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DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

SBTi CORPORATE NET-ZERO STANDARD VERSION 2.0

Second Consultation Draft: Executive Summary

November 2025



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The SBTi reserves the right to revise this document according to a set revision schedule or as advisable to reflect the most recent emissions scenarios, regulatory, legal or scientific developments, or changes to GHG accounting best practices.

The information and any proposed change or modification within this document is preliminary and subject to change based on stakeholder input, organizational needs and other considerations as applicable.

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VERSION HISTORY

Version	Change/update description	Release date	Effective dates
1.0		28 October 2021	28 October 2021 to 10 April 2023
1.1	Non-substantive revision. For a detailed list of revisions made in Version 1.1, please refer to Annex I of the Main Changes document for Version 1.2 of the Corporate Net-Zero Standard.	11 April 2023	From 11 April 2023 to 12 March 2024
1.2	Non-substantive revision. Relevant elements of the Target Validation Protocol and Corporate Manual (both retired) were consolidated into this version of the Corporate Net-Zero Standard. For a detailed list of revisions made to develop Version 1.2, please refer to Table 1 of the Main Changes document for Version 1.2 of the Corporate Net-Zero Standard.	13 March 2024	From 13 March 2024
1.3	Non-substantive revision. Correction to bioenergy accounting requirements (C11), clarification of sold and/or distributed fossil fuels target applicability (C37), clarification of near-term target timeframe (C17 and C23) and clarification on long-term target years for companies in the power and maritime sectors. Introduction of near-term target year recommendation (R6) to support alignment of near-term target years with the mandatory transition period of the forthcoming update to SBTi's Corporate Net-Zero Standard V2.0.	15 September 2025	From 15 September 2025
2.0	First consultation draft	18th March 2025	N/A
2.0	Second consultation draft	4 November 2025	N/A

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disclaimer: The executive summary is intended to provide an overview and guidance for stakeholders and does not constitute a normative part of this Standard. For the full scope of requirements, users should refer to the main body of the Standard. Any translation of this document is for informative purposes only. Users should refer to the original document in English in case of any inconsistency.

Introduction

Companies are at the heart of the global transition to net zero. Through their operations, supply chains, and customer relationships, they can shape markets and drive the systemic change needed to transition to a net-zero economy. The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has developed the Corporate Net-Zero Standard to provide a clear and robust framework enabling companies to set and implement science-based targets aligned with achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

The Corporate Net-Zero Standard is being revised in line with the [Standard Operating Procedure for Development of SBTi Standards](#) (SOP), following an open and transparent, multi-stakeholder approach, including two public consultations and pilot testing. This draft has been shaped by incorporating feedback from the first public consultation, as well as with input from the project's [Expert Working Groups](#).

This update strengthens the SBTi's cross-sector standard, enabling companies to set, validate, and renew targets that set the pace for reaching a net-zero state by no later than 2050. It clarifies ambition, expands the range of credible mitigation levers, and embeds a cyclical validation model that drives continuous improvement and accountability.

Scope of the Standard

The Standard applies to commercially operated companies worldwide and distinguishes between Category A and Category B companies, reflecting differences in size and operating context. Category B companies, which are typically smaller and based in low-income countries, are granted proportionate flexibility in implementation. The Standard operates alongside relevant Sector Standards and the Financial Institutions Net-Zero Standard.

Key elements of the Standard

- **Enhanced clarity on purpose and scope:** Updates the cross-sector net-zero framework to align with the latest science and best practice, while enabling a clean interface with sector-specific and financial institution standards.
- **Cyclical validation system:** Introduces a new three-stage process (Entry Check → Initial Validation → Renewal Validation) with optional spot checks to drive continuous improvement and accountability across target cycles.

- **Reinforced ambition:** Requires company-backed net-zero ambition, clear internal accountability, and provides a strong link with transition planning and transparency over dependencies.
- **Diversified scope 1 target-setting methods:** Includes three approaches for setting scope 1 ambition: reducing emissions on a linear pathway to net-zero; increasing the share of low-carbon activities over time; or the Asset Decarbonization Plan. The Asset Decarbonization Plan includes a roadmap to decarbonize assets based on technological-readiness, and is backed by a company-specific carbon budget to reflect sectoral realities while preserving science-based ambition.
- **Tightened integrity for low-carbon electricity (scope 2):** Strengthens the credibility of scope 2 targets and requires companies to align ambition with 100% low-carbon electricity by 2040 at the latest. It strengthens the use of contractual instruments to meet this goal, requires geographic matching, and establishes temporal matching as a “north star”, implemented through a phased approach beginning with the largest electricity consumers.
- **Focused and flexible scope 3 framework:** Refocuses target setting on the highest-priority value chain emission sources, allowing exclusions for lower-impact activities and areas where influence is limited. Three target-setting approaches address the diversity of value chain emissions: emissions intensity, activity alignment, and counterparty alignment, including cascading engagement through the supply chain. Acknowledges a range of implementation options to catalyze value chain decarbonization, including at the emission source, counterparty, activity-pool and sector levels, and introduces the limited use of high-quality environmental attribute certificates.
- **Progressive responsibility for ongoing emissions:** Introduces a new recognition mechanism with two tiers, Recognized and Leadership, to highlight companies taking early, voluntary action to address their ongoing emissions. From 2035, it is intended that Category A companies assume responsibility for an increasing share of their ongoing emissions each year, progressively building toward complete neutralization at the point of net-zero. The draft includes an illustrative approach from 2035 onwards, which will be subject to further consultation and finalization in Version 3 of the Corporate Net-Zero Standard.
- **Clarified disclosure and renewal expectations:** Annual progress reporting reinforces transparency as a driver of accountability, requiring companies to disclose and explain any deviations from planned trajectories and to outline corrective actions to remain aligned with their net-zero ambitions. Companies are expected to set new targets for the following period before or at the end of each target cycle, and to undertake performance assessments to support claims of continued progress toward net-zero.¹

¹ NOTE: Eligible claims will be subject to legal review.

Purpose of the second consultation draft

Public consultation is one of the mechanisms designed to invite broad stakeholder input, in addition to Expert Working Groups and pilot testing. We invite all interested parties to review this draft and provide views on its content, clarity and applicability through [this survey](#). Your feedback will play a key role in ensuring that the Standard is effective, inclusive and fit for purpose.

The SBTi welcomes feedback from all interested parties, including industry professionals, business associations and collectives, academics and think tanks, public sector bodies and regulators, civil society organizations, other voluntary standard setters and actors across the corporate sustainability ecosystem. Your input can help refine this draft, ensuring it meets the needs of its intended users and serves the SBTi's mission to drive science-based climate action in the corporate sector.

Stakeholders can participate in the public consultation by:

- Reviewing the draft Standard.
- Submitting your feedback via an [online survey](#) **by midnight Pacific Time on December 8, 2025 (9:00 AM GMT)**.

When reviewing the draft Standard and submitting feedback, stakeholders should be aware of the following:

- Text marked in red and enclosed in parentheses (i.e., **[TEXT]**) indicates a topic on which the SBTi is particularly interested in receiving feedback, usually because it is still under development or has not yet been resolved through prior consultations.
- When “[shall / may]” appears, it means that the SBTi is seeking feedback on whether to require (shall) or include as an allowable option (may) this element (e.g., see CNZS-C10.3).
- In some instances, multiple options are presented for consideration. These are marked by the word “**Option**” in bold text (e.g., see C18.6). The consultation survey will seek stakeholder feedback on the preferred approach.

Next steps

Feedback and consultation are critical to the development of a Standard that is relevant, robust and practical. This document serves as the second consultation draft of the SBTi Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0. It proposes updates and revisions to the current version of the Standard (Version 1.3) and serves as a means to gather input from all stakeholders.

Following the public consultation period, all feedback received will be carefully reviewed and analyzed. The SBTi will assess the comments to determine where adjustments or clarifications may be needed to improve this draft Standard.

A summary of the feedback and how it has been addressed will be published for transparency. The draft will then undergo review and refinement, and may also be subject to further public consultation before it is submitted for approval by the Technical Council and adoption by the Board of Trustees.