

Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0 Public Consultation

About you

* 1. First name

* 2. Last name

* 3. Job title

* 4. Email

* 5. Confirm email

* 6. Organization name

* 7. Type of organization

- ☐ Corporate (private sector)
- ☐ Financial institutions
- ☐ Professional Services & Consultancies
- ☐ Industry Associations & Business Networks
- ☐ Government & Public Sector
- ☐ State-owned Enterprises (SOEs)
- ☐ Multilateral & International organizations
- ☐ Civil Society & Advocacy NGOs
- ☐ Academia, Research Institutions and Think Tanks
- ☐ Standard-setting bodies
- ☐ Service-oriented Nonprofits & Foundations
- ☐ Media & Journalism
- ☐ Labor Unions & Worker Organizations
- ☐ N/A responding as an individual

* 8. What country is your organization headquartered in? If you are responding in a personal capacity, please select the country where you are based.

9. In which regions does your organization have significant operations or value chain activities?

- ☐ North America
- ☐ South America
- ☐ Europe
- ☐ Africa
- ☐ Asia
- ☐ Oceania

* 10. Results of this consultation will be made publicly available but may be anonymized to the stakeholder group level. For example, "ABC Corporation" becomes "Company". Would you like your responses to be made anonymous?

☐ Yes, I wish to remain anonymous

☐ No

Note, if you choose to remain anonymous, please ensure that you do not include any identifying information in your open-text responses. If you opt into anonymization, your name and company will be redacted from the data, but all open-text responses will remain verbatim. We will not alter or remove any identifying details you provide in those fields.

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General introductory questions - continued

11. Are you responding to this survey based on your experience and understanding of...

- ☐ Your own organization
- ☐ A specific client
- ☐ Your experience with a range of organizations

12. Does your organization have a validated science-based target?

- ☐ Yes, a validated near-term science-based target
- ☐ Yes, a validated near-term and net-zero science-based target
- ☐ No, but we have a commitment to set science-based targets
- ☐ None of the above

13. In what sector does your organization operate?

14. What is your company's annual turnover (revenue)?

- ☐ Less than €50 million
- ☐ €50 - €450 million
- ☐ Over €450 million

15. Please select the range that best represents your total number of full-time employees.

☐ Fewer than 250 employees

☐ 250-1000 employees

☐ Over 1000 employees

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General introductory questions - continued

* 16. Are you a current or previous SBTi advisory or working group member?

☐ Yes

☐ No

17. If so, which group? (select as many as are relevant)

☐ Scientific Advisory Group

☐ Technical Advisory Group

☐ CNZS V2.0 Expert Working Groups

☐ BVCM Expert Advisory Group

☐ MRV Expert Advisory Group

☐ Net-Zero V1.0 Expert Advisory Group

☐ Financial Institutions Expert Advisory Group

☐ Other sector-specific advisory group

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
CNZS V2.0 is readable and easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CNZS V2.0 is ambitious enough to meaningfully take science-based climate action	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CNZS V2.0 is actionable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CNZS V2.0 will assure the credibility of companies' climate action	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CNZS V2.0 strives for equity and does not compromise environmental sustainability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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General introductory questions - explain your response

19. Please explain why you do not think that CNZS V2.0 is readable and easy to understand.

20. Please explain why you do not think that CNZS V2.0 is ambitious enough to meaningfully take science-based climate action.

21. Please explain why you do not think that CNZS V2.0 is actionable.

22. Please explain why you do not think that CNZS V2.0 will assure the credibility of companies' climate action.

23. Please explain why you do not think that the draft CNZS V2.0 strives for equity and does not compromise environmental sustainability.

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Response preference

You have the option to respond to the entire survey or select specific sections on which you would like to provide feedback.

Please note that most questions are optional. If you do not close the window where you are completing the survey, your progress will be saved so that you don't need to complete the survey in one sitting.

If you select "I would like to respond to questions on a specific topic or topics" you will be shown options to select on the next page.

* 24. How would you like to respond to this survey?

- ☐ I would like to respond to all questions in the survey (estimated time ~2 hours)
- ☐ I would like to respond to questions on a specific topic or topics

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Topic preference

25. Please select which sections you would like to provide feedback on.

- ☐ **Introduction** (e.g., company categorization)
- ☐ **1. General requirements** (e.g. commitments, climate transition plans)
- ☐ **2. Determining performance in the target base year** (e.g., when to submit GHG inventories, identifying relevant scope 3 emissions sources)
- ☐ **3. Target setting: General requirements** (e.g., target composition and timeframe)
- ☐ **3. Target setting: Scope 1** (e.g., proposed approaches for target-setting, how to address underperformance)
- ☐ **3. Target setting: Scope 2** (e.g., location-based, market-based, and zero-carbon electricity targets)
- ☐ **3. Target setting: Scope 3** (e.g., long-term scope 3 target requirements, alignment-based method, (in)direct mitigation measures, supplier engagement targets)
- ☐ **3. Target setting: Addressing residual emissions** (e.g., removals targets)
- ☐ **3. Target setting: Target transparency** (e.g., disclosures)
- ☐ **4. Addressing the impact of ongoing emissions** (e.g., beyond value chain mitigation)
- ☐ **5. Assessing and communicating progress** (e.g., substantiating target progress, setting targets for the next cycle, renewal validation)
- ☐ **6. Claims** (e.g., claims requirements, eligible claims before and after initial validation, additional claims under consideration)


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Introduction (company categorization)

Company categorization

The following set of questions aims to collect feedback on SBTi's revised thresholds for companies' categorization.

Companies are sorted into category A or B based on their size and the location of their headquarters



	Company size				Company location ¹	
	Number of employees #	Net annual turnover \$ or €	Balance sheet \$ or €	Emissions (sc. 1 + 2) tCO ₂ e	High and upper-middle income countries	Low and lower-middle income countries
Large At least 1 criteria	>1,000	>450M	n/a	n/a	A	A
Medium At least 2 criteria	250 – 1,000	50 – 450M	>25M	n/a	A	B
Small At least 2 criteria and under CO ₂ e threshold	<250	<50M	<25M	<10,000	B	B

Based on World Bank classification

A medium company is considered to be based in low or lower-middle income country if it's HQ is in a low or lower-income country and its turnover derived from high or upper-middle income countries is <50M (\$ or €)

69 ¹ Based on World Bank Classification of countries.
Note: Standard alignment with CSRD criteria: "Large" and "Medium" companies fall into the CSRD "Large" company group, and "Small" companies fall into the CSRD "Medium, small, and micro".

26. To what extent do you support or oppose the following elements of company categorization?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
1. Differentiation of requirements based on company size and location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Proposed company size thresholds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Proposed geographical categorization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Proposed conditions to determine the geographical categorization of companies (see note below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Note: A company is allocated to a low-income or lower-middle-income country if both of the following conditions are met: (1) its headquarters are located in a low-income or lower-middle-income country, and (2) it derives no more than 50 million EUR in revenue from any high-income or upper-middle-income country. All other companies are allocated to the upper-middle-income and high-income country segments.

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1. General requirements

1.1. Company-wide commitment to net-zero

CNZS-C1

SBTi is seeking input on the value of public commitments in a company's net-zero and target validation journey.

27. How does requiring a public commitment to net-zero impact a company's ability to seek validation under SBTi standards?

- ☐ Very positively
- ☐ Somewhat positively
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat negatively
- ☐ Very negatively

(Optional) Please explain your response.

1.2 Climate Transition Plan

CNZS-C2

To align with emerging best practices and evolving voluntary and regulatory frameworks, CNZS V2.0 proposes that companies publicly report transition plans within 12 months of target validation. SBTi does not intend to define specific content requirements for these plans or develop related guidance.

28. Should the provision for transition plans be a mandatory requirement or a best practice recommendation?

- ☐ Requirement for all companies
- ☐ Recommendation for all companies
- ☐ Required for category A companies and recommended for category B companies
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

29. To what extent do you think it is feasible for category B companies to develop a transition plan within 12 months from the initial validation?

- ☐ Feasible
- ☐ Somewhat feasible
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat infeasible
- ☐ Not at all feasible

(Optional) Please explain your response.

30. Should SBTi introduce any further requirements for transition plans?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Aligned with UN HLEG, UN Race to Zero criteria, and the Climate Action 100+ Framework, CNZS V2.0 recommends that companies ensure coherence between their public net-zero commitments and climate policy engagement. Currently, this is a best practice recommendation, not subject to formal assessment. SBTi is seeking feedback on whether this should remain a recommendation, apply selectively based on company categorization, or become a mandatory requirement.

31. Should the provision for ensuring that policy engagement, lobbying activities, and advocacy efforts are consistent with and supportive of net-zero be a mandatory requirement or a best practice recommendation?

- ☐ Requirement for all companies
- ☐ Recommendation for all companies
- ☐ Required for category A companies and recommended for category B companies
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

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2. Determining performance in the base year

2.1 Organizational boundary

CNZS-C3

Some emerging regulations require companies to align their GHG inventory and sustainability reporting boundaries with their consolidated financial statements. This alignment enhances reporting consistency, improves comparability, and strengthens the integration of climate-related financial risks into decision-making.

Given this, SBTi is consulting on whether companies should be required to align organizational boundaries with their consolidated financial statements or continue following the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard.

32. Which approach do you most support for companies to follow when setting their organizational and operational boundary?

- ☐ Option 1: Companies establish organizational boundaries according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard
- ☐ Option 2: Companies set organizational boundaries consistent with the boundary in their consolidated financial statements
- ☐ Option 3: Companies can choose either of the two approaches
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed approaches
- ☐ Unsure

(Optional) Please explain your response.

2.3 GHG emissions inventory

CNZS-C5

CNZS V2.0 proposes that companies present their GHG inventory at the Initial Validation stage. However, SBTi is considering requiring companies to present their GHG inventory earlier—at the Entry Check stage—to demonstrate preparedness for setting targets within the required timeframe. Currently,

- Category A companies must complete Initial Validation within 12 months of Entry Check.
- Category B companies must complete Initial Validation within 24 months of Entry Check.

Requiring a GHG inventory at Entry Check is being considered as it may indicate a higher level of readiness for the target-setting process.

33. At what assessment stage should companies present their GHG inventories?

- ☐ Entry Check
- ☐ Initial validation
- ☐ Unsure

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C5.2

Definition of "activity" and "emission-intensive activities"

An "activity" is defined as an individual source of emissions within a scope 3 category. This term encompasses commodities, products, services, and processes—for example:

- Category 1 (Purchased Goods & Services): Cement or steel
- Category 4 (Upstream Transportation & Distribution): Mode of transport (e.g., maritime or aviation)

(Adapted from GHG Protocol – WRI, WBCSD, 2021.)

"Emission-intensive activities" refer to activities, products, services, or processes that significantly contribute to global GHG emissions or exacerbate climate change. These include:

- Energy-intensive industries
- Land-use-intensive sectors
- High-impact products such as cattle, cement, aluminum, steel, or fossil fuel-consuming sold products

(See Tables D.4 and D.5 for a full list of emission-intensive activities.)

Reporting GHG emissions at the activity level is essential for identifying and monitoring key emission sources. However, SBTi recognizes that collecting and reporting this level of data requires significant effort from companies. As a result, we are assessing the current feasibility of this requirement.

34. GHG emissions reporting at activity level should be required:

- ☐ For scope 1 and 2
- ☐ Across scope 1 and 2 and for emission-intensive activities in scope 3
- ☐ Across all scopes
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

35. What GHG emissions data do you have at the activity-level?

- ☐ Scope 1
- ☐ Scope 2
- ☐ Scope 3
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

36. What percentage of scope 3 GHG emissions data is available at the activity-level?

- ☐ <10%
- ☐ 10%-25%
- ☐ 25%-50%
- ☐ 50%-75%
- ☐ 75%-90%
- ☐ >90%
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

37. Do you have activity-level GHG emissions data for emission-intensive activities within scope 3?

- ☐ All emission-intensive activities
- ☐ Most emission-intensive activities
- ☐ Some emission-intensive activities
- ☐ None
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me
- ☐ (Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C5.6.4

As per CNZS-C7, relevant scope 3 emissions sources are defined as:

- Significant scope 3 categories that represent at least 5% of total scope 3 emissions at target base year, and
- Emission-intensive activities that account for more than 1% of the company's total scope 3 emissions or generate more than 10,000 tCO₂e at target base year.

38. How often do you think companies should be required to publicly report their scope 3 emissions?

- ☐ Full scope 3 inventory annually
- ☐ Relevant scope 3 emissions sources annually and full scope 3 inventory every three years
- ☐ Only emission-intensive activities annually and a full scope 3 inventory every three years
- ☐ Only full scope 3 inventory every three years (including relevant scope 3 emissions sources)
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C6

See Annex D, Tables D.4 and D.5 for a full list of emission-intensive activities.

Traceable emissions data refers to emissions data where both of the following are known by the reporting company:

1. Emissions source in the value chain – Identified through a credible system (e.g., a chain of custody model) that demonstrates a physical connection to the reporting company.
2. Emissions profile of the source – Established via an emissions factor or equivalent data.

39. What percentage of traceable emissions data do you have available for your scope 3 emissions approximately?

- ☐ 0-20%
- ☐ 21%-40%
- ☐ 41%-60%
- ☐ 61%-80%
- ☐ 81%-100%
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

40. To what extent do you think it is feasible to have fully traceable data by 2035 for emission-intensive activities?

- ☐ Agree with 2035
- ☐ 2035 is too early
- ☐ 2035 is too late
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

2.5 Identification of relevant scope 3 emissions sources

CNZS-C8.2

Feedback from the scope 3 discussion paper indicates consensus on moving away from a fixed percentage-based scope 3 target boundary (e.g., 67% of total scope 3 emissions). Instead, the focus is shifting toward identifying the most relevant emission sources for company targets.

As per CNZS-C7, relevant scope 3 emissions sources are defined as:

- Significant scope 3 categories that represent at least 5% of total scope 3 emissions at target base year, and
- Emission-intensive activities that account for more than 1% of the company's total scope 3 emissions or generate more than 10,000 tCO₂e at target base year.

41. To what extent do you think that the 5% significance threshold for scope 3 categories is a meaningful way to identify relevant emissions sources to be included in scope 3 targets?

- ☐ The threshold should be lower to include more emissions sources within the target boundary
- ☐ The threshold is appropriate
- ☐ The threshold should be higher to include fewer emissions sources within the target boundary
- ☐ Scope 3 categories are not useful for identifying relevant emission sources
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C8.3

SBTi wants to ensure that activities deemed vital for the global net-zero transition are included in company targets.

42. In addition to those listed in Annex D, are there additional emission-intensive activities you believe should be considered?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not relevant to me

If yes, please specify:

CNZS-C8.4

Feedback from the scope 3 discussion paper supports shifting from a percentage-based scope 3 target boundary (e.g., 67% of total scope 3 emissions) to identifying the most relevant emission sources. One proposed threshold includes any emission-intensive activity that exceeds either:

1. 1% of total scope 3 emissions – to exclude negligible sources.
2. 10,000 tCO₂e – to prevent exclusions of significant absolute emissions.

This question focuses on threshold (1) above.

43. To what extent do you think the 1% significance threshold for emission-intensive activities is meaningful in identifying relevant emissions sources to be included in near-term scope 3 targets?

- ☐ The threshold should be lower to include more emissions sources within the target boundary
- ☐ The threshold is appropriate
- ☐ The threshold should be higher to include fewer emission sources within the target boundary
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C8.4

This question focuses on threshold (2) above. The 10,000 tCO₂e threshold is proposed as an additional failsafe to avoid exclusion where these emissions may still be significant on an absolute basis, and is consistent with the emissions threshold proposed by SBTi to define a “small” business in the company categorization section (i.e. that a company’s scope 1+2 emissions combined must be less than 10,000 tCO₂e). 10,000 tCO₂e is also used as a threshold for defining smaller emissions sources by other standards, e.g. the Gold Standard defines “microscale” projects as those with annual emissions reductions under 10,000 tCO₂e.

44. To what extent do you think the 10,000 tCO₂e significance threshold for emission-intensive activities is meaningful in identifying relevant emissions sources to be included in near-term scope 3 targets?

- ☐ The threshold should be lower to include more emissions sources within the target boundary
- ☐ The threshold is appropriate
- ☐ The threshold should be higher to include fewer emission sources within the target boundary
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C8

SBTi estimates that the proposed criteria for identifying relevant scope 3 emissions sources will cover over 90% of emissions across all sectors (see Annex D for details). Adding a cap on the percentage of emissions excluded from targets would serve as a failsafe to maintain a minimum level coverage.

45. Should SBTi set a cumulative limit (as a percentage of total scope 3 emissions) on the exclusion of value chain and emission sources from the near-term target boundary? (Note: a higher percentage allows for more exclusions)

- ☐ Yes, 5%
- ☐ Yes, 10%
- ☐ Yes, 20%
- ☐ Yes, 33%
- ☐ No, ensuring relevant emissions sources are included is sufficient
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

2.7 Assurance of GHG Emissions Inventory

CNZS-C9

46. To what extent do you support the requirement for companies to obtain third-party assurance of their GHG emissions inventory?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

47. Do you already have your inventory assured by a third party?

- ☐ Yes, for scope 1
- ☐ Yes, for scope 1 and 2
- ☐ Yes, for scope 1, 2, and 3
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

48. If yes, what level of assurance are you aiming for?

- ☐ Limited
- ☐ Reasonable
- ☐ Not relevant to me

49. If not, why?

2.9 Recalculation of target base year indicators

CNZS-C11

SBTi encourages and aims to support improvements in data quality for emissions inventories. However, these improvements may require companies to recalculate base-year emissions—a significant effort. To address this, SBTi is seeking feedback on whether a 5% change in emissions due to data quality improvements is a reasonable threshold for triggering a target base-year recalculation.

50. Do you think improvements in data quality that lead to a 5% or more cumulative change in base year emissions should trigger base year emissions recalculation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, the threshold should be more than 5%
- ☐ No, the threshold should be less than 5%
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

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3. Target-setting - General requirements

3.1 General target-setting criteria

Target composition and timeframe

CNZS-C13

Once finalized, CNZS V2.0 will replace both CNZS V1.2 and the Corporate Near-Term Criteria, meaning all companies seeking SBTi validation will eventually follow the CNZS—eliminating the standalone near-term criteria document.

Recognizing that setting a long-term net-zero target may be challenging for some companies, especially those with resource constraints or poor data quality, SBTi is proposing adapted requirements based on company categorization:

- Category A companies must set a long-term target, plus near-term targets if their net-zero target is more than five years away.
- Category B companies are only required to set near-term targets, with long-term targets optional.

51. To what extent do you support or oppose the requirement for category A companies to set long-term targets?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

52. To what extent do you support or oppose the option for category B companies to set only near-term targets?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

53. To what extent do you agree that companies should have the option to set near-term targets for the second upcoming milestone year, if it is within 7 years (i.e. near-term targets with a timeframe of up to 7 years)? For example, a company setting targets in 2028 sets a 7-year target for 2035 (versus the current options of a 5-year timeframe or 2030).

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

54. To what extent do you agree that companies should be required to set a mid-term target (e.g. a 10-year target) in addition to their 5-year near-term target?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

In addition, SBTi is exploring how to make the pathways described in Annex F available at the sector/activity level (e.g. pathways for buildings, transport activities, etc.). This option would enable companies to set targets to address their operational and value chain emissions (CNZS-C14, CNZS-15, CNZS-16) based on the sector specific-benchmark for each activity, while still following the cross-sector standard. This would mean that while companies adhere to the overarching cross-sector standard, they can define their targets based on the most relevant sector-specific pathways for their activities.

55. Should the use of sector specific pathway be an option or a requirement for companies?

- ☐ Companies must use sector-specific pathways
- ☐ Companies can choose between sector-specific pathways and cross-sector pathway
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

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3. Target-setting: Addressing operational (scope 1) emissions

3.2 Addressing operational (scope 1 and 2) emissions

Scope 1

CNZS-C14

SBTi is reviewing the current status of prerequisites for companies to implement the proposed budget-conserving contraction approach.

56. Do you have access to your annual scope 1 emissions data from 2020, to be able to estimate cumulative emissions over time?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

CNZS-C14.4

Based on stakeholder feedback, including from the academic community, CNZS V2.0 proposes a budget-conserving contraction approach for scope 1 target setting. This method modifies the existing absolute contraction approach by ensuring the cumulative emissions budget is maintained—correcting overshoots with stricter future targets.

Recognizing that this approach could lead to unachievable targets for some companies, SBTi is also proposing an alternative: the linear contraction method. This method, adapted from the absolute contraction approach, provides all companies—regardless of past performance—a viable path to net-zero by 2050.

SBTi seeks feedback on these methods to determine which best supports credible corporate climate targets aligned with ambitious 1.5°C pathways.

57. Which option do you prefer for calculating scope 1 targets (per Appendix 1, p.9)?

- ☐ **Option 1: Budget-Conserving Contraction approach**, where target ambition levels are a function of past performance and ensure emissions are reduced at levels required to reach net-zero by 2050 and conserving the budget of cross-sector pathway
- ☐ **Option 2: Linear Contraction approach**, where target ambition levels are not a function of past performance and only ensure emissions are reduced at levels required to reach net-zero by 2050
- ☐ I do not agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C14

Alignment targets are abatement targets designed to achieve a specific outcome aligned with the long-term global goal of reaching net-zero emissions by a defined point in time.

CNZS V2.0 includes alignment metrics and targets for scope 2 (zero-carbon electricity) and scope 3. This could include, for example, benchmarks for heat decarbonization, dates for phase out of natural gas-fired boilers, etc.

58. To what extent would you support or oppose including alignment metrics and targets for scope 1 in addition to emission reduction metrics targets?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS V2.0 introduces a cyclical validation model that ends in assessing and communicating progress against targets before setting new targets. Some companies may not achieve their targets, and therefore, SBTi is proposing three options to address any under performance on scope 1 targets to maintain conformance with the standard. Please note that in this case a company could not claim to have met its target, but the proposal is that the company could still be in conformance with the standard if it addresses its underperformance.

For example, a company that has 1,000 tCO₂e emissions in the base year sets a target to reduce its emissions by 42% (i.e. 420 tCO₂e reduction) to 580 tCO₂e. In the target year, its emissions are 600 tCO₂e, meaning that it missed its target by 20 tCO₂e. The percentage of target achieved is 95%, meaning it underperformed by 5%.

59. To what extent do you support or oppose including measures to address underperformance against near-term scope 1 targets when targets have been missed by a limited amount?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

60. At what level of underperformance (see example above) should SBTi allow companies to continue to claim conformance with the standard in the next cycle, and be eligible for corrective measures to address that underperformance?

- ☐ Up to 1%
- ☐ Up to 3%
- ☐ Up to 5%
- ☐ Up to 10%
- ☐ Up to 25%
- ☐ Greater than 25%
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ N/A, companies should no longer be allowed to claim conformance with the standard if they have not met their targets

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS V2.0 introduces a cyclical validation model, where companies assess and communicate progress against targets before setting new ones. Since some may fall short of their scope 1 targets, SBTi is proposing three options to address underperformance while maintaining conformance with the standard.

These options do not allow companies to claim target achievement if they underperform but aim to preserve the global carbon budget. Companies are still required to abate emissions to a residual level in line with 1.5°C pathways, with no or limited overshoot.

- **Option 1: Budget-Conserving Contraction approach:** Setting a target to reduce remaining emissions using the budget-conserving contraction approach (see method description in Documentation of Target-Setting Methods).
- **Option 2: Linear Contraction approach:** Setting a target to reduce remaining emissions and to address any potential underperformance for the previous cycle through the linear contraction approach (see method description in Documentation of Target-Setting Methods). This approach incentivizes meeting targets to avoid steeper future reductions and is easy to implement using existing target-setting methods.
- **Option 3: Linear Contraction approach with permanent removals:** Setting a target to reduce remaining emissions using the linear contraction approach (see method description in Documentation of Target-Setting Methods) addressing any potential underperformance for the previous cycle through the permanent removal of carbon from the atmosphere. This provides a financial incentive to meet targets, as removals may be costly.

The SBTi is separately exploring how to address continued underperformance.

61. What option would you prefer for companies to address underperformance of scope 1 targets?

- ☐ Option 1: Budget-Conserving Contraction approach
- ☐ Option 2: Linear Contraction approach
- ☐ Option 3: Linear Contraction approach with permanent removals
- ☐ None of the options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-R14.2

Company policies may be an effective tool for driving corporate action and aligning with evolving legislative requirements. Since phasing out fossil fuel consumption is crucial for achieving net-zero, CNZS V2.0 proposes that companies with fossil fuel-powered equipment or assets establish a policy to support this transition.

62. Should the provision for companies with equipment or assets powered by fossil fuels to develop a fossil fuel policy in which they commit to end the consumption of fossil fuels in line with a net-zero pathway be a mandatory requirement or a best practice recommendation?

- ☐ Requirement for all companies
- ☐ Recommendation for all companies
- ☐ Required for category A companies and recommended for category B companies
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0 Public Consultation

3. Target-setting: Addressing operational (scope 2) emissions

3.2 Addressing operational (scope 1 and 2) emissions

Scope 2

CNZS-C15.1

63. To what extent do you support the requirement for companies to have a location-based target as well as a market-based or zero-carbon electricity target?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C15.1

To maintain a "technology-agnostic" stance, as required by the Standard Operating Procedure for Development of SBTi Standards, Version 2.0 introduces zero-carbon electricity targets as an evolution of renewable electricity targets. This change acknowledges that some grids offer zero-carbon electricity sources, such as nuclear power, alongside renewables.

64. To what extent do you support the transition from renewable electricity targets to zero-carbon electricity targets?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

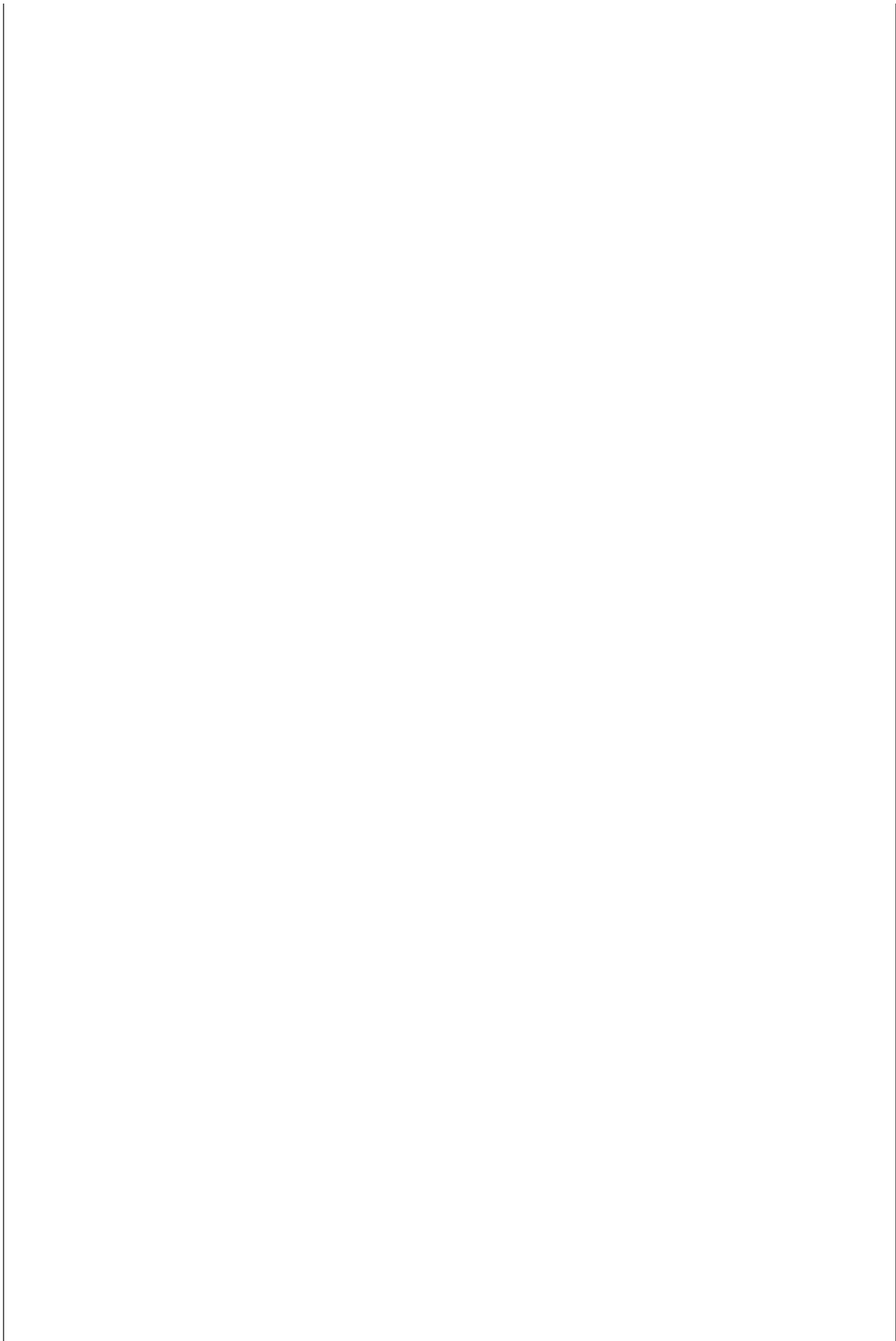
CNZS-C15.5

SBTi recognizes that some companies operate in grids where zero-carbon electricity is not yet available. In these cases, CNZS V2.0 proposes requiring companies to contribute to zero-carbon electricity in other grids on a time-limited basis to contribute to broader global electricity sector transformation.

65. To what extent do you support the requirement for companies to contribute to zero-carbon electricity in other grids as an interim measure to address scope 2 emissions where sourcing within the grids in which the company powers its operations is not possible?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.



Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0 Public Consultation

3. Target-setting: Addressing value chain (scope 3) emissions

3.3 Addressing value chain (scope 3) emissions

General scope 3 target-setting requirements

CNZS-C16.1

C16 does not include a separate requirement for long-term net-zero scope 3 targets, as C1.3 already mandates companies to commit to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, including setting and implementing targets to reduce emissions across all scopes to a residual level aligned with 1.5°C pathways. To drive more focused scope 3 action, the draft standard prioritizes near-term targets for relevant emissions sources. SBTi seeks feedback on whether long-term scope 3 targets should still be required in this version of the standard.

66. To what extent do you agree companies should be required to set long-term scope 3 targets in addition to the commitment to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

The new standard focuses company action on relevant emissions sources, including emission-intensive activities in the value chain. By setting activity-level targets for these activities, companies can take more targeted action on critical emissions sources for the global net-zero transition. SBTi seeks to assess the feasibility of this criterion.

Under the new standard, any emission-intensive activity making up at least 1% of total scope 3 is considered 'relevant' and must be included in company targets. This question aims to determine the appropriate threshold for requiring specific activity-level targets—whether it should remain at 1% (Option 1) or be set higher (e.g., 3% or 4%). The goal is to ensure key emissions sources are addressed while avoiding an excessive number of activity-level targets for companies.

67. To what extent do you agree activity-level targets should be mandatory for emission-intensive activities?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

68. If you agree, what do you think is the significance threshold for requiring an emissions-intensive activity to have its own specific activity-level target?

- ☐ Option 1: the emission-intensive activity represents at least 1% of total scope 3 emissions
- ☐ Option 2: the emission-intensive activity represents at least 3% of total scope 3 emissions
- ☐ Option 3: the emission-intensive activity represents at least 5% of total scope 3 emissions
- ☐ Option 4: the emission-intensive activity represents at least 10% of total scope 3 emissions
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Alignment method

CNZS-C16.4.3

SBTi is exploring possible ways to assess net-zero alignment. This includes SBTi provided benchmarks in Table E.2; sector-specific intensity benchmarks aligned with 1.5°C; intensity benchmarks recognized by credible taxonomies or certification schemes, and low carbon technologies.

69. Which of the following options do you support for determining that the procurement of an emission-intensive activity is net-zero aligned? (select all that you agree with):

- ☐ The procured activity must have achieved zero emissions or a net-zero aligned physical emissions intensity benchmark as specified in Table E.2 (current proposal) (e.g. purchased steel was produced at net-zero benchmark of 0.11 kgCO₂e/kg steel)
- ☐ The procured activity must meet or fall below the physical emissions intensity benchmark required in a 1.5°C sector pathway for the specified year (which may still be transitioning toward net-zero rather than having already reached the net-zero end state) (e.g. purchased steel in 2030 was produced at 0.24 kgCO₂e/kg steel, or less but has not yet met the net-zero benchmark)
- ☐ The procured activity must be below a physical emissions intensity as specified in a credible green taxonomy (e.g. purchased aluminium average emissions intensity at or below 1,484 tCO₂e/tonne aluminium by 2025, from EU green taxonomy)
- ☐ The procured activity must be certified as being Paris-aligned by a credible third-party certification scheme (e.g. steel purchased directly from a site which is certified by ResponsibleSteel certification scheme)
- ☐ The procured activity must be delivered using a specific low-carbon technology (e.g. all leased vehicles and transportation is undertaken with zero emissions vehicles)
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the solutions proposed
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Direct / indirect mitigation measures

CNZS-C16.5

CNZS V2.0 introduces the concepts of direct and indirect mitigation. Direct mitigation refers to actions linked to specific emissions sources in a company's value chain through a robust chain of custody model and remains the priority in the standard. When direct traceability is not possible or unsurmountable barriers prevent addressing certain emissions, the draft standard acknowledges a time-limited role for indirect mitigation in driving relevant transformation. For example, procuring sustainable aviation fuel through a book-and-claim approach could help address jet-fuel-related emissions. Indirect mitigation measures must meet quality criteria, which will be refined during the consultation process.

SBTi is evaluating whether, under specific conditions, indirect mitigation should count toward target achievement. The proposed conditions include: (1) direct mitigation is not possible, (2) indirect mitigation delivers measurable, comparable outcomes, (3) it is used only as an interim measure, and (4) it is reported separately to ensure transparency about how targets are met.

70. To what extent do you support or oppose the proposal for indirect mitigation to count towards scope 3 target achievement, under the condition that it is only used as an interim measure if direct mitigation is not possible, delivers measurable comparable outcomes to direct mitigation and is reported separately to direct mitigation?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Supplier engagement targets

CNZS-C16.7

Companies can influence markets through procurement. Tier 1 supplier engagement targets—requiring suppliers to set science-based targets—help scale ambition across supply chains. SBTi seeks feedback on whether these targets should be mandatory for all companies setting science-based targets or remain an optional tool for addressing relevant emissions sources.

Unlike CNZS V1.2, which prioritizes emissions data to measure supplier alignment, CNZS V2.0 proposes using spend data instead. Spend data is more readily available and less reliant on estimates. SBTi is seeking input on this proposed approach.

71. How do you think tier 1 supplier engagement targets should be incorporated into the standard?

- ☐ Option 1: As a mandatory requirement for all companies setting scope 3 targets (i.e. in addition to other targets covering this portion of emissions)
- ☐ Option 2: As an optional method companies may use to address relevant emissions within the target boundary (i.e. instead of other targets covering this portion of emissions)
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

72. Which of the following options do you support for measuring supplier alignment?

- ☐ Alignment based on % spend
- ☐ Alignment based on % emissions
- ☐ Both are valuable options
- ☐ I don't agree with the proposed options
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C16.7.2

SBTi is assessing the feasibility of the proposed benchmark for suppliers of emission-intensive activities, which —under CNZS V2.0—must be at least transitioning by 2030 (see Annex E, Table E.4 for details on entity alignment over time).

"Emission-intensive activities" refer to activities, products, services, or processes that significantly contribute to global GHG emissions or exacerbate climate change. These include:

- Energy-intensive industries
- Land-use-intensive sectors
- High-impact products such as cattle, cement, aluminum, steel, or fossil fuel-consuming sold products

(See Tables D.4 and D.5 for a full list of emission-intensive activities.)

73. To what extent do you think it is feasible for companies to achieve 100% of spend on tier 1 suppliers providing emission-intensive activities to be going to suppliers that are “transitioning” (i.e. have set an SBT) by 2030?

- ☐ Feasible
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Infeasible, but 90% would be feasible
- ☐ Infeasible, but 80% would be feasible
- ☐ Infeasible, but 70% would be feasible
- ☐ None of these options are feasible
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Recommendations

CNZS-R16

Policies can be a powerful tool for driving corporate action and aligning with evolving legislation. SBTi is evaluating what role policies should play in CNZS V2.0, specifically whether they should be incorporated as recommended or mandatory requirements.

74. Should the following policies be included as a requirement or recommendation?

	Requirement for all companies	Required for category A companies / recommendation for category B companies	Recommendation for all companies	Neither required nor recommended	Not relevant to me
Sourcing policy to progressively align sourced products and services with net-zero	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policies to minimize the use of emission-intensive activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transport policy to optimize transport activities and prioritize zero-emitting transport options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficiency policy for buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Policy to progressively align sold products and services with net-zero (i.e. electrification)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

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3. Target-setting: Addressing residual emissions

Removals targets

CNZS-C18 / Box 1

SBTi is seeking feedback on the framework for addressing residual emissions in the revised standard. Feedback on CNZS V1 highlighted that the current recommendation for ‘neutralization milestones’ leading up to full neutralization by 2050 lacks operational clarity. Additionally, there are concerns that neutralizing all residual emissions only at net-zero is not sufficiently aligned with scientific pathways.

To address this, SBTi is proposing three options for consultation:

- **Option 1:** Companies must set both near- and long-term removal targets, following CNZS-C18 and related sub-criteria. Separate removal and abatement targets are required, with removal volumes determined by the Removal Growth Target method. This approach aligns with other recent frameworks, recognizing that reductions and removals involve distinct governance, strategy, and operational considerations. However, SBTi acknowledges potential feasibility and financial challenges due to limited supply.
- **Option 2:** Identical to Option 1, but only mandatory for companies that ‘opt-in’ for recognition, rather than required for all.
- **Option 3:** Instead of a separate removal target, this option allows companies to address projected residual emissions flexibly—through additional reductions beyond science-based pathway requirements, removals, or a combination of both. The total volume of allowed removals remains the same as in Options 1 and 2, but this approach prioritizes reductions first, in line with the mitigation hierarchy.

Importantly, under all options, total mitigation by 2050 remains the same—100% of scope 1 emissions must be mitigated. SBTi welcomes feedback on this proposal and its rationale.

75. To what extent do you think that the proposed approaches could present a barrier to entry for companies seeking validation against SBTi standards?

	1 - No barrier	2	3	4	5 - High barrier
Option 1: Require removal targets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 2: Recognize removal targets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 3: Residual emissions addressed through additional abatement or removals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

76. To what extent do you think the proposed approaches support the SBTi in its mission “to drive science-based climate action in the corporate sector consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C”?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not relevant to me
Option 1: Require removal targets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 2: Recognize removal targets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option 3: Residual emissions addressed through additional abatement or removals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

77. Do you have any suggestions for other approaches that could support the SBTi in its mission “to drive science-based climate action in the corporate sector consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C”?

78. Which companies do you think the proposed removal requirements [options 1, 2, 3] should apply to?

- ☐ Requirement for all companies
- ☐ Required for category A companies and recommended for category B companies
- ☐ Recommended for all companies
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C18.3 / Box 1

The following question relates to the minimum durability threshold for determining what removals are eligible to be used by companies. This consideration is independent from the consultation on the framework for addressing residual emissions in the revised standard.

The minimum durability threshold defines how long a carbon sink must store removed carbon to be eligible for use by companies complying with the revisited standard. Solutions meeting or exceeding this threshold are considered eligible.

Two options are proposed for determining this threshold:

- **Option 1a: Like-for-like approach:** The threshold is based on the atmospheric lifetime of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Companies must report emissions by individual GHGs and match each residual emission source with removals that effectively counterbalance its impact (e.g., FLAG, fossil, and non-CO₂ emissions). By the net-zero target year, all residual emissions must be neutralized through a like-for-like removal approach.
- **Option 1b: Gradual transition approach:** Companies use a mix of removals with varying durability, gradually increasing the share of long-term carbon dioxide removal (CDR) over time, in line with modeled 1.5°C pathways. Companies report total aggregated emissions as CO₂-equivalent and match them with a combination of removal solutions offering different storage durations.

While Option 1a ensures like-for-like removals, it adds complexity by requiring separate removal targets per emission source. SBTi is therefore also consulting on Option 1b as a simplified alternative.

Further details on both approaches are provided in the Documentation on target-setting methods.

79. Which of the following approaches do you support for determining the minimum durability threshold for eligible removals? (Figure 5, Documentation of Target Setting Methods).

- ☐ Option 1a: Like-for-like approach
- ☐ Option 1b: Gradual transition approach
- ☐ I do not agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Under Option 1a for determining removal eligibility, companies must report emissions by individual greenhouse gases (GHGs) and use specific removal types to address residual FLAG, fossil, and non-CO₂ emissions. By the net-zero target year, all residual emissions must be neutralized with removals that effectively counterbalance their impact, following a like-for-like principle.

This question seeks feedback on the appropriate durability threshold for CO₂ residual emissions under Option 1a. This consideration is independent from the consultation on the framework for addressing residual emissions in the revised Standard. The following options are proposed:

- 1,000-year threshold: Aligns with the atmospheric lifetime of CO₂.
- 200-year threshold: Consistent with existing removal frameworks, such as the [EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming Regulation \(CRCF\)](#).

80. Which durability threshold do you support for addressing CO₂ residual emissions as outlined in Appendix 1 (case 1(a))?

- ☐ 1000 years
- ☐ 200 years
- ☐ I do not agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Two options are proposed within Documentation of target-setting methods for companies without projected residual emissions:

- **No-removal option:** Companies without projected residual emissions are not required to use removals and are required to achieve a 100% reduction in scope 1 emissions by 2050 at the latest.
- **Limited to justified residuals (Case 2(a) and 2(b)):** Companies may use removals for a limited amount of justified hard-to-abate emissions, with the minimum durability of removals based on atmospheric lifetime (Case 2(a)) or with the minimum durability based increasing over time (Case 2(b)).

The no-removal option assumes that companies without projected residual emissions will fully eliminate scope 1 emissions by 2050. However, recognizing variability in climate models' residual estimates, Option 2a offers an alternative allowing limited removals in line with pathway-specific caps.

81. Which of the following approaches for removals do you support most for companies without projected residual emissions? (Figure 5, Documentation of Target-setting Methods).

- ☐ No removals
- ☐ Case 2(a) Removals for justified hard-to-abate emissions up to a threshold, with minimum durability of removals based on atmospheric lifetime
- ☐ Case 2(b) Removals for justified hard-to-abate emissions up to a threshold, with minimum durability of removals increasing over time
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me
- ☐ Another approach, please explain.

CNZS V2.0 will establish criteria to ensure that purchased carbon dioxide removals meet high-quality and sustainability standards. These criteria will require removals to be permanent, additional, and socially and environmentally responsible—safeguarding biodiversity, community rights, and long-term climate goals.

SBTi seeks stakeholder input on which standards and certifications should be referenced to ensure these criteria are met.

82. What standards and certification frameworks should be referenced in the standard to ensure that carbon dioxide removals adhere to robust quality standards?

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3. Target-setting: Target transparency

3.5 Target transparency

CNZS-C19

83. Should SBTi require companies to disclose their dependency on public policy (e.g., laws, regulations) and other dependencies in meeting their targets?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

84. To what extent do you support or oppose SBTi increasing transparency around the dependencies (e.g. public policy, technology) embedded within SBTi pathways for target-setting?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

85. How can SBTi support the wider ecosystem in overcoming the external barriers (e.g., policy, technology, financing) companies face when implementing their science-based targets?

Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0 Public Consultation

4. Addressing the impact of ongoing emissions

4. Addressing the impact of ongoing emissions

CNZS-C21

SBTi proposes an optional recognition system for companies that address the impact of ongoing emissions on SBTi's online dashboard. Companies must 'opt-in' and meet all relevant criteria to be eligible. The conditions for eligibility and reporting requirements are under consultation.

This proposal aims to incentivize companies to take greater responsibility for ongoing emissions, emphasizing the urgency of accelerating climate action and scaling corporate climate finance. SBTi is seeking stakeholder feedback on this approach.

86. To what extent do you think that the proposal for opt-in recognition on SBTi dashboard and the enabled claims will incentivize companies to take action to address ongoing emissions?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C21.2

SBTi is exploring whether the emissions coverage requirements to receive optional recognition for addressing ongoing emissions should be adapted for category B companies.

87. To what extent do you support or oppose offering category B companies recognition for addressing ongoing emissions if they address only scope 1 and 2?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C21.3

While recognition is optional, companies must meet all requirements to be eligible. SBTi is assessing how frequently ongoing emissions must be addressed for recognition, with three options open for stakeholder feedback.

88. Which timescale do you support most for companies making BVCM contributions to address ongoing emissions?

- ☐ Option 1: On an annual basis
- ☐ Option 2: At the end of the target cycle
- ☐ Option 3: Flexible to either option
- ☐ I don't agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C21.4

In 2023 SBTi held a public consultation on BVCM, including potential methods for defining the scale of a BVCM pledge. This work culminated in the best practice recommendation, outlined on p43 of the [“Above and Beyond: An SBTi report on the design and implementation of beyond value chain mitigation \(BVCM\)”](#):

SBTi considers that best practice is aligned with the polluter pays principle and thus entails taking full responsibility for unabated emissions, whereby a company would apply a science-based carbon price to unabated scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions each year or over a defined commitment period to determine a financial budget.

SBTi is now assessing stakeholder support for adopting this best practice recommendation as the method for determining BVCM budgets in CNZS V2.0.

89. To what extent do you support or oppose adopting the following elements from SBTi’s BVCM report’s (p41) best practice method for determining the scale of BVCM contribution in CNZS V2.0?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not relevant to me
Method: Money-for-ton as the method to determine the BVCM budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coverage of emissions: Companies take full responsibility for ongoing emissions i.e. total scope 1, 2 and 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C21.6

While recognition is optional, companies must meet all requirements to be eligible. SBTi is assessing the level of progress companies must achieve against science-based targets to qualify for recognition, with two options open for stakeholder feedback.

90. Which threshold for target progress should companies meet to be eligible for optional recognition?

- ☐ Option 1: Achievement of their science-based targets
- ☐ Option 2: Meaningful progress against their science-based targets
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

91. If you selected option 2, which of the following options do you support as ‘meaningful progress’ for optional recognition?

- ☐ Full achievement of scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 targets
- ☐ Full achievement of scope 1 and scope 2 targets, 50% achievement of scope 3 targets
- ☐ Full achievement of scope 1 and scope 2 targets, 75% achievement of scope 3 targets
- ☐ Full achievement of scope 1 and scope 2 targets, 90% achievement of scope 3 targets
- ☐ None of the options above
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-R21.3

92. What standards and certification frameworks should be referenced in the standard to ensure that BVCM measures adhere to robust quality and sustainability standards?

CNZS V1.2 recommends companies report on their BVCM activities. CNZS V2.0 expands on this by proposing transparent reporting on actions to address ongoing emissions as a requirement for optional recognition. SBTi is seeking feedback on the clarity of these reporting requirements and whether they support credible and transparent communication of companies' BVCM efforts.

93. How clear is the described process for companies to report their actions to address ongoing emissions?

- ☐ Very clear
- ☐ Somewhat clear
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat unclear
- ☐ Very unclear
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

94. Beyond the reporting elements outlined in CNZS-C22, which of the following reporting elements, if any, do you consider important to ensure transparent and credible communications of companies' BVCM efforts? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Volume of mitigation outcomes achieved from BVCM efforts
- ☐ BVCM contribution as a % of total profit
- ☐ Geographical and / or sectoral relevance of interventions (to demonstrate alignment with climate priorities)
- ☐ Carbon-price and rationale for chosen carbon-price
- ☐ Social and environmental safeguarding principles for BVCM investments
- ☐ None - the elements proposed in the draft are adequate

(Optional) Please explain your response.

95. Which verification mechanisms do you consider the most credible and effective for recognizing companies' BVCM contributions? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Third-party verification programs
- ☐ Independent audits for assurance standards
- ☐ Reporting through established GHG protocols (e.g., GHG Protocol Land Sector and Removals Guidance, CDP Reporting)
- ☐ Industry-specific verification programs
- ☐ An SBTi-specific verification framework
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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4. Addressing the impact of ongoing emissions - continued

96. Please rank your selected mechanisms in order of credibility and effectiveness.

		Third-party verification programs
		Independent audits for assurance standards
		Reporting through established GHG protocols (e.g., GHG Protocol Land Sector and Removals Guidance, CDP Reporting)
		Industry-specific verification programs
		An SBTi-specific verification framework
		Other (please specify)

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5. Assessing and communicating progress

5.1 Assessing and communicating target progress

Substantiating target progress

CNZS-C23

For a company to make credible progress claims, robust evidence is essential. To strengthen credibility, CNZS V2.0 proposes criteria for substantiating target progress:

- Organizational boundary changes, methodological updates, and data adjustments do not count as progress and must be addressed through recalculation of base year indicators.
- Mitigation outcomes outside the value chain—e.g. carbon credits, avoided emissions—do not count toward target progress.
- Category A companies must obtain third-party assurance for data supporting their progress claims.

This question seeks stakeholder feedback on whether these criteria ensure credible and verifiable evidence of companies' progress against targets.

97. To what extent do you think that the proposed requirements are sufficient to ensure robust and reliable data for substantiating target progress?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C23.4

To enhance credibility, the revised draft proposes that category A companies obtain third-party verification for data substantiating target progress. SBTi is evaluating the trade-offs between strengthening credibility and ensuring business feasibility when considering whether to extend this requirement to category B companies or position it as a best practice recommendation. Stakeholder input is sought to assess the impact and feasibility of this approach.

98. To what extent would you support a requirement for category B companies to provide evidence of third-party assurance for data substantiating target progress?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

(Optional) Please explain your response.

CNZS-C23.5

If the Budget-Conserving Contraction target-setting method for scope 1 is adopted, SBTi is considering whether third-party assurance should be required for a company’s GHG inventory from the target base year to the target year. For example, a company with a 2025 base year and a 2030 target year would need third-party assurance for its scope 1 GHG inventory **annually** from 2025 to 2030.

Third-party assurance can enhance data consistency and credibility but may also introduce administrative and financial burdens. Stakeholder input is needed to help SBTi determine the best approach to balancing rigor with feasibility.

99. If the Budget-Conserving Contraction target-setting method proposed for scope 1 is implemented, do you think that C23.5 should be a requirement or a recommendation (third-party assurance for scope 1 emissions)?

- ☐ It should be included as a requirement
- ☐ It should be included as a recommendation
- ☐ I do not agree with any of the proposed options
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

Determining target progress
CNZS-C24

CNZS V2.0 introduces a cyclical validation model, requiring companies to undergo a progress assessment and submit new targets for validation. This question seeks stakeholder feedback on the progress assessment process.

100. To what extent do you agree that the progress assessment process is sufficiently robust?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

(Optional) Please explain your response.

5.2 Setting targets for the next cycle
CNZS-C25

CNZS V2.0 introduces a cyclical validation model, requiring companies to undergo a progress assessment and submit new targets for validation. This question seeks stakeholder feedback on the process for setting new targets for the next cycle.

101. How clear is the process for setting new targets?

- ☐ Very clear
- ☐ Somewhat clear
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat unclear
- ☐ Very unclear

(Optional) Please explain your response.

5.3 Renewal validation

CNZS-C26

CNZS V2.0 introduces a cyclical validation model, requiring companies to undergo a performance assessment and submit new targets for validation. SBTi proposes a 12-month timeframe after the previous target period ends to complete this process. This timeline aims to balance the need for timely target setting—keeping companies on track toward net-zero—while allowing sufficient time to gather and verify final-year GHG inventory data. SBTi seeks stakeholder feedback on the feasibility of this timeframe.

102. To what extent do you think it is feasible to undergo progress assessment and renewal validation within 12 months of the end of the previous target cycle?

- ☐ Feasible
- ☐ Somewhat feasible
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat infeasible
- ☐ Not at all feasible

(Optional) Please explain your response.

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6. Claims

6.1 General Claims Requirements

CNZS-C28 - CNZS-C32

The stage of a company's engagement with SBTi will be reflected in the company dashboard. In alignment with the new target cycle proposed in CNZS V2.0, SBTi is introducing new claims and seeking feedback on their clarity and credibility:

Application claim: An optional claim indicating a company has successfully completed the (more robust) entry process.

Ambition claim: Granted upon successful target validation, this claim reflects the ambition of all applicable targets.

Conformance claim: Granted upon a positive progress assessment, this claim indicates whether a company has met procedural or compliance criteria but does not assess actual progress or achievements. It aims to recognize companies while mitigating legal and public scrutiny risks associated with achievement statements.

Renewal claim: Granted upon successful progress assessment and validation of renewed targets, this claim combines the conformance and ambition claims, reflecting updated targets and renewed ambition.

Contribution claim: An optional claim recognizing additional contributions and BVCM activities undertaken to address remaining emissions.

Note: For full claims text, see Annex H of CNZS V2.0

103. To what extent do you support or oppose the proposed claims?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not relevant to me
Application claims (e.g., "Company A has submitted their application to enter the SBTi system, committed to reach net-zero emissions by year X.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambition claims (e.g., "Company A has set target X for year X, consistent with achieving net-zero emissions latest by 2050.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conformance claims (e.g., "After an independent third-party assessment, company A is found conformant to the SBTi CNZS V2.0.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewal claims (e.g., "Company A has been found conformant with SBTi standard and has renewed its targets.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

104. To what extent do you agree that the proposed claims provide **clear and credible information** for stakeholders such as investors, consumers, and regulators?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not relevant to me
Application claims (e.g., "Company A has submitted their application to enter the SBTi system, committed to reach net-zero emissions by year X.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambition claims (e.g., "Company A has set target X for year X, consistent with achieving net-zero emissions latest by 2050.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conformance claims (e.g., "After an independent third-party assessment, company A is found conformant to the SBTi CNZS V2.0.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewal claims (e.g., "Company A has been found conformant with SBTi standard and has renewed its targets.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

105. What additional elements, if any, should be included to enhance the clarity and credibility of these claims?

106. To what extent do you agree that the claims proposed **incentivize voluntary corporate climate action**?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not relevant to me
Application claims (e.g., "Company A has submitted their application to enter the SBTi system, committed to reach net-zero emissions by year X.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ambition claims (e.g., "Company A has set target X for year X, consistent with achieving net-zero emissions latest by 2050.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conformance claims (e.g., "After an independent third-party assessment, company A is found conformant to the SBTi CNZS V2.0.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renewal claims (e.g., "Company A has been found conformant with SBTi standard and has renewed its targets.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

SBTi wants to test agreement around additional claims to understand whether they would further incentivize companies' actions:

Paris-Alignment, Temperature-Alignment, and Net-Zero-Alignment claims are subject to legal review due to upcoming regulations on green claims. These claims reflect a company's status at a given time, but their meaning may evolve with new scientific insights or external factors beyond SBTi's control.

Target Progress, Performance, and (Net-Zero) Achievement claims reference measurable outcomes, such as actual emissions reductions or alignment with specific metrics. These claims enhance recognition, accountability, and transparency, encouraging continuous improvement. However, they require high data quality and rigorous measurement, posing significant costs and complexity for companies. Allowing these claims would necessitate stricter standard requirements and increased third-party verification to ensure accurate GHG accounting over time.

SBTi seeks stakeholder input on the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of these claims.

107. To what extent do you agree that SBTi should explore these additional claims to effectively incentivize voluntary climate action while ensuring credibility and preventing greenwashing?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not relevant to me
Paris-Alignment claims (e.g., "Company A has set targets aligned with the ambition set in the Paris Agreement." Note this claim is a derivative from the ambition claim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Temperature-Alignment claims (e.g., "Company A has set targets aligned with limiting warming to 1.5°C." Note this claim is a derivative from the ambition claim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Net-Zero-Alignment claims (e.g., "Company A has set targets consistent with achieving net-zero emissions latest by 2050." Note this claim is a derivative from the ambition claim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Target Progress claims						

(e.g., "Company A has demonstrated progress of X% against their science-based target Y.")

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Performance claims
(e.g., "X% of Company A's supplier base has set SBTs between year X and year Y.")

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Target Achievement claims
(e.g., "Company A has reduced emissions by X% between year X and year Y.")

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Net-Zero Achievement claims
(e.g., "Company A has achieved a state of net-zero emissions across their organizational boundary.")

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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(Optional) Please explain your response and/or suggest any additional types of claims.

6.3 Eligible claims after initial validation

CNZS-C30

The following set of questions focuses on claims after initial validation. The proposed option is ambition claims, but SBTi is also exploring other claims like Paris-Alignment, Temperature-Alignment and Net-zero Alignment claims.

For further elaboration and examples of claims, see section 6.1.

108. To what extent do you think these claims would ensure **clear and transparent communications after initial validation**?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not relevant to me
Ambition claims (currently proposed)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paris-Alignment claims (e.g., "Company A has set targets aligned with the ambition set in the Paris Agreement." Note this claim is a derivative from the ambition claim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Temperature-Alignment claims (e.g., "Company A has set targets aligned with limiting warming to 1.5°C." Note this claim is a derivative from the ambition claim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Net-Zero-Alignment claims (e.g., "Company A has set targets consistent with achieving net-zero emissions latest by 2050." Note this claim is a derivative from the ambition claim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

6.4 Eligible claims after renewal validation

CNZS-C31

The following set of questions focuses on claims after renewal validation. The proposed option is conformance claims, but SBTi is also exploring other claims like target-progress, performance, target achievement and net-zero achievement claims.

For further elaboration and examples of claims, see section 6.1.

109. To what extent do you agree that the currently proposed **Conformance claims** incentivize performance and recognize progress against targets?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

110. To what extent would you support or oppose any of the below **additional claims**, knowing the **potential risks and intensified assurance** requirements?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neutral	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not relevant to me
Target Progress claims (e.g., "Company A has demonstrated progress of X% against their science-based target Y.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performance claims (e.g., "X% of Company A's supplier base has set SBTs between year X and year Y.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Target Achievement claims (e.g., "Company A has reduced emissions by X% between year X and year Y.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Net-Zero Achievement claims (e.g., "Company A has achieved a state of net-zero emissions across their organizational boundary.")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

111. How important do you think the following elements are to substantiate progress, performance, or achievement claims?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not important at all	Not relevant to me
Data assurance from a third-party for the base year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data assurance from a third-party for the target year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Independent assessment from a third-party (e.g. SBTi Services or other certification entity)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evidence of indirect mitigation measures (e.g. commodity certificates)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Optional) Please explain your response.

6.6 Eligible claims for taking responsibility for ongoing emissions

CNZS-C32

SBTi is exploring whether enabling a contribution claim will incentivize companies to take responsibility for ongoing emissions through beyond value chain mitigation. Prerequisites to allow these claims are assessed in chapter 4.

112. To what extent do you agree that enabling a **Contribution Claim**, e.g. “Company A has been found conformant with SBTi standard and contributed \$1 million to climate projects beyond its value chain, supporting global decarbonization efforts” would incentivize companies to take responsibility for ongoing emissions?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Not relevant to me

(Optional) Please explain your response.

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Overarching input

113. If you have any additional feedback, insights, or considerations that you believe would contribute to the development of CNZS V2.0, please share them below.

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Closing questions

114. How did you find out about this public consultation? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ SBTi newsletter
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ X
- ☐ News
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Search engine
- ☐ Other (please specify)

115. If you do not already receive the SBTi newsletter, would you like to sign up to stay informed with the latest news from the SBTi?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 116. SBTi would like to keep you updated regarding major milestones of CNZS 2.0 and other feedback opportunities. Please let us know if you consent to SBTi contacting you this way?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 117. How accessible did you find this survey?

☐ Extremely assessible

☐ Somewhat accessible

☐ Neutral

☐ Not so accessible

☐ Not at all accessible

(Optional) Please explain your response.