

# CDP: How to improve your score

2026

More companies are recognising the benefits that CDP can bring to their long-term goals, from opening doors to investment to securing new contracts and driving operational efficiencies.

But too many are missing the mark when it comes to achieving a score that reflects their efforts.

## **What is CDP?**

CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) is the world's leading environmental disclosure platform, collecting data each year from companies, cities, states and regions on key environmental issues. In 2025, over 23,000 respondents completed CDP questionnaires, representing more than two thirds of global market capitalisation.

The questionnaire aligns with leading disclosure frameworks such as the ISSB standards, the EU's CSRD, and the TNFD.

For 2026, CDP brings multiple environmental themes into a single corporate questionnaire. Companies report across three core themes: climate change, forests, and water Security. Additional voluntary themes include plastics, biodiversity and, new for 2026, oceans.

## **The value of a high score**

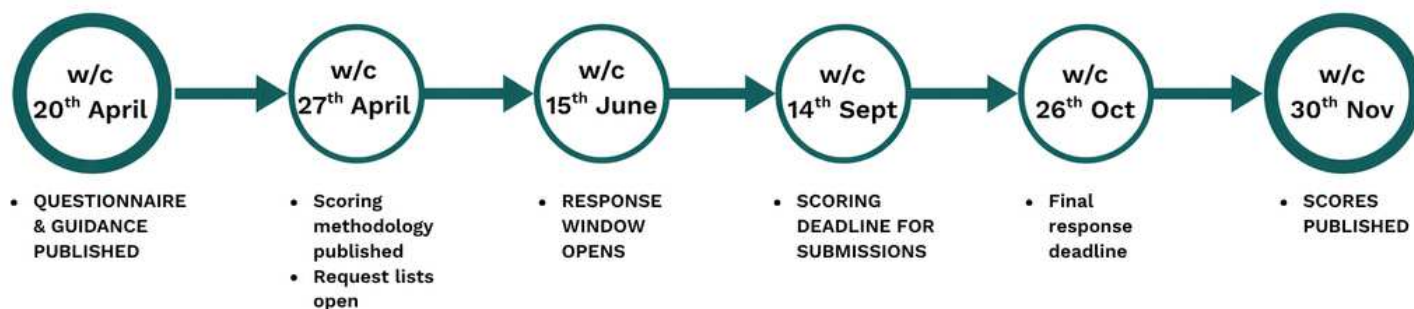
As environmental regulations evolve, purchasers increasingly use CDP scores to benchmark potential suppliers, with disclosure fast becoming a prerequisite for getting on a tender list.

The CDP questionnaire also provides internal benefits, giving organisations a clearer picture of strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in their climate data and strategy to drive efficiencies.

Achieving a high score demonstrates that a company's climate strategy, targets, governance, and risk and opportunity management are all aligned with best-practice frameworks.

Through CDP's regular updates, maintaining a high score shows a company can future-proof itself against evolving environmental regulations. Scores can be made public and feed into wider ESG ratings, enhancing brand reputation and strengthening stakeholder relationships.

## 2026 CDP Timeline



## Seven ways to improve your score

### 1. Understand the marking criteria

CDP scoring is sequential: to reach a given level, you must first meet the thresholds at each level below. The CDP portal does not score responses as you go, so benchmarking your draft against the methodology before submitting is essential to identify where easy scoring opportunities are being missed.

### 2. Set credible, science-based targets

Without clear targets, there is nothing to measure the credibility of your strategy against. Targets carry one of the highest score category weightings in the questionnaire. To score well, organisations need clearly defined emissions reduction targets, that are aligned with the climate science and ideally validated through the SBTi.

### 3. Organise your data

The questionnaire demands extensive data relating to emissions and energy, financial exposure, target progress, verification and methodology. To score well, that data must be reliable, complete, and consistent. Reporting all three emission scopes is expected, and reaching leadership level requires third-party verification of your emissions data.

### 4. Keep pace with annual changes

CDP updates the questionnaire, methodology and scoring criteria every year, with recent cycles have seen increasing alignment with the ISSB standards, the EU's CSRD, and emerging frameworks such as TNFD. Understanding the changes well ahead of the submission deadline is critical to maintaining or improving your score.

### 5. Strengthen governance and board oversight

Governance also carries significant scoring weight. Leadership-level scores require evidence of board-level oversight and competence, clearly assigned management responsibilities, and incentive structures linked to targets. Those that can demonstrate a clear thread from governance through to strategic and financial decision-making will score strongest.

### 6. Conduct scenario analysis

Scenario analysis is essential for improving understanding of how climate-related risks and opportunities may evolve. Leadership-level scores require the use of multiple scenarios, underpinned by robust, transparent assumptions, and evidence that the results are actively shaping business strategy and financial planning (not just conducted as a compliance exercise).



## 7. Demonstrate engagement

Scoring at leadership level requires evidence of active engagement with your value chain, industry peers and policymakers on climate. This could include requiring key suppliers to also disclose to CDP, setting emissions reduction expectations within procurement processes, aligning trade association memberships with your climate commitments, and advocating for policies that actively support Paris-aligned outcomes.

## How can Envantage help?

### Help desk

CDP submissions can be a challenging undertaking, if you've got a few key questions and want some light level support, short sessions can be booked to help you along your CDP disclosure journey.

### Scoring review

To ease the burden of your CDP disclosure, Envantage can provide a scoring review of your most recent response to help you identify any weaknesses in your response.

Alongside this service, utilising the CDP's Comparative Analysis Report, Envantage can assess your disclosure against key competitors in your market. The analysis can provide detailed benchmarks against your peers across key elements of your disclosure.

### Full-service

Envantage's full CDP support service takes you through the whole CDP disclosure cycle:

- An initial **gap assessment** of your current data, processes and disclosures against the 2026 CDP requirements will provide a strong plan of action.
- Your previous year's response will be given a **scoring review** scored against the new 2026 methodology to provide key insights, quick wins, and long-term improvements.
- Following this, the **data gathering** process will begin alongside a tailored **stakeholder meetings** with key personnel to establish a strong environmental strategy.
- A full **written response** will then be drafted for review prior to the submission deadline in September.

## Next steps

If your business is planning to disclose with CDP this year, Envantage can help. We already work with business throughout the UK, to improve their scores year on year.

### Get in touch

For a free consultation to help you prepare for this disclosure cycle, visit our website today, or email:

[hello@envantage.co.uk](mailto:hello@envantage.co.uk)

