
CDP Scoring Methodology Changes: 2020 to 2021

CDP Climate Change Methodology 2021



1. Introduction

Developments to our questionnaires and scoring methodologies reflect and drive best practice and improve both data quality and the disclosure experience. CDP has stabilized existing methodologies for 2021 as much as possible. The majority of changes have been led by the need to align with the revised 2021 Climate Change questionnaire and to add clarity to existing scoring criteria.

This document indicates where the way questions are scored in the 2021 Climate Change methodology differ from how they were scored in the 2020 Climate Change methodology, and whether this is a minor change or a larger modification in scoring approach.

2. 2020 to 2021 changes

Question no.	Question text	Revisions from 2020	Details and Rationale for revisions
C1 Governance			
C1.1b	Provide further details on the board's oversight of climate-related issues.	Modified scoring	<p>Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria ii from 2020 has been removed Points available changed from 3 to 2 <p>Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now scored. New criteria added to align with scoring for the equivalent question in the Water Security (W6.2b) and Forests (F4.1b) questionnaires.
C1.1c	Why is there no board-level oversight of climate-related issues and what are your plans to change this in the future?	Minor change	<p>Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness prerequisite changed to require full points at Disclosure level
C1.2	Provide the highest management-level position(s) or committee(s) with responsibility for climate-related issues.	Modified scoring	<p>Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For criteria iii, the options 'As important matters arise' or 'Less frequently than annually' are now not eligible, to align with scoring for the equivalent question in the Water Security (W6.3) and Forests (F4.2) questionnaires.

Question no.	Question text	Revisions from 2020	Details and Rationale for revisions
C1.2a	Describe where in the organizational structure this/these position(s) and/or committees lie, what their associated responsibilities are, and how climate-related issues are monitored (do not include the names of individuals).	Modified scoring	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria ii from 2020 has been removed. Scoring is now a single criteria worth 2 points.
C2 Risks and opportunities			
C2.2	Describe your process(es) for identifying, assessing and responding to climate-related risks and opportunities.	Modified scoring	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-criteria iv and v reworded to clarify expected content – no change to scored content. Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Leadership criteria added to align with Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) requirements.
C-F2.2b	Do you assess your portfolio's exposure to climate-related risks and opportunities?	Modified scoring	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route A no longer requires details in please explain column, to reduce repetition with C-FS2.2c.
C2.3a	Provide details of risks identified with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on your business.	Modified scoring	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Quantitative' removed from description in criteria iii and v. Numerical figures are no longer required when providing breakdowns of financial impact figures.
C2.4a	Provide details of opportunities identified with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on your business.	Modified scoring	Disclosure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified that points are awarded per cell in proportion to the number of rows disclosed. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Quantitative' removed from description in criteria iii and v. Numerical figures are no longer required when providing breakdowns of financial impact figures.
C3 Business strategy			
C3.1a	Is your organisation's low-carbon transition plan a scheduled resolution item at Annual General Meetings (AGMs)?	New question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This new question is scored at Disclosure and Leadership levels.
C3.1b	Does your organization intend to publish a low-carbon transition plan in the next two years?	New question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This new question is scored at Disclosure, Awareness and Leadership levels.

Question no.	Question text	Revisions from 2020	Details and Rationale for revisions
C3.3	Describe where and how climate-related risks and opportunities have influenced your strategy.	Minor change	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made clear that criteria ii is not possible without criteria i (2020 C3.1d).
C4 Targets			
C4.1a	Provide details of your absolute emissions target(s) and progress made against those targets.	Modified scoring	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria broken down into routes A and B for clarity. Additional criteria added to route A, to align with SBTi practice Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria broken down into routes A and B for clarity. Additional criteria added to routes A and B to align with SBTi best practice.
C4.1b	Provide details of your emissions intensity target(s) and progress made against those target(s).	Modified scoring	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria broken down into routes A and B for clarity. Additional criteria added to route A, to align with SBTi practice Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional criteria added to align with SBTi best practice.
C4.2b	Provide details of any other climate-related targets, including methane reduction targets.	Minor change	Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point allocation amended from 3 to 1.
C4.2c	Provide details of any other climate-related targets, including methane reduction targets.	New question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This new question is scored at Disclosure, Awareness and Leadership levels.
C4.3d	Why did you not have any emissions reduction initiatives active during the reporting year?	Minor change	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified number of points available for criteria ii.
C6 Emissions data			
C6.10	Describe your gross global combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions for the reporting year in metric tons CO2e per unit currency total revenue and provide any additional intensity metrics that are appropriate to your business operations.	Minor change	Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria amended to require at least one row to have selected 'unit total revenue' in column 'Metric denominator', to increase data usability.

Question no.	Question text	Revisions from 2020	Details and Rationale for revisions
C7 Emissions breakdown			
C-CH7.8a	Disclose sales of products that are greenhouse gases.	Modified scoring	<p>Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This question is no longer scored at Awareness level.
C10 Verification			
C10.1a	Provide further details of the verification/assurance undertaken for your Scope 1 emissions and attach the relevant statements.	Minor change	<p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified scoring for when "completed" is selected.
C10.1b	Provide further details of the verification/assurance undertaken for your Scope 2 emissions and attach the relevant statements.	Minor change	<p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified scoring for when "completed" is selected.
C10.1c	Provide further details of the verification/assurance undertaken for your Scope 3 emissions and attach the relevant statements.	Minor change	<p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified that only one Scope 3 category is needed in the statement Clarified scoring for when "completed" is selected.
C12 Engagement			
C12.1b	Give details of your climate-related engagement strategy with your customers.	Minor change	<p>Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria now related to 'Details of engagement' as opposed to 'Type of engagement', to align with C12.1a.
C14 Portfolio impact			
C-FS14.3a and C-FS14.3b	<p>Do you assess if your clients/investees' business strategies are aligned to a well below 2-degree world?</p> <p>Do you encourage your clients/investees to set a science-based target?</p>	Minor change	<p>Disclosure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria clarified to allow those who have selected 'Not applicable' in C-FS14.3 to be awarded points.