



ecoact

Factsheet 2024

**Demonstrate
your environmental
commitment with CDP**



What is CDP?

CDP runs a global disclosure system that assesses organisations, cities, states and regions that voluntarily disclose against questionnaires relating to Climate Change, Water Security, Forests and Supply Chains.

700+ investors with more than US\$142 trillion and 330+ major buyers with a combined purchasing power of US\$6.4 trillion requested thousands of companies to disclose through CDP in 2023. The disclosure scores published by CDP allow these investors to see that companies are incorporating sustainability into their business strategy and practices, so that they can assess the climate change, forest and water security risk in their investment portfolios. Investors, now more than ever, want to know their money is backing companies that will be there in the long-term. Your business may choose or be asked by stakeholders to disclose to CDP.

In 2023, 23,200+ companies with two thirds of global market capitalisation disclosed environmental data through CDP across all three questionnaires, an increase of 24% on the previous year and 297% more than 2015 when the Paris Agreement was signed. This increase indicates the growing importance of corporate sustainability and the increasing demand of stakeholders and investors for climate and sustainability transparency.

What the experts say

"CDP is recognised as a gold standard for environmental disclosure and every year, CDP participation continues to grow significantly. With mandatory disclosure regulation becoming more prevalent in many countries and increased investor interest, it is imperative that companies understand what is being requested of them.

CDP's focus on interdependent environmental issues demonstrates the need for a holistic approach and provides a framework to develop robust net-zero strategies and low-carbon transition plans. Disclosure is the cornerstone to identify and address gaps and drive action towards a net-zero and nature-positive future.

As a central framework, aligned to other large reporting initiatives - including the IFRS, TCFD, GHG Protocol and the EU Taxonomy - CDP helps companies reduce the burden of disclosure by housing information on a common platform."



Caoimhe Costigan

Senior Consultant & Technical Lead on CDP EcoAct Northern Europe

2024 Updates

The urgency to address climate change is reaching new heights. 2023 was the warmest year on record and the effects of climate change already being felt across the world. Last year, the importance of disclosure, transparency, and accountability was reaffirmed and we saw significant advancements in both mandatory and voluntary sustainability frameworks. The 24% increase in CDP participation in 2023 compared to the previous year, also reflected this.

CDP incorporated major changes this year. First, the questionnaire is now integrated across environmental themes, meaning companies no longer separately disclose to climate change, water security, forests, plastics and biodiversity. Questionnaires will cover relevant environmental issues by company sector, or business activity and companies will still receive separate scores for climate, forests, and water. Secondly, there is increased alignment with global standards and frameworks including the IFRS S2 issued by the ISSB, the EU taxonomy and TCFD, among others. Finally, there is a new disclosure platform to provide a more user-friendly and efficient experience for companies disclosing through CDP, simplifying data collection and only displaying questions relevant to a company's business.

In 2024, the content remains largely the same as in 2023. There is a continued focus on net-zero, 1.5°C-aligned targets and transition plans, as well as a strengthened focus on dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities throughout ecosystems. This reflects a growing awareness of planetary boundaries and expanded environmental issues, how the water crisis presents a systemic risk to companies and countries, how the depletion of the earth's resources needs to be addressed and how reaching net-zero requires more than carbon management alone.

Climate Change Questionnaire

60% of questions in the climate change questionnaire have either no change or a minor change (not including supply chain questions). One question has been removed, 104 modified, and 17 new questions added. Most of the new questions for climate change are cross-thematic and new for water and forests as well. They relate to reporting boundaries, value chain mapping, environmental impact and dependencies, financial metrics vulnerable to environmental risks, environmental policies, supplier assessment and prioritisation and impact of environmental risks on strategy and financial planning.

Some modifications and revised dependencies have been made to sector-specific questions.

In the financial services sector, three questions were added, two questions had minor changes/modified guidance and 28 questions were modified. The new questions relate to total assets value, environmental impact and dependencies related to portfolio activities and activities aligned to sustainable finance taxonomies.

Forest Questionnaire

The total number of questions related to forests is now 153 (not including supply chain questions). This is a large increase and mainly due to the integration of questionnaires. There are 34 new questions, and 76 modified questions relating to forests. Of existing questions, 43 questions have had no change or minor changes. Three questions are removed. In 2024, several changes have been made to forests content to move from a commodity driven questionnaire to a smaller set of commodity-driven questions. There are new questions on the breakdown of companies' disclosure volume per commodity, soy embedded in animal products sourced by the organisation and a question on the disclosure of land holdings not used to produce commodities. There are also new questions on DCF and non-DCF volumes*.

Water Security Questionnaire

The total number of questions related to water is now 144 due to the integration of questionnaires. There are 25 new questions relating to water but 14 of those are previous questions already seen in the climate change questionnaire. All new questions except for one are new integrated questions. There are 79 modified questions relating to water. Of existing questions, 28% (40 questions) have had no change, additional or modified guidance or revised question dependency. The new question relates to the plastics module on total weight of waste generated by the plastic companies produce, commercialise or use.

There have been no changes to sector-specific questions for the water module.

Please note, changes are based on CDP questionnaire changes as of the end of May 2024.



*DCF: Deforestation and conversion free supply chains

2024 Timeline

May 2024

- CDP Portal opens for disclosers
- Disclosure requests sent to companies by investors
- Finalised guidance and scoring methodologies released by CDP

June 2024

- 2024 reporting window opens on the 4th of June

18th September 2024

- Scoring deadline for disclosers
- Please note this deadline is for all questionnaires.

The CDP A List

The A list was founded in 2011 and is now seen as the gold standard for corporate disclosure on sustainability ambitions and progress.

Only 1.5% of Climate Change respondents make the A list.

At EcoAct, we work with 27 companies who made it to the A list in 2023. These make up 6% of the 2023 A list.

Maximising your disclosures for 2024

We believe that CDP is more than simply a tick-box exercise. Our approach provides companies with the means to achieve CDP leadership whilst simultaneously preparing them for a net-zero world.



Scoring gap analysis

This is vital to understand the information that you might be missing and knowing where you have work to do. Reviewing your draft response against the current year's scoring criteria will be the first step to identify information gaps and areas of improvement.



TCFD alignment

CDP fully aligns with the TCFD. The climate change questionnaire contains more than 25 questions that [align with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures \(TCFD\)](#). We recommend taking this opportunity to ensure your own disclosures and sustainability actions are aligned.



Drafting & data support

Consider accessing support in training and upskilling your staff to respond to the questionnaires correctly and efficiently for gathering the data and information required. At EcoAct, we can provide guidance or management of the whole process.



Submission enhancement

If you have all the information, it might be that you need support in enhancing and formatting the submission to best meet the CDP scoring criteria. This support can be tailored to the stage your company is at in your sustainability journey, and your aspirations for your CDP score.

Maximising your disclosures for 2024



Climate Scenario Analysis (CSA) & Risk and Opportunities Analysis

Climate scenario analysis (CSA) is best practice in climate risk reporting and increasingly the expectation due to the TCFD. It requires you to select appropriate climate warming scenarios and understand the impacts and outcomes of each individual climate trajectory to your specific business. As a part of your CSA we can help you to identify, assess and present your climate change risks and opportunities to CDP and integrate them with business strategy.



Transition Planning

Investors and regulators alike want to understand HOW companies will achieve the ambitious targets that have been set. We can help you understand what transition looks like for your business, embed climate considerations into your process, or align your business model or processes with a low carbon economy.



Scope 3 emissions assessment

In our experience this is an important but challenging part of the sustainability process and therefore often a weakness in submissions. EcoAct can advise you on how to assess, quantify and manage your value chain emission sources in order to improve your CDP disclosures.



Science-based targets (SBTs)

We strongly recommend setting a science-based target. These targets show an ambitious commitment to emissions reductions in line with science and will provide you with extremely strong material for your disclosures. SBTs are also vital to our efforts to tackle climate change.



Emissions verification

Verification of your carbon emissions calculations provides confidence in the numbers you report, which will benefit your submission. At EcoAct, we have the expertise to undertake this process.

Our Expertise

Thanks to our in-house experts, EcoAct has a proven track-record, long-term partnerships with results, and the technical expertise to support your CDP declaration.



45% of the responses we supported in 2023 achieved a leadership grade (A or A-)



Our clients made up 6% of the CDP A List in 2023



We have supported over 70 clients on their CDP response for the past two years or longer



On average, our multi-year CDP clients have improved their score in the past two years



EcoAct supported 150 responses for +110 clients in 2023



22 of our clients' responses improved from a non-A score to an A or A- score for the first time, with our support in 2023

The future of CDP

The CDP questionnaire has significantly evolved since its inception in 2000. In line with CDP's five-year strategy from 2021-2025, we anticipate that CDP will continue to grow as a platform for climate and nature-related disclosures, particularly in light of the growing urgency of the climate crisis and the onset of irreversible nature loss.

CDP continues to evolve with many changes to the questionnaire throughout the years. In 2024, CDP's updated questionnaire is integrated across all previous themes of climate change, water security and forests, including biodiversity and plastics, with a continued focus on net-zero, 1.5°C-aligned targets and transition plans. There is a strengthened focus to expand the scope of the questionnaire to cover planetary boundaries. The integration of the questionnaire highlights the need to respond to these crises interdependently and to hold stakeholders to account for what is needed to ensure a transition to a 1.5°C nature-positive world.

Companies will continue to be asked to demonstrate transparency and accountability when it comes to how they are going to contribute to these goals and what long-term strategic changes they are making to ensure this happens.

Your climate experts. Your partner for positive change.

Together with our clients, we act to put climate and nature centre stage to drive sustainable corporate transformation within planetary boundaries.

EcoAct is an international sustainability consultancy and project developer with 18+ years of industry experience and 360+ climate experts globally. Founded in France in 2006, the company now spans three continents with offices in Paris, London, Barcelona, New York, Montreal, Munich, Milan and Kenya.

EcoAct's core purpose is to lead the way in developing sustainable business solutions that deliver true value for both climate and client. Data is the cornerstone of our consulting practice, supported by our dedicated Climate Data Analytics and Research & Innovation teams.

At EcoAct we are driven by a shared purpose to make a difference. To help businesses implement positive change in response to climate and environmental sustainability challenges, whilst also driving commercial performance.

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