region's response, can I still update my response later if I find better data or additional answers?

Yes. To update your response after you have submitted, please email statesandregions@cdp.net requesting for an amendment and we will provide you with the next steps to update your response.

Is the States and Regions 2021 Questionnaire available in different languages?

Yes. The States and Regions 2021 questionnaire and reporting guidance are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese. You can access the Spanish and Portuguese versions by selecting your chosen language from the drop-down menu on the top right of your dashboard (see image below for reference) after [signing in on CDP's website](#).



What is Regions4 and RegionsAdapt?

[Regions4](#) is a global network that represents solely regional governments (states, regions, and provinces) before UN processes, European Union initiatives and global discussions in the field of sustainable development. Through advocacy, cooperation, and capacity building, Regions4 empowers regional governments to accelerate global action to halt biodiversity loss, raise ambition towards climate change adaptation and achieve the sustainable development goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The [RegionsAdapt](#) initiative was launched at COP 21 in Paris and now encompasses more than 71 signatory regions from five continents. The RegionsAdapt initiative aims to inspire and support state, provincial and regional governments to take concrete action, collaborate and report efforts on climate change adaptation. The initiative requires governments to report on the progress of their adaptation actions and goals on an annual basis. Through working in different priority areas, RegionsAdapt aims to exchange information on skills and challenges, adopt common standards and based on these standards, develop joint projects. Regions4 is the network that supports this initiative as its Secretariat and by involving members from the five continents.

Regions4 is one of CDP's strategic partners in the States and Regions program. CDP provides the official reporting platform for the RegionsAdapt initiative. To learn more about Regions4, visit www.regions4.org.