

# CDP SME Scoring Changes 2025

CDP SME Scoring Methodology

## Version

Version number	Release / Revision date	Revision summary
1.0	Released: Apr 30, 2025	Publication of the CDP SME scoring changes for 2025.

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## Introduction

This document highlights changes to CDP's scoring methodology for the 2025 SME corporate questionnaire. It indicates the key changes that have occurred between 2024 and 2025 in the respective scoring bands, along with a rationale for these changes.

**CDP's SME scoring methodology has remained stable between 2024 and 2025**, with minor improvements made in wording for the clarity and consistency of scoring criteria, and to ensure that the scoring criteria reflect the original intention of scoring. The changes made have minimal to no impact on the ambition of the criteria, and therefore on the information that organizations are incentivized to disclose.

For more information on CDP's approach to scoring and key changes for the 2025 disclosure cycle, please refer to CDP's SME scoring introduction and the scoring methodology key changes for 2025 document.

### Structure of this document

General changes that have been applied across the SME scoring methodology are stated separately, while individual changes to specific criteria are detailed in tables in question order. Changes are shown separately for each module of the SME corporate questionnaire.

As in 2024, the 2025 CDP SME corporate questionnaire focuses on climate change, with the inclusion of integrated forests and water security datapoints to kickstart the disclosure journey for these environmental issues. In 2025, the SME questionnaire continues to only be scored for climate change, with no differentiation in scoring per sector. As such, all changes shown apply only to scoring for the climate change environmental issue area.

## General Scoring Changes to CDP's SME scoring methodology

The following adjustments have been made across the SME scoring methodology to improve clarity and consistency of wording:

- The maximum points available are now specified at the end of each scoring route and level. Where the maximum number of points that can be achieved differs from the total points available, this is now clearly stated.
- Clarifications have been made to scoring criteria where multiple requirements must be met for points to be awarded (e.g. through the wording 'All the following met – X points').
- The wording and structure of scoring criteria have been aligned across modules, environmental issues and sectors to improve consistency and clarity of scoring.
- Adjustments have been made to option, column or row references to align with CDP's SME corporate questionnaire for 2025. Corrections that have resulted in more significant changes to references are also highlighted in the changes listed below.

## Question-level Scoring Changes

### Module 14 – SME Introduction

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

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### Module 15 – SME Identification, Assessment and Management of Risks and Opportunities

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

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## Module 16 – SME Disclosure of Risks and Opportunities

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
16.3	Management	Column references updated to refer to opportunities rather than risks ('Environmental opportunities identified') and option reference updated in ROUTE B) ('Opportunities exist, but none anticipated to have a substantive effect on organization').	Clarification to reflect the intent of scoring in this question.

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## Module 17 – SME Governance

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

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## Module 18 – SME Business Strategy

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

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## Module 19 – SME Environmental Performance – Consolidation Approach

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

## Module 20 – SME Environmental Performance – Climate Change

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
20.1	Management	Correction to how points are allocated per row at the Management level. Point allocations in ROUTE B) updated accordingly.	Correction to align with how points are allocated per row in the table.
20.4	Awareness	Clarification added that points will be awarded for completed rows.	Clarification in accordance with the intent of scoring in this question.
20.5	Awareness	Clarification that points will be awarded for completed rows.	Clarification in accordance with the intent of scoring in this question.
20.16.2	Disclosure	Updated column reference for column 'Intensity figure at end date of target for all selected Scopes'.	Update in accordance with questionnaire change, enabling more flexibility in metrics used by organizations to report this figure.
20.16.3	Awareness	Clarification that points will be awarded for completed rows.	Clarification in accordance with the intent of scoring in this question.

## Module 21 – SME Sign Off

Question number	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

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