Scorecard

CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology

About CPD

Coverage of Companies

Launch Date

2000

Focus

Climate-related disclosures

Link

CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Score

Tracker Rank and Score for CPD

The score is out of a total of 200 and the rank describes the standards position in the 26 standards assessed by the Tracker.

Category scores of CPD

- General disclosure on Corporate Political Activities
- Political contributions
- Lobbying and advocacy activities
- Influence via third-parties

*Categories where the standard received no points do not appear in the colour-coded graph

Rank and scores for all standards

1. UN-PRI Investor Expectations 117
2. Responsible Lobbying Framework 106
3. OECD Principles 106
4. ICES 103
5. EFRAG 101
6. Positive Compass 97
7. Moody’s 97
8. S&P 95
9. World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) 87
10. Erb Principles 87
11. GRI 415 80
12. ISS ESG 80
13. CDP 76
14. Sustainalytics 75
15. Fitch 68
16. FTSE4Good 53
17. MSCI 53
18. ISSB 53
19. B-Lab 53
20. Refinitiv 46
21. EcoVadis 46
22. Bloomberg 40
23. RepRisk 38
24. TCFD 38
25. WEF Measuring Stakeholder Capitalism 31
26. ISS ESG 31

CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Score 2
CDP was established as the ‘Carbon Disclosure Project’ in 2000, as a then unique NGO-led exercise asking companies to disclose their climate impact via emissions since reporting. Since then, the organisation has broadened the scope of its environmental disclosure requests to incorporate deforestation and water security, while also engaging cities, states and regions on similar disclosure and reporting issues. According to CDP, their reporting platform and annual process supports thousands of companies, cities, states and regions to measure and manage their risks and opportunities on climate change, water security and deforestation. Demand for CDP reporting by companies is led by investors, purchasers of company goods and services, and city-level stakeholders.

Summary

The CDP framework receives a Tracker score of 53 out of 200. This reflects a number of areas that touch on corporate political activities, and the questionnaire’s evolution in responding to changing investor expectations for corporate disclosures in this area. The CDP framework is climate-focused, but the Tracker score reflects its treatment of corporate lobbying issues. The Guidance includes a single question on lobbying: (C12.3) Does your organization engage in activities that could either directly or indirectly influence policy, law, or regulation that may impact the climate? It extends this analysis by asking companies to explain what issues they have been engaging directly with policy makers. The CDP questionnaire also receives points in Tracker Category D ‘Influence via third parties’ as it asks about a firm’s position on the board of any trade associations and any funding provided beyond membership fees. But the questions in this area narrow the enquiry and exclude a discussion on alignment of trade association membership with the company’s stated goals to support climate change action, the energy transition, and related public policy goals.

Opportunities for improvement

The CDP Climate Change 2023 Reporting Guidance explains how the framework expects respondents to explain their lobbying practices, but would benefit from more detailed disclosures across a number of the Tracker categories. As the role of corporate political activities continues to grow in the climate arena, an updated CDP questionnaire which draws on the Tracker methodology could help to improve investor access to this information.

Endnotes

1  https://www.cdp.net/en/info/about-us/what-we-do
www.thegoodlobby.eu/initiatives/tracker
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