

CDP SME Scoring Category Weightings 2026

CDP SME Scoring Methodology

Version

Version number	Release / Revision date	Revision summary
1.0	Released: April 30, 2026	Publication of the 2026 CDP SME scoring category weightings.

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Introduction: Scoring categories and weightings

This document outlines the 2026 category weightings that will be applied for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) responding to CDP's 2026 SME corporate questionnaire. For 2026, the SME questionnaire will only be scored for climate change; forests and water are not scored. It is recommended that the 2026 SME scoring introduction document is read in advance of reading the weightings summary sheets. For a breakdown of which questions fall into which scoring category, please refer to the 2026 SME scoring category mapping document.

Scoring categories are groupings of questions by topic. They are sub-groups of the 2025 questionnaire modules and are consistent across all sectors. Weightings are applied to scoring categories at the SME Management and SME Leadership levels only. For 2026, scoring has been added at the SME Leadership level; as such weightings are also applied at this level. Weightings reflect the relative importance of each category within the boundaries of the CDP SME corporate questionnaire and available scoring criteria.

SME Climate Change 2026: Scoring categories

The SME scoring categories for climate change in 2026 are as follows:

Business Strategy	Risk Disclosure
Context	Risks and Opportunities process
Emissions Reduction Initiatives	Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions
Energy	Targets
Environmental Policies	Verification (Incl. Emissions)
Governance	Value Chain Engagement
Opportunity Disclosure	

Table 1 – 2026 SME scoring categories for climate change.

The SME scoring categories have been aligned as much as possible with the full corporate scoring categories for climate change. There are, however, some differences:

- 'Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions' is a combined category for SME.
- The categories 'Public Policy Engagement and Industry Collaboration', 'Pricing Environmental Externalities' and 'Additional Climate-Related Metrics' do not exist for SMEs, as no questions are present in these categories.
- 'Dependencies, Impact, Risks and Opportunities process' doesn't exist for SMEs and is instead 'Risks and Opportunities process' as the SME questionnaire does not ask organizations about dependencies and impacts.

Scoring categories and weightings: SME Climate change

There are 13 categories in CDP's SME scoring methodology for climate change. Unlike the full corporate questionnaire, organizations responding to the SME questionnaire will not be presented with sector-specific datapoints, and therefore do not have sector-specific category weightings. Some changes have been made to the category weightings in 2026 to account for questions now being scored at SME management and SME leadership levels. At SME management level there have been changes to 'Risk Disclosure', 'Risks and Opportunities Process', 'Opportunity Disclosure' and 'Energy'. At SME Leadership level a weighting has been added to all scoring categories where there is now scoring associated.

SMEs are increasingly being requested to commit to reduce their emissions and report progress against their commitments by their stakeholders and lenders. In recognition of their relative importance, some scoring categories are more heavily weighted. For instance, evaluation and disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions is a critical first step that every organization must take to understand and reduce their negative impact on the climate. This is becoming increasingly important for organizations to obtain financing, ensure competitiveness and resiliency, and meet regulatory and supplier requirements. The high weightings in 'Verification (Incl. Emissions)' and 'Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions' categories reflect best practice in environmental reporting. This is essential for setting realistic emission reduction targets.

Furthermore, target setting provides direction and structure to environmental strategy. Providing information on quantitative targets and qualitative goals, and progress made against these targets, can demonstrate an organization's commitment to improving climate-related issues management at a corporate level. This information is relevant to investors' understanding of how an organization is addressing and monitoring progress regarding the risks and opportunities disclosed and is recognized in the high weighting of the 'Targets' category. Please note that scoring categories where there is no weightings present are not scored at the SME Management or SME Leadership level.

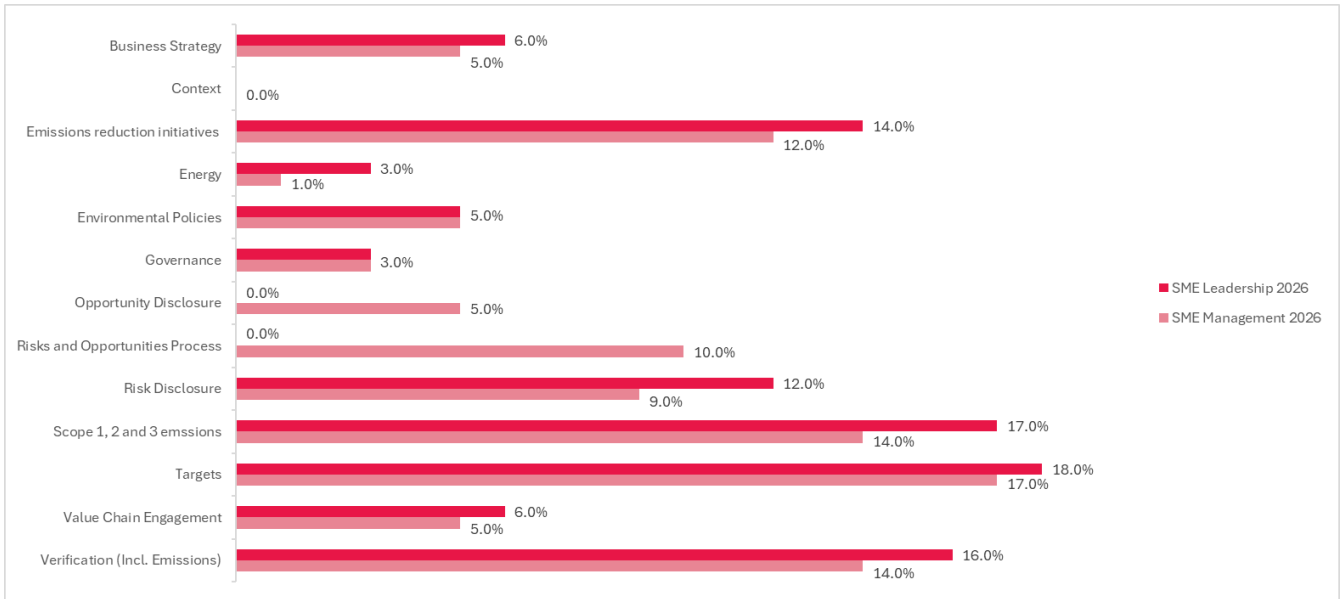


Figure 1 – The bar chart above shows the % weighting applied to each of the scoring categories at the SME Management and SME Leadership level for the 2026 SME scoring methodology for climate change.