

CDP Cities, States and Regions Scoring Changes 2026

CDP Cities, States and Regions Scoring Methodology

Version

Version number	Release / Revision date	Revision summary
1.0	Released: Apr 30, 2026	Publication of the CDP Cities, States and Regions Scoring Changes for 2026.

Contents

Version.....	2
Contents.....	3
Introduction	4
Structure of this document.....	4
Disclaimer.....	4
Changes to CDP’s Cities, States and Regions Scoring Essential Criteria.....	5
Question-level Changes to CDPs Cities, States and Regions Scoring Methodology	6
Module 1 – Introduction.....	6
Module 2 – Governance	7
Module 3 – Climate Risk and Vulnerability.....	8
Module 4 – Emissions Inventory.....	9
Module 5 – Sectoral Data	10
Module 6 – Targets: Adaptation Goals.....	11
Module 7 – Targets: Mitigation.....	12
Module 8 – Targets: Climate and Nature.....	13
Module 9 – Planning.....	14
Module 10 – Actions.....	15

Introduction

This document highlights changes to CDP's scoring methodology for the Cities, States and Regions questionnaire. The document indicates the main changes that have occurred between 2025 and 2026 across questions, scoring bands and essential criteria. In 2026, changes mainly centre around adjusting for questionnaire changes, and minor increases in ambition, particularly for essential criteria.

A summary of the rationale for these changes is provided.

Structure of this document

The scoring changes in this document are detailed in two sections: one for changes to CDP's scoring essential criteria, and one for changes to the scoring methodologies. General changes that have been applied across the board 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 cities, states and regions questionnaire.

Disclaimer

This scoring methodology changes document is intended to provide guidance to cities, states and regions in relation to how their response will be scored in 2026 compared to 2025. In common with other scoring processes of this type, we expect to make future adjustments, during the disclosure cycle, to optimise the clarity of the scoring methodology in context of responses received. Adjustments to the scoring methodology should have minimal impact on your response planning/resource allocation.

CDP therefore reserves the right to amend or alter scoring criteria displayed in the scoring methodology at any time during the disclosure cycle. Such adjustments will be made without obligation to give advance notice, but any adjustments made from time to time will be listed and displayed prominently. Please refer to the Version Control to view updates notifying you of adjustments.

Notwithstanding that CDP reserves the right to amend or alter its scoring criteria during the disclosure cycle, CDP commits to use best endeavours to only make adjustments where essential to ensure that our scoring methodology remains robust and effective for the purpose of assessing progress towards environmental stewardship.

Changes to CDP's Cities, States and Regions Scoring Essential Criteria

Scoring Level	Climate action check	Question Number	Change	Rationale
A List	CRVA Attachment Check	3.1.1	2015 or later selected in column 'Year of publication or approval'	Ensure A List documents are up to date
A List	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory	4.1.1	2020 or later in column 'Latest year covered by main inventory'	Ensure A List documents are up to date
A List	Climate Action Plan	9.1.1	2015 or later selected in column 'Year of formal approval of plan'	Ensure A List documents are up to date

Question-level Changes to CDPs Cities, States and Regions Scoring Methodology

Module 1 – Introduction

Question number	Scoring level	Cities/States and Regions	Change	Rationale
1.2	Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities and States and Regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Percentage range of jurisdiction area that is natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and/or marine ecosystem' column removed. 	Updated to align with questionnaire.
1.3	Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cities and States and Regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New question – scored for the first time proportionally at disclosure level. 	Understanding and disclosure of land use within the jurisdiction is paramount for climate action.
1.4	Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States and Regions only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New question – scored for the first time proportionally at disclosure level. 	Understanding and disclosure of productive activities.

Module 2 – Governance

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
2.3	States and Regions only.	Disclosure & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Column 'Has this partnership/engagement been formalized?' added to scoring. 	Updated to align with questionnaire.
2.4	States and Regions only.	Disclosure & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Other entities collaborated with' column removed. 'Description of collaboration and any progress, if applicable' added. 	Updated to align with questionnaire.
2.6	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New question – scored for the first time proportionally at disclosure level. 	Disclosure of limiting factors on climate-related targets.
2.7	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New question – scored for the first time proportionally at disclosure level. 	Reporting on processes for monitoring, tracking and reporting progress.

Module 3 – Climate Risk and Vulnerability

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
3.2	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">'Proportion of the population exposed to the hazard' column removed.	Updated to align with questionnaire.

Module 4 – Emissions Inventory

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
4.1.1	Cities and States and Regions.	Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years required updated. 	Updated to reflect current reporting year.
4.1.2	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure, Awareness, Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoring methodology rephrased, but no change in criteria requirements. 	Updated to reflect table change in questionnaire.

Module 5 – Sectoral Data

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
5.1	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Latest year data applies to' added to scoring 2020 or later selected in column 'Latest year data applies to'. 	Ensure awareness of sectoral data year and ensure it is up to date.
5.5	Cities and States and Regions.	Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Years required updated. 	Updated to reflect current reporting year.
5.10	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Latest year data applies to' added to scoring. 2020 or later selected in column 'Latest year data applies to'. 	Ensure awareness of sectoral data year and ensure it is up to date.
5.11	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Latest year data applies to' added to scoring. 2020 or later selected in column 'Latest year data applies to'. 	Ensure awareness of sectoral data year and ensure it is up to date.

Module 6 – Targets: Adaptation Goals

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
6.1.1	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure, Awareness & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Column 'Description of metric/indicator used to track goal and evidence of implementation' has been split into 2 columns, thus scoring has been changed accordingly. Target year of goal updated. 	Updated to align with questionnaire. Target year updated to reflect current reporting year.

Module 7 – Targets: Mitigation

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
7.1.1	Cities and States and Regions.	Awareness, Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Conditional components' and 'carbon credits' columns removed from scoring. • 'Target status and progress made' and 'Has this target been formally adopted by your jurisdiction's highest decision-making body?' added to scoring. 	Updated to align with questionnaire.
7.1.2	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure & Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This question's focus has changed from carbon credits to residual emissions. Thus, the content of the scoring criteria has changed. 	Updated to align with questionnaire.

Module 8 – Targets: Climate and Nature

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level(s)	Change	Rationale
N/A	N/A	N/A	No changes	No changes

Module 9 – Planning

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
9.1.1	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure, Awareness, Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Primary framework used to develop plan' and 'Vulnerable population groups engaged' columns added. • 'Processes for monitoring evaluation and updates of plan' column removed. • Added scoring of 'plan status and progress'. 	Updated to align with questionnaire.

Module 10 – Actions

Question number	Cities/States and Regions	Scoring level	Change	Rationale
10.1	Cities and States and Regions.	Disclosure, Awareness, Management & Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.1 and 9.2 from 2025 have merged to become a more holistic question approach in 10.1 in 2026, merging adaptation and mitigation actions.• Please refer to the scoring methodology for a deeper understanding of how this question is now scored.	Updated to align with questionnaire.
