

The role of removals in CNZS V2.0: BVCM and CDR

Joint EWG virtual session V on 15th July

Presentation deck

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Introduction | Our goal for today is to ensure that role of removals in the frameworks for addressing residual emissions and for taking responsibility for ongoing emissions is complementary, incentivizes the right actions, and avoids overlap.

Today's questions

... and outcomes

1. What is the purpose of the frameworks for addressing residual emissions and ongoing emissions in CNZS V2.0, and how are they distinct?

Clarify the distinct role and purpose of these frameworks within draft CNZS V2.0

2. What is the latest thinking on the framework for addressing residual emissions?

Establish a shared understanding of the CDR EWG's perspective

3. What is the latest thinking on the framework for taking responsibility for ongoing emissions?

Establish a shared understanding of the BVCM EWG's perspective

4. How can we incentivize the right actions within the standard, while mitigating risks of overlap between these frameworks?

Refine the role of removals in both frameworks

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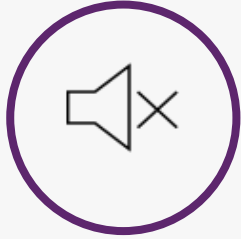
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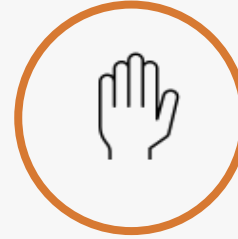
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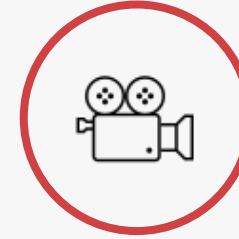
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Notes from us



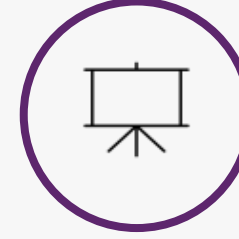
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Meeting is being recorded



We will follow up with minutes...



..And we will follow up with slides!

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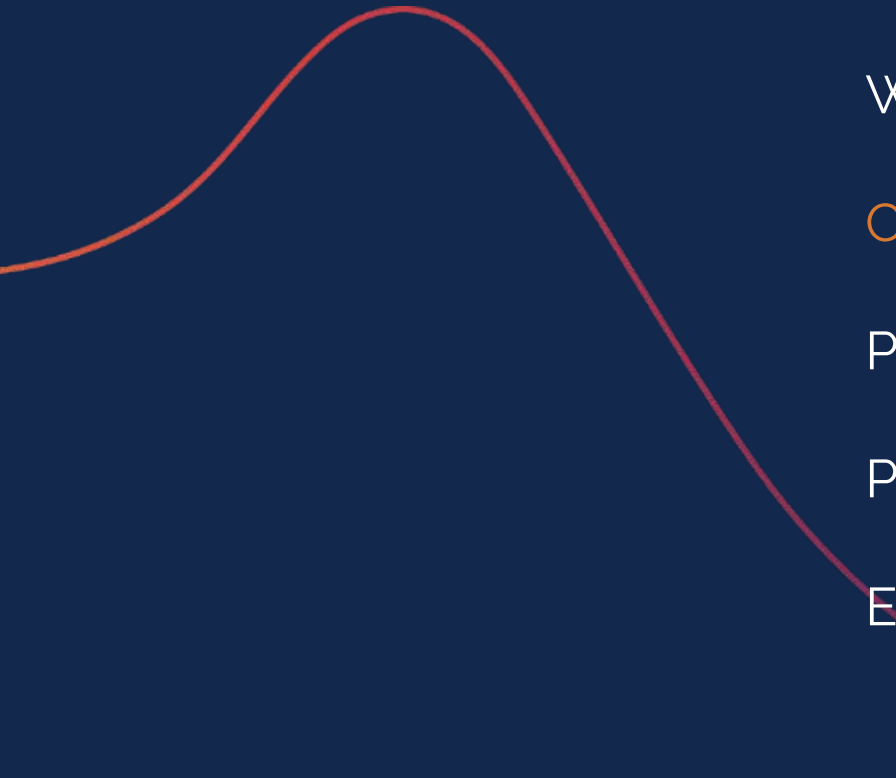


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AGENDA

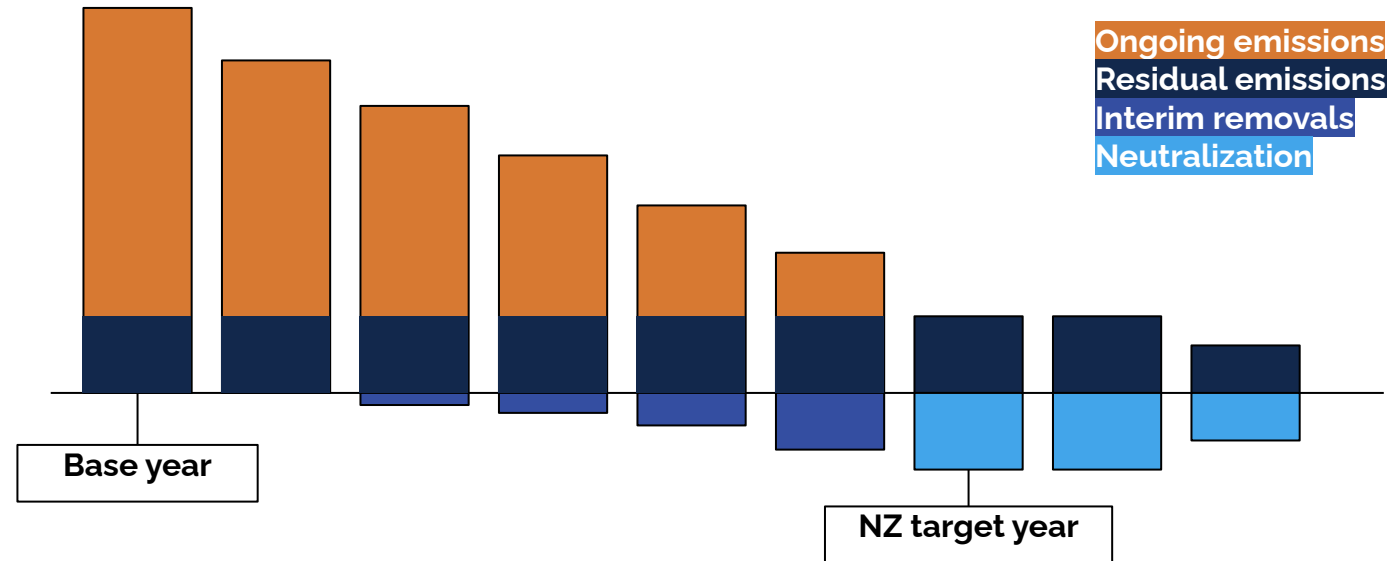


Welcome & housekeeping	10 min
Context setting: Ongoing and residual emissions in V2.0	10 mins
Pre-read recap: Residual emissions & removal targets	20 min
Pre-read recap: Ongoing emissions & BVCM	20 min
Exploring integrated recognition frameworks	90 mins

What are we trying to achieve across the three targets?

Take responsibility for ongoing emissions to curb warming and reduce temperature overshoot

- Even as companies work toward their net-zero targets, their activities result in the continued release emissions. These emissions are entering the atmosphere now and contributing to global warming and temperature overshoot.
- Given growing evidence that the 1.5°C carbon budget is already exhausted, we need companies to take responsibility for these ongoing emissions now through supplementary mitigation action.



Interim removal targets to accelerate supply of durable removals and avoid future shock

- High-durability removals are scarce and expensive, and market capacity is not scaling fast enough.
- If we wait until 2050 to require them, companies will face a cost and supply cliff.
- We want to signal and scale durable removals now, while phasing in requirements over time to ensure fairness, feasibility, and impact.

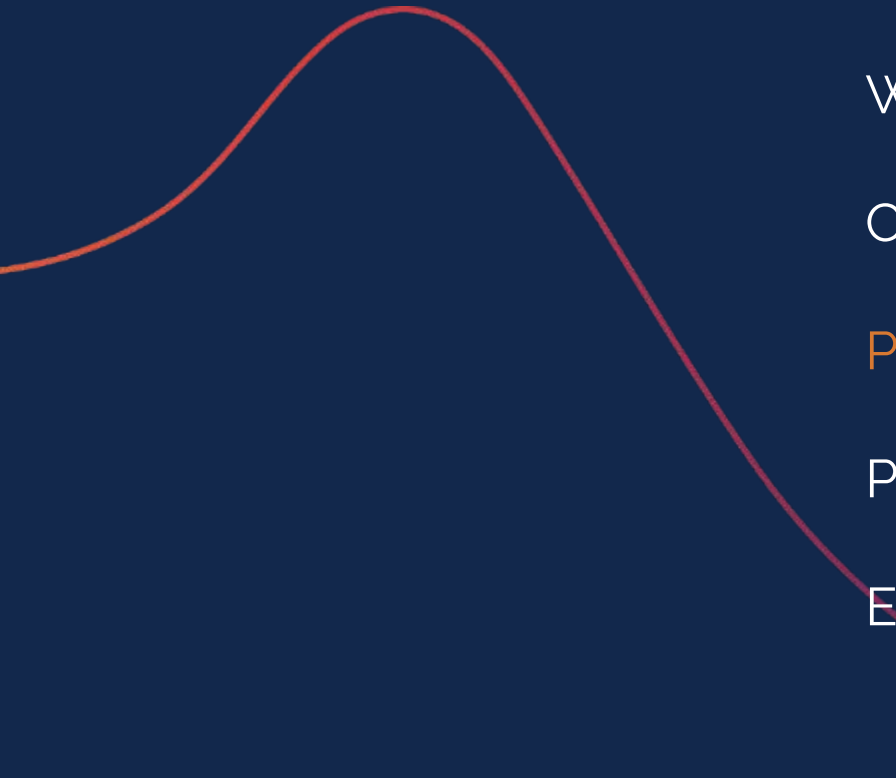
Neutralize residual emissions at net-zero target date and thereafter to achieve and sustain net-zero

- Even with ambitious abatement, most companies will have residual emissions by their net-zero target year.
- To credibly claim net-zero, these must be counterbalanced with removals from the atmosphere.
- Removals must match the atmospheric lifetime of the GHG that they are counterbalancing to ensure that the climate impact of residual emissions is fully neutralized and that the company's net-zero claim reflects a genuine and lasting contribution to global temperature stabilization.

How are they fundamentally distinct?

	Responsibility for ongoing emissions	Responsibility for residual emissions	
		Interim removal targets	Neutralization of residual emissions at and after NZ target date
Different climate objectives	Reduce temperature overshoot from cumulative ongoing emissions	Prepare the system to meet future removal needs and avoid shocks	Ensure net-zero claims are physically valid by counterbalancing residuals
Different temporal roles	Applies continuously before NZ year	Pre-NZ year only (phased ramp-up)	From NZ year onward (ongoing requirement)
Different logics of responsibility	Accountability for near-term climate impact: taking action on unabated emissions to reduce overshoot	System preparedness: supply must scale in advance Accountability: demonstrating commitment to future neutralization	Physical integrity: must remove what remains to halt further warming
Different contributions to systems change	Supports near-term scaling of a broad mix of mitigation outcomes	Sends investment signal for high-durability removals; manages future risk	Locks in long-term demand for permanent removals and stabilizes global mitigation trajectory

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Illustration of the complexity: Variables for design of interim removal targets

1 How is it incentivized?	2 Who is covered?	3 When would it kick in?	4 What scopes are covered?	5 How would it scale over time?	6 What mitigation outcomes are eligible?	7 What durability requirements would be in place?
A. Targets are required A. Targets are recognized (optional)	A. All companies A. Category A companies	A. From today A. From 2030 A. From 2035 A. From 2040	A. Scope 1 only A. Scope 1 and 2 only A. Scope 1-3	A. Linear annual ramp-up to full residual coverage at NZ target date A. Cumulative removals in pre-NZ target period = 100% of residuals at NZ target year	A. Removals only A. Removals and/ or accelerated value chain abatement	A. Like-for-like (atmospheric lifetime) A. Like-for-like (carbon cycle domain) A. Economic equivalence A. Gradual transition at the activity level A. Gradual transition at the portfolio level

Based on these 7 variables there are almost 1000 potential target design options just for the interim removals piece... the options we are about to present are therefore not mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive...

Three consultation topics discussed in the V2.0 draft

Explored with removals EWG members

1 Integrating removals in lead up to net-zero year

Whether and how residual emissions are addressed in the standard before the net-zero year



Three options for consultation

- 1 **Interim removal targets required**
- 2 **Interim removal targets optional**, with opportunity to receive additional recognition
- 3 **Pathway to proactively address project residual emissions** with either additional scope 1 emission reduction or removals

2 Minimum durability thresholds

How minimum required durability of removals is determined in the lead up to net-zero and in the neutralization year



Two options for consultation¹

- 1a The **like-for-like** approach, in which minimum durability of removals is matched to the atmospheric lifetime of residual GHGs
- 1b The **gradual transition** approach, in which share of novel removals with geologic storage increases over time

3 Quality/integrity criteria and standards

What criteria or certifications will be required for removals to be applied towards residual emissions or interim removal targets



Criteria open for consultation

Quality criteria (e.g. additionality, monitoring, permanence, unique issuance and claiming, validation and verification) and **specific standards and/or certification frameworks** to include as requirements for removals are open for consultation

1. Options for minimum durability are separate from options for framework for integration of removals into the standard, and are not linked to the option 1 requirement to set removal targets. Rather, they refer to cases in the "Documentation of Target Setting Methods" Appendix.

EWG discussion on how each option aligns with SBTi principles

SBTi principles

Ambition
The option supports achieving net-zero in line with a 1.5°C goal
Responsible
The option acknowledges sector-specific abatement potential and access to removals
Robust
The option promotes flexibility to account for uncertainty in emissions and technology, including the risk that some solutions may not materialize, remain costly, or prove too risky

Actionable
The option acknowledges that companies with high expected residuals may operate on low margins and may face barriers to invest in removals
Rigorous
The option aligns removals with science, complements deep abatement, and avoids incentivizing delays in net-zero investment.

Removal design options

Option 1
Removals are required to address residual emissions.
Option 2
Removals are recognized in addressing residual emissions
Option 3
Removals or S1 additional abatement are required to address residual emissions

None of the options are fully aligned with the SBTi principles, and key trade offs exists between targets ambition and actionability

misaligned partially aligned fully aligned

Ambition

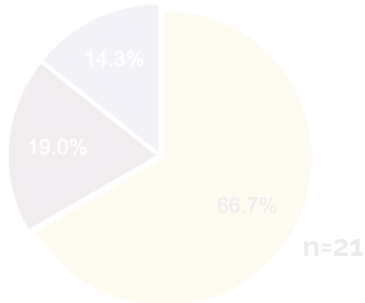
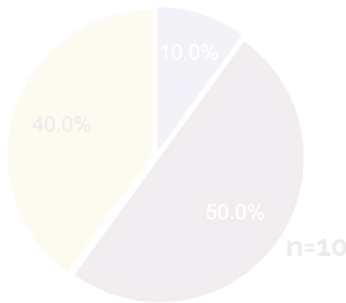
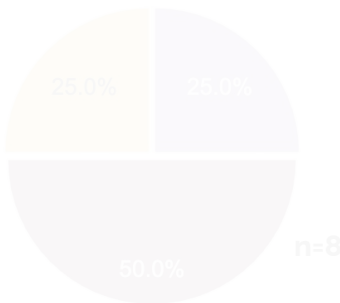
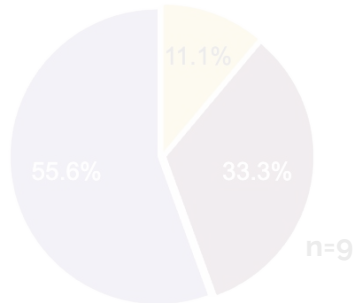
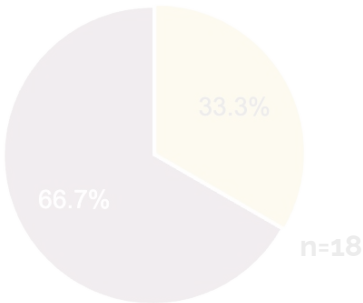
Responsibility

Robust

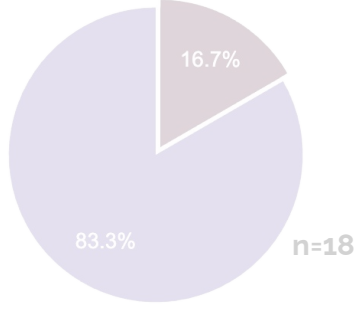
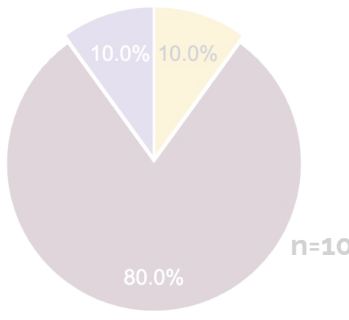
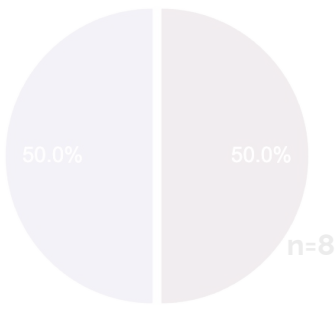
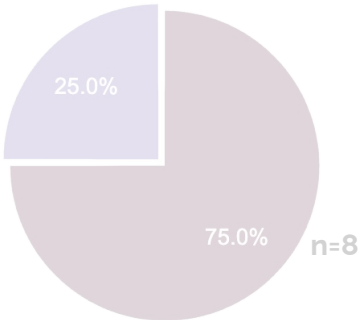
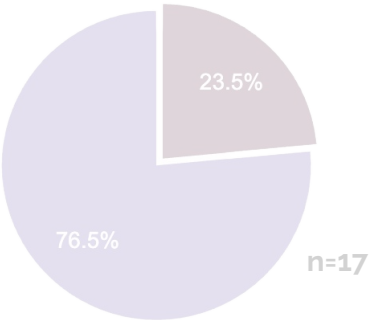
Actionable

Rigorous

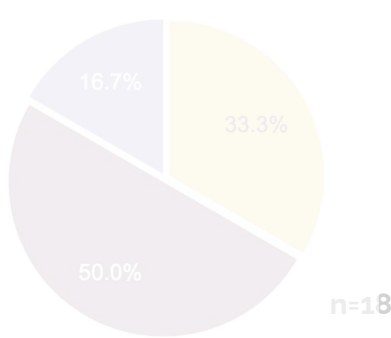
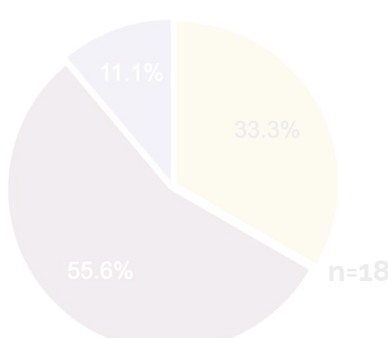
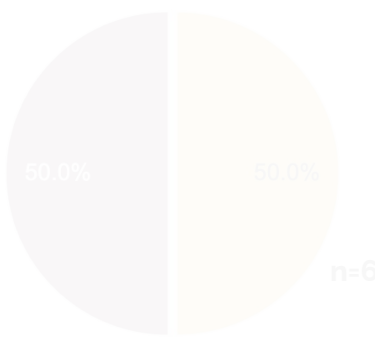
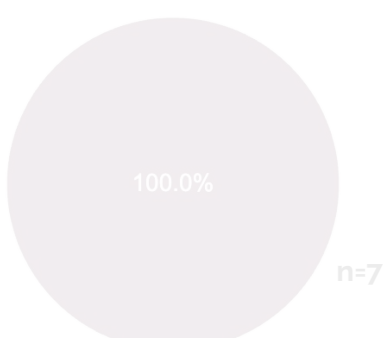
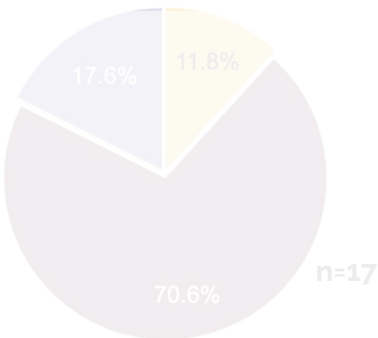
Option 1:
Required target
and removal only



Option 2:
Recognized
target and
removal only

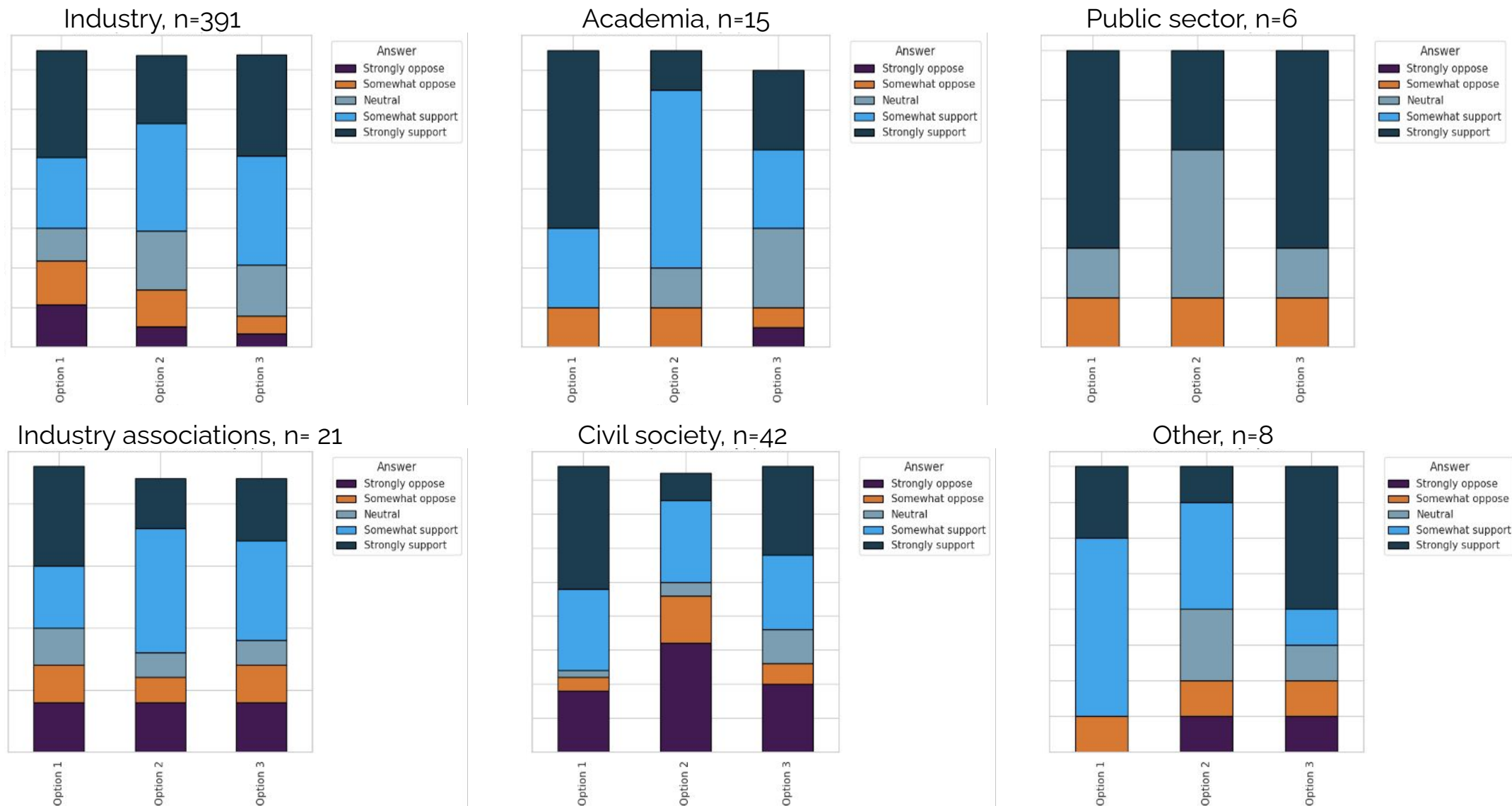


Option 3:
Recognized
target,
removal/addition
al S1 abatement



Stakeholder support for proposed options

Options represent differing levels of removals integration



Number of
response, n

Assessing the risks and barriers associated with implementing removal targets



ECONOMIC BARRIERS

We quantified the near-term (2030-2035) economic feasibility of implementing interim removal targets, where cost projections are less prone to uncertainty. Key research questions included:

- **How feasible is for companies to absorb the cost of near-term durable removals**, considering sectoral differences in emissions intensity, and profitability?
- **How these costs align with firms' existing financial profiles**

We consider different CO₂ storage durability thresholds, ranging from 100 to 1000 years, and then calculate the average market price of removal credits for each durability threshold, based on cost data found in publicly available marketplaces.



NON-ECONOMIC BARRIERS

We included a high level discussion on non-economic barriers that might constrain companies from implementing removal targets in the near term, including:

- **Companies willingness to pay for removals**
- **The status of the voluntary removal market and the near term availability of high quality removal credits**

The case study has been shared with EWG members as pre read material. The main findings descending from the analysis are summarised on the next few slides

How much will removal targets cost to SBTi companies in the near term?

We quantified the near-term economic feasibility of the removal targets, for a non-exhaustive SBTi companies across heavy industries (aviation, cement, shipping) and light industries (food and beverage)

How the durability threshold affects the cost of delivering the removal target?

Like for like vs gradual transition



- The like-for-like approach is 35% more costly than a gradual transition approach, because of the near term need for expensive permanent removals
- The costs associated with like-for-like approach is sensitive to the basket of GHG emissions in a company's inventory
- For the gradual transition approach we assumed a minimum durability of 100 years, **lowering this threshold further could reduce the cost companies will face in the near term**

How a company's residual emissions profile affects the cost of meeting its removal target?

Emission intensity and ability to pay



- Hard to abate companies will be required to purchase high volume of removals given their high residual emissions levels.
 - The total volume of removals that a cement company will be required to purchase is **18 to 38 times greater** than that of a food and beverage company.
 - Setting these targets would cost up to 6% of the cement company annual profit
- These companies might be operating on low margins, hence their ability to pay might be limited

How the removal scaling design affects the cost of delivering the removal target

Cumulative vs linear scaling



- Adopting a linear scaling is the most expensive option for all companies, owing to the greater volume of removals required,
- Under a gradual transition approach, the cement company would spend approximately **four times more** than when assuming a cumulative scaling

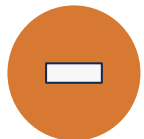
How these findings contrast with a company willingness to pay for removals?

The findings from a recent SBTi survey might provide some insights



SBTi companies are already buying removal credits:

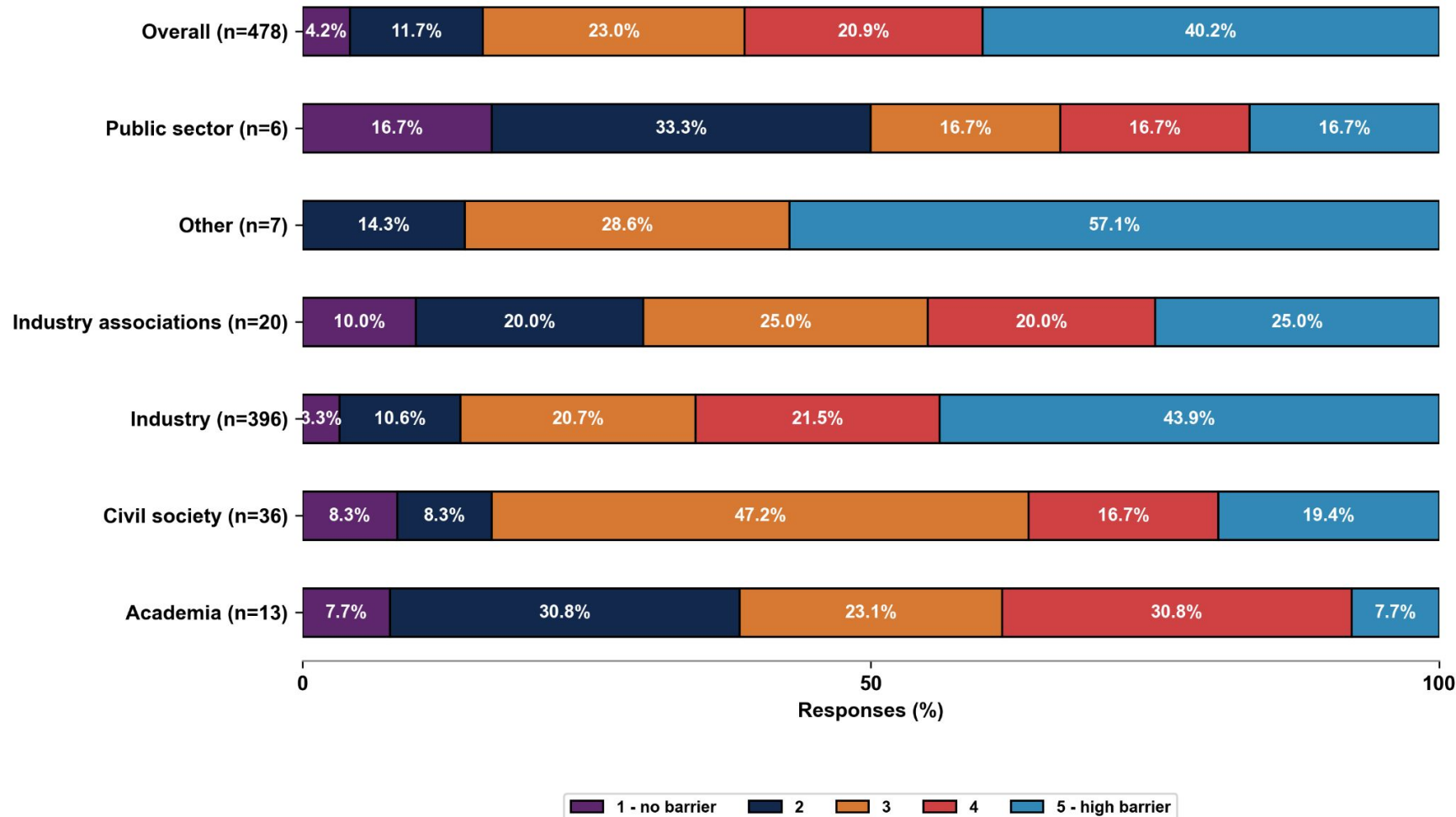
56% of respondent companies with targets validated by the SBTi self reported to voluntarily purchase carbon credits, and **50% of these credits are removals**. However, amongst SBTi companies already purchasing high durable removal credits, only 1% are operating in hard-to-abate sectors



The average corporate annual spending on carbon credits is low

Participating companies self-reported an average annual spending on carbon credits of about **USD 5.4 million**. Taking this figure as a reference budget, only companies with relatively low residual emissions at their net-zero target year (e.g., archetypal food and beverage company) would be able to fulfill their removal targets

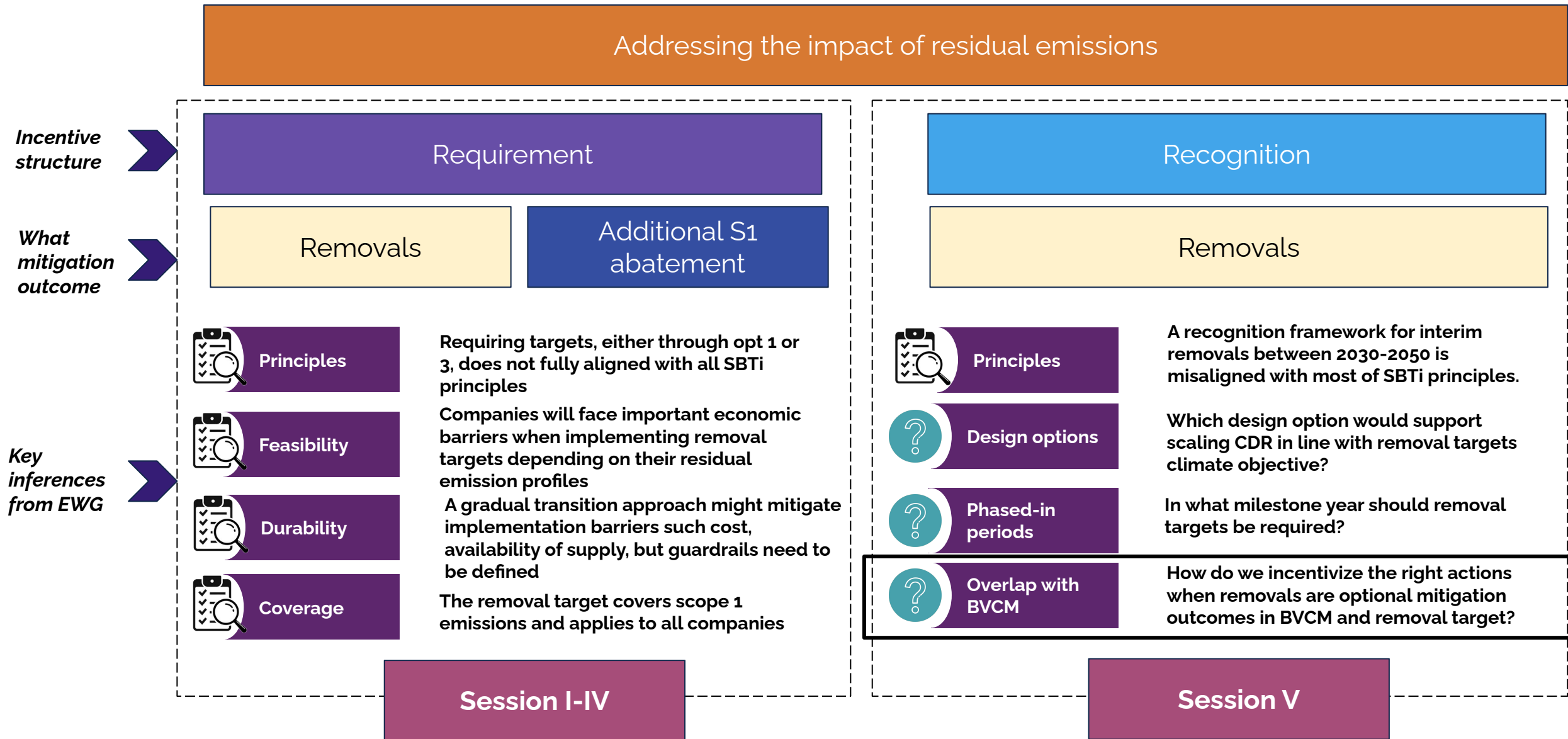
Requiring removal targets is perceived as a high barrier to entry by 60% of PC respondents



The majority of industrial stakeholders (65%) perceive **removal targets as a significant barrier to entry**. Key factors include:

- Financial and cost implications
- Availability of high quality removals
- Sector specific impacts
- Accounting and reporting challenges

EWG discussions focused on the risk & opps of the requirement framework. What does a recognition framework look like?



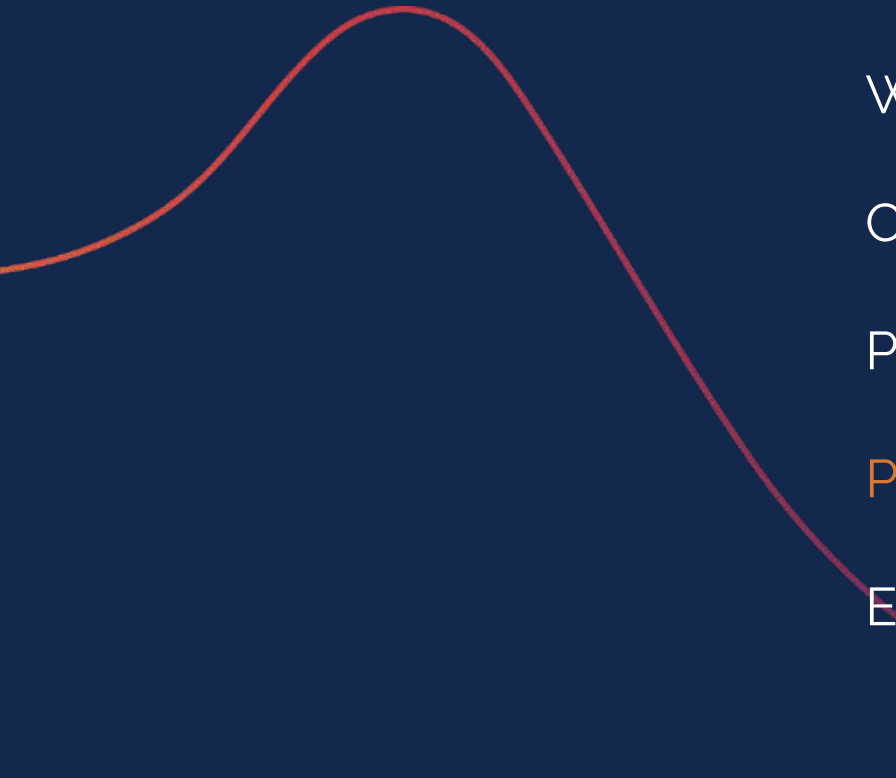


SCIENCE
BASED
TARGETS

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

Questions?

AGENDA



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Draft CNZS V2.0 proposes to recognize companies for taking responsibility for their ongoing emissions....

FROM

Recommendation for companies to address ongoing emissions by mitigation of emissions beyond their value chain

TO

Option for companies to obtain **additional recognition** for beyond value chain mitigation if they meet **necessary criteria**

What needs to be defined to validate and recognize companies taking responsibility for their ongoing emissions?

1

What counts?

Companies shall take action to address their ongoing emissions through eligible BVCM measures.



Open points to discuss with EWG

- Target setting method (e.g. money-for-ton)
- Eligible activities, outcomes and mechanisms for support
- Quality criteria for high-integrity outcomes
- Timing of contributions

2

How much?

Companies shall contribute sufficiently to BVCM measures to be eligible for recognition for addressing ongoing emissions.



Open points to discuss with EWG

- % of ongoing emissions (and potentially also historic emissions) to be addressed
- Definition and/or disclosure of carbon pricing

3

Who is eligible?

Companies shall meet specific criteria to be eligible for recognition for addressing ongoing emissions.



Open points to discuss with EWG

- Required level of performance against scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 science-based targets

4

What do they need to demonstrate?

Companies shall transparently report their actions to address ongoing emissions through BVCM measures.



Open points to discuss with EWG

- Reporting requirements to demonstrate high-integrity BVCM activities

Explored with BVCM EWG

Cross-cutting points to discuss with EWG

What **credible, transparent claims** can companies make about BVCM that incentivize action on ongoing emissions - without misleading or conflating with emission reductions?

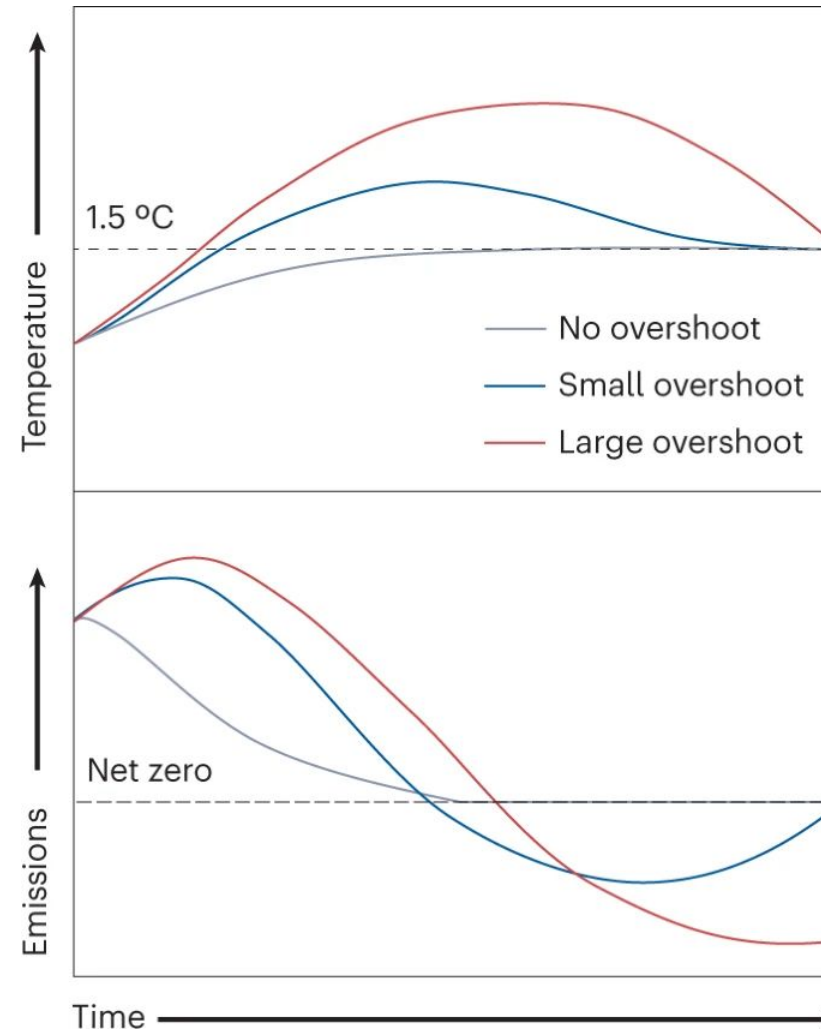
The SBTi research team has developed a science-based approach for determining the level of ambition for addressing ongoing emissions...

Problem 1: Even the most ambitious net-zero pathways involve overshoot

Our cross-sector pathway targets net-zero emissions by 2050, in line with the most ambitious scenarios from the IPCC. However, even these pathways involve a median peak temperature overshoot of $\sim 0.1\text{--}0.3^\circ\text{C}$ above 1.5°C around mid-century. In these scenarios, carbon removals after 2050 are critical to bring temperatures back down toward 1.5°C in the second half of the century.

Problem 2: The carbon budget may already be exceeded

Most IPCC pathways were developed based on emissions trajectories as of 2020. They do not fully account for higher-than-expected global emissions between 2020 and 2024. Emerging evidence suggests that the remaining carbon budget for 1.5°C may already be exhausted, which implies that even these "most ambitious" scenarios may underestimate the degree of required course correction.



Implication: Delayed removals are necessary, but not sufficient

Post-2050 removals are necessary to address overshoot, but opportunities still exist to reduce or avoid overshoot altogether. Advancing removals and/or accelerating reductions before 2050 can help reshape the temperature trajectory and reduce risks associated with overshoot duration and magnitude.

Responsibility for Ongoing Emissions: A proactive role for companies

While companies are not directly responsible for the global overshoot, they can contribute meaningfully to addressing it by taking responsibility for ongoing emissions through **delivering emissions reductions and removal beyond the value chain**.

We have developed the Ongoing Emissions Responsibility Ratio to establish responsibility. The median ratio across scenarios is 0.4, meaning that **for every 1 tCO₂e of ongoing emissions, a company is responsible for at least 0.4 tCO₂e of measurable mitigation outcomes** – over and above its value chain emissions reductions.

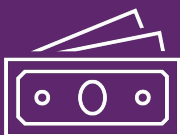
The Ongoing Emissions Responsibility Ratio has implications in terms of defining '*what counts*' and economic feasibility that need to be considered..

Defining '*what counts*'



- ▶ Because the ratio is grounded in the concept of addressing temperature overshoot, **the scope of '*what counts*' is inherently limited to focus exclusively on measurable, additional, timely, and durable mitigation outcomes** that reduce the cumulative atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases.
- ▶ This **approach excludes a broader set of transformational actions** that may be indirect, enabling, or longer-term in **nature** - i.e. 'BVCM Goal 2'.
- ▶ There is a compelling argument that there **should be a mechanism within the SBTi framework that enables and encourages these forms of high-impact, future-oriented climate finance.**

Economic feasibility



- ▶ To explore the economic feasibility of taking responsibility for ongoing emissions in line with the Ongoing Emissions Responsibility Ratio (OERR), we **conducted a preliminary cost analysis comparing the estimated cost of several OERR implementation models against current carbon credit spending levels for a range of sectors:**
 - The analysis showed **current carbon credit expenditure of all sectors is below the estimated costs of any of the OERR implementation models.**
 - For example, carbon credit spending in the software sector would need to increase by 20% to 80%, depending on the level of coverage—from the Scope 1 OERR only scenario to the full OERR model. For the oil and gas sector, the required increase ranges from 92% to 99%.
- ▶ There is a **risk that the high cost associated with OERR aligned responsibility could limit uptake.**

Based on these considerations and insights from discussions the BVCM EWG, we developed a tiered recognition proposal....

1	Mandatory reporting requirement for all companies	All companies would be required to report whether or not they are taking responsibility for any of their ongoing emissions. This ensures that companies that opt-out do so visibly, creating a reputational incentive to engage.
2	Achievable Entry Level recognition tier	Entry-level criteria for recognition would set at a bar that is accessible and achievable for most sectors to encourage broad participation. The aim is to set the bar at a level where costs are not prohibitive, recognizing that the ability to pay differs significantly across sectors and companies.
3	High ambition Full Responsibility recognition tier	Full Responsibility recognition tier would serve as an ambition benchmark for leadership recognition. The illustrative criteria proposed thresholds that integrate the ongoing emissions responsibility ratio in line with the Above and Beyond report framing.
4	Ambition incentivized through transparency	A public dashboard would display companies' reported contribution levels and verified mitigation outcomes. This would allow leadership to be recognized without requiring all companies to meet a high ambition threshold from the outset.
5	Differentiate what counts across tiers	In the full responsibility tier, the requirement for at least 40% (per OERR) of ongoing emissions to be addressed through ton-for-ton, measurable mitigation reflects the need to demonstrably contribute to reducing temperature overshoot. Outside of that 40%, and in lower tiers, greater flexibility would be allowed in terms of eligible contributions.
6	Transparent communications on trade-offs	Communicate clearly the trade-off that entry level will not be fully aligned with scientific responsibility. Publish a document that sets the direction of travel and clearly explains the need to progressively move towards full responsibility – both from a climate science perspective and from a business resilience standpoint.

BVCM EWG survey results reveal emerging consensus on the concept of tiered recognition while views on the specific recognition thresholds were mixed...

Areas of emerging consensus...

Transparency & Accountability	Low-bar Entry Level recognition	Full Responsibility recognition tier as a high-ambition tier
Consensus on mandatory public disclosure for all companies and using transparency to create a "race to the top". 100%: support mandatory public reporting on opt-in/out. 100%: support dashboards and public transparency to foster ambition.	Majority support the concept of a low-bar entry recognition (70%). 20% oppose, preferring BVCM to remain high ambition.	Strong majority (89%) support the introduction of a "Full Responsibility" recognition tier as a high-ambition benchmark.

Areas requiring further work...

Entry Level recognition threshold	Full Responsibility recognition threshold	Differentiating what counts between tiers
No clear consensus. 70% oppose the proposed Entry Level recognition threshold. Preference for a more ambitious threshold, but mixed views on preferred approach: 30% favor scenario 2; 40% propose alternatives.	No clear consensus. 30%: Prefer the proposed Full Responsibility recognition threshold. 20% : Prefer scenario 4. 30% Disagree with all proposed options.	Respondents are divided on the proposal to differentiate what counts as eligible contributions between recognition tiers: 40% supporting differentiation 40% oppose it.

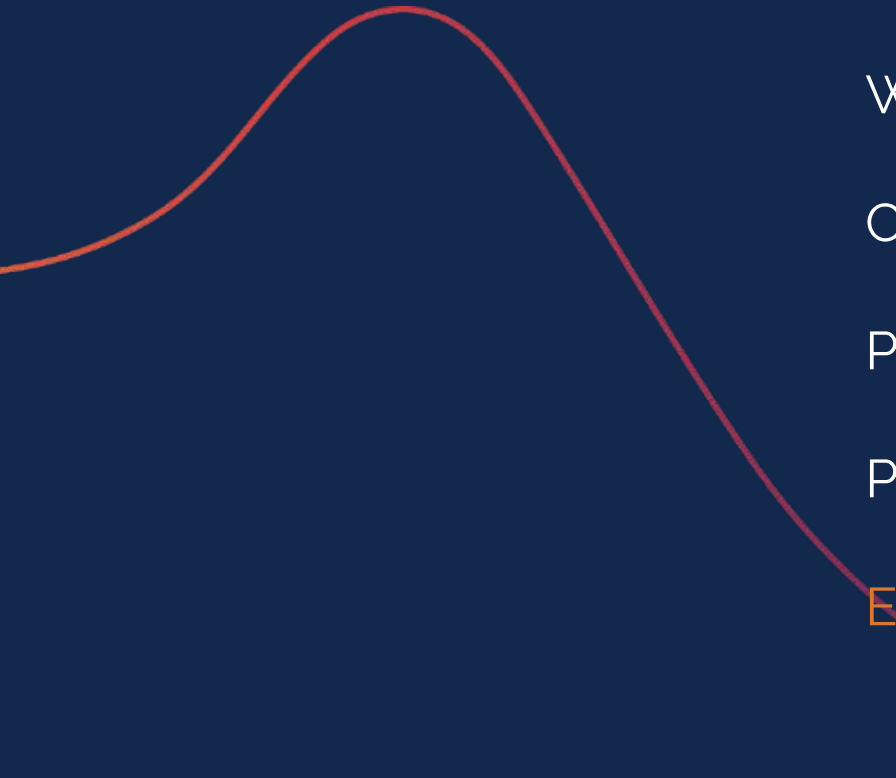


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Questions?

AGENDA



Welcome & housekeeping	10 min
Context setting: Ongoing and residual emissions in V2.0	10 mins
Pre-read recap: Residual emissions & removal targets	20 min
Pre-read recap: Ongoing emissions & BVCM	20 min
Exploring integrated recognition frameworks	90 mins

Since there is a potential overlap (depending on how we design the targets) there are risks which need to be managed

1. **Double claiming of removals:** Risk that companies claim a single removal outcome for responsibility for ongoing emissions AND responsibility for residual emissions, undermining integrity and misleading stakeholders.

1. **Unclear allocation against responsibility frameworks:** Companies may be uncertain about which removal activities qualify where. And if an activity is eligible under >1, they may be confused about where best to count it.

1. **Confusion about what claims can be made:** Without clear narrative guardrails, companies might make misleading claims (e.g. "net-zero now" via ongoing emissions responsibility).

1. **Cannibalization across targets:** If both interim removal targets and ongoing emissions responsibility targets are optional, and one is more demanding (e.g. requires higher durability), companies may disproportionately choose the easier pathway which risks undermining demand for high-durability removals, slowing market development and narrowing the mitigation portfolio.



Define exclusive allocation rules: Develop clear accounting protocols to ensure removal outcomes are only claimed against one target.



Clarity eligibility: Provide guidance on which types of mitigation outcomes (e.g. ex-ante vs ex-post, durability thresholds) are eligible under each target.



Differentiate claim types: Establish distinct and complementary claims language for ongoing emissions responsibility, interim removal targets, and net-zero (and communicate examples).



Thoughtful design of targets: Ensure each target incentivizes distinct, complementary mitigation roles to avoid unintended substitution. Provide clear guidance and claims architecture that encourages companies to pursue both, supporting a balanced mitigation portfolio.

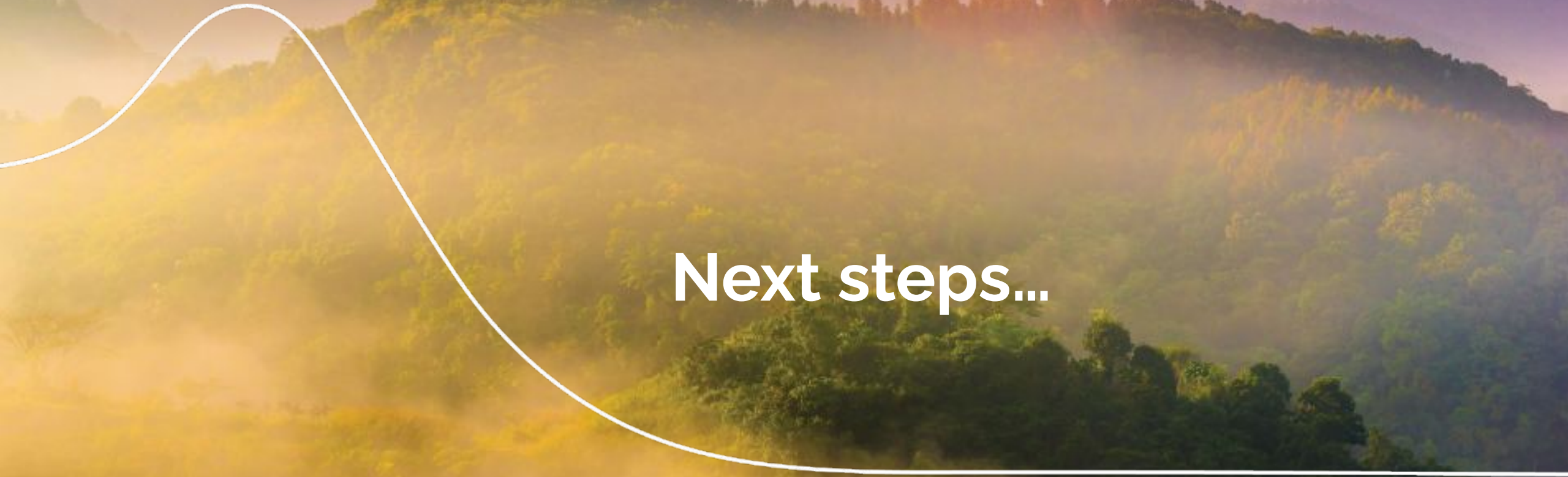
Assuming both interim removal targets and ongoing emission responsibility targets are optional, what “good options” exist to incentivize the right actions?

Design option	Durability of removals	Ex ante / Ex post removals	Risks	Guardrails
a) Distinct targets - overlap in eligibility	• OER: all removals • IRT: all removals	• OER: ex post and ex ante • IRT: ex post	• Risk of double claiming against different responsibility frameworks • No clarity about which target to count a removal towards	• Define exclusive allocation rules • Clear eligibility guidance • Distinct claims architecture
b) Distinct targets - eligible removal types PARTIALLY split out	• OER: Low durable removals • IRT: High durable removals	• OER: ex post and ex ante • IRT: ex post and ex ante?	• Companies choose only to do OER and therefore no investment in higher durability solutions	• Create incentives for companies to do both targets (e.g., potentially with lower entry level tiers across both)
c) Distinct targets - eligible removal types FULLY split out	• OER: no removals • IRT: all removals	• OER: n/a • IRT: ex post and ex ante	• Companies choose only to do OER and therefore no investment in removals	• Create incentives for companies to do both targets (e.g., potentially with lower entry level tiers across both)
d) Merged into a single target framework	• One target: all removals	• One target: ex ante and ex post	• Companies will look to deliver target as cost effectively as possible, potentially preventing spend on removals which are more expensive	• Minimum removal volume/ spend requirement with durability criteria • Transparent tracking of contributions • Claim framing tied to both goals.
e) Phased approach - signal mandatory target to kick in in future	• Optional OER target to 2050: all removals • Mandatory future target: higher durability	• OER: ex post and ex ante • Mandatory future target: ex post	• Companies do cheaper avoidance/ reduction activities in early years, failing to scale CDR supply	• Communicate mandatory removals criteria today to give companies time to prepare and signal supply constraints to encourage them to start to invest early



Group discussion

- *Which of the design options do you prefer, and why?*
- *What challenges do you perceive with these options, and what guardrails could be used to manage these?*
- *Are there other design options we should consider?*



Next steps...

What to expect between now and our next meetings on 5th August [BVCM] and 6th August [CDR]...

Please respond to the invite for the in-person meetings, scheduled for 9th-11th September in London!



Today's **slides and minutes** will be uploaded to our shared folder



Pre-reads for our next meeting will be shared 5 days in advance

Any questions? You can reach us at:

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CDR: pierapatrizio@sciencebasedtargets.org and humphreyadun@sciencebasedtargets.org

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