

CDP Cities High-Level Scoring Methodology 2025

CDP Cities Questionnaire



Version

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Contents

Introduction	3
1. Governance	4
2. Assessment – Climate Risk and Vulnerability	4
3. Assessment – Emissions Inventory	5
4. Assessment – Sectoral Data	6
5. Targets – Adaptation Goals	9
6. Targets – Mitigation Target	10
7. Targets – Sectors	11
8. Planning	12
9. Actions	13

Introduction

This document details the 2025 CDP Cities High-Level Scoring Methodology, and should be used in conjunction with the CDP Questionnaire & Reporting Guidance for 2025 as well as CDP's Scoring Introduction and other supporting documentation. It is strongly recommended to familiarise yourself with the contents of both the 2025 guidance and the CDP full Cities questionnaire before using the high-level scoring methodology.

This document provides the high-level scoring overview for each section of CDP's 2025 Cities questionnaire. Please see the CDP States and Regions Scoring Methodology 2025 for the full question-level breakdown.

Disclaimer

This scoring methodology is intended to provide guidance to cities in relation to how their response will be scored. 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.

1. Governance

Disclosure

- Provides the relevant information requested in this question or specified where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Demonstrates an awareness of the percentage range of jurisdiction area that is natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and/or marine ecosystem

Management

- At least 20% of the jurisdiction surface is natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and/or marine ecosystem.

Leadership

- This section is not assessed at Leadership level

2. Assessment – Climate Risk and Vulnerability

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- If a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment exists, any relevant details are provided
- Identifies any significant climate-related hazards
- If a significant climate hazard is identified, any relevant details are provided or where data is not available this has been specified
- Identifies any factors that affect the jurisdiction's ability to adapt to climate change
- If factors have been identified, any relevant details are provided

Awareness

Reporting a climate hazard is an essential criteria for Awareness.

- Has a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, or is planning to undertake one within the next two years
- If a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment exists, demonstrates an awareness of the factors covered by the assessment and the boundary of the assessment
- Demonstrates awareness of the vulnerable populations and sectors exposed to the identified significant climate-related hazards

- Demonstrates awareness of the factors that affect the jurisdiction's ability to adapt to climate change

Management

At least intending to undertake a climate risk and vulnerability assessment in the next two years in an essential criteria for Management.

- Has a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment that includes vulnerable populations
- Has established processes to update the assessment at least every five years, and to prioritize identified hazards

Leadership

Having a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment is an essential criteria for Leadership.

- Incorporates identified climate hazards into the overall risk management framework
- The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment considers a high emissions scenario
- The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment considers water security, nature or transition risks
- Provides a detailed description of at least one impact the climate hazards have on vulnerable populations and sectors

3. Assessment – Emissions Inventory

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of a community-wide emissions inventory
- If an inventory exists, any relevant details are provided or where data is not available this has been specified

Awareness

- Has an emissions inventory from the past six years, or is planning to undertake one in the next two years
- If an inventory exists:
 - It includes CO2 emissions and covers the jurisdiction boundary. If the inventory does not cover the jurisdiction boundary, an explanation is provided
 - The primary protocol/framework used to compile main inventory is reported

- The total of direct emissions, excluding the generation of grid-supplied energy, is reported

Management

Having a community-wide emissions inventory is an essential criteria for Management.

- Has a community-wide emissions inventory from the past five years which includes CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O gases
- Reports the total indirect emissions, excluding the generation of grid-supplied energy.

Leadership

- Has a community-wide emissions inventory from the past four years which includes the main Kyoto Protocol gases (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, NF₃)
- Reports total emissions occurring outside of the jurisdiction boundary as a result of in-jurisdiction activities

4. Assessment – Sectoral Data

Energy Assessment Data

Disclosure

- Provides relevant energy consumption information or specifies where they do not have data

Awareness

- This section is not assessed at Awareness level

Management

- This section is not assessed at Management level

Leadership

- This section is not assessed at Leadership level

Transport Data

Disclosure

- Provides the relevant information requested in this question or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Total mode share data for the jurisdiction reported is 100
- Year the passenger mode share data applies to is reported

Management

- The percentage of passenger mode share by walking, cycling, micromobility, bus, rail/tram/metro, ferries/river boats, taxis/shared vehicles and informal/paratransit/popular transit systems is at least 50%
- The year the passenger mode share data applies to is within the last 5 years

Leadership

- The percentage of passenger mode share by walking, cycling, micromobility, bus, rail/tram/metro, ferries/river boats, taxis/shared vehicles and informal/paratransit/popular transit systems is at least 60%
- The year the passenger mode share data applies to is within the last 4 years

Waste Data

Disclosure

- Provides the relevant information requested in this question or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Year the data applies to is provided for the total amount of solid waste generated (tonnes/year)

Management

- This section is not assessed at Management level

Leadership

- This level is not assessed at Leadership level

Public Health Data

Disclosure

- Provides the relevant information requested in this question or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Provides data/percentages on households with access to safely managed drinking water, households with access to safely managed sanitation services and average household water consumption

Management

- This section is not assessed at Management level

Leadership

- This level is not assessed at Leadership level

Food Data

Disclosure

- Provides the relevant information requested in this question or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Provides data/percentages on the proportion of the population that is food insecure and the proportion of the population that lives in a food desert

Management

- This section is not assessed at Management level

Leadership

- This level is not assessed at Leadership level

5. Targets – Adaptation Goals

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of any adaptation goals
- If a goal exists, provides the relevant information requested in these questions or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Has an adaptation goal, has already achieved an adaptation goal, or is planning to introduce a goal in the next two years
- If a goal exists, reports base and target years correctly, and the climate hazard that the goal addresses

Management

- Meets all awareness criteria

Leadership

Having an adaptation goal is an essential criteria for Leadership

- Has both short-medium term and long-term goals

- Describes how the jurisdiction uses metrics or indicators to monitor and evaluate progress against their adaptation goals

6. Targets – Mitigation Target

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of any mitigation targets
- If a target exists, provides the relevant information requested in these questions or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Reports the base year (if applicable), the year the target was established and the target year correctly
- The target covers at least the same boundary as the jurisdiction. If the target does not cover the jurisdiction boundary, an explanation is provided
- Specifies the emissions sources covered by the target
- If carbon credits are used, demonstrates awareness of the type of carbon credit, the verification standard and the percentage of target met using carbon credits (if applicable)
- Jurisdiction is intending to set a science-based target in the next two years
- Demonstrates awareness on whether the target is aligned with the Nationally Determined Contribution
- Demonstrates awareness on any conditional components of the target

Management

- Reports a mid-term target (2024 – 2031) if the jurisdiction has an ambitious long-term target and the target covers more emissions sources than only energy, only transport, or only waste
- Target covers CO2 emissions
- Reports that the target is considered science based, and specifies which methodology it aligns to
- The target is at least as ambitious as the Nationally Determined Contribution

Leadership

Having a fully reported mitigation target is an essential criteria for Leadership

Having EITHER a long-term net-zero target (by 2050) and a mid-term target that is aligned with a fair share of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, OR a net zero 2030 target, is an essential criteria for the A list. Guidance on science-based targets for cities can be found [here](#).

- Jurisdiction reports EITHER both a long-term net-zero target (by 2050) and a mid-term target that is aligned with a fair share of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, OR a net zero 2030 target
- Targets cover CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O
- If a net-zero target, jurisdiction specifies if residual emissions are expected
- If not a net-zero target, jurisdiction specifies it does not use carbon credits to meet the target.

7. Targets – Sectors

Disclosure

- Provides any details of climate-related targets or specifies that they do not have any targets

Awareness

- Reports the base year (if applicable), the year the target was established and the target year correctly
- The target covers at least the same boundary as the jurisdiction. If the target does not cover the jurisdiction boundary, an explanation is provided
- Specifies the emissions sources covered by the target
- If carbon credits are used, demonstrates awareness of the type of carbon credit, the verification standard and the percentage of target met using carbon credits (if applicable)
- Jurisdiction is intending to set a science-based target in the next two years
- Demonstrates awareness on whether the target is aligned with the Nationally Determined Contribution
- Demonstrates awareness on any conditional components of the target

Management

- The target covers at least the same boundary as the jurisdiction and is publicly available

Leadership

- An ambitious renewable energy target has been reported (unless >70% renewable electricity consumption has been reported in question 3.1)
- Reports a modal share transport target

8. Planning

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of a climate action plan or strategy
- If a climate action plan or strategy exists, any relevant details are provided

Awareness

Note: maximum points are available for jurisdictions with an integrated climate plan which addresses both mitigation AND adaptation, or jurisdictions with standalone plans addressing mitigation and adaptation separately

- Has a climate action plan or strategy, or is planning to undertake one in the next two years
- If a climate action plan or strategy exists:
 - The plan covers at least the same boundary as the jurisdiction. If the plan does not cover the jurisdiction boundary, an explanation is provided
 - Demonstrates that communities and organizations were engaged in the process of developing the plan
 - Reports the processes for either monitoring, evaluation, or updates
 - Identifies funding sources which were used to finance the plan or strategy

Management

Having an Adaptation Plan OR an Action plan is an essential criteria for Management.

Note: maximum points are available for jurisdictions with an integrated climate plan which addresses both mitigation AND adaptation, or jurisdictions with a standalone mitigation plan AND a standalone adaptation plan.

- Engages vulnerable populations and at least one other community/organization during the development of the plan
- The plan is updated and evaluated at least every five years, and information on the progress of the plan is publicly reported at least every five years

Leadership

Having an Adaptation Plan AND an Action Plan is an essential criteria for Leadership

Note: maximum points are available for jurisdictions with an integrated climate plan which addresses both mitigation AND adaptation, or jurisdictions with a standalone mitigation plan AND a standalone adaptation plan.

- Engages multiple communities and organizations including vulnerable populations, citizens, businesses and private sector and governments during the development of the plan
- The plan is evaluated at least every three years and information on the progress of the plan is publicly reported every three years

9. Actions

Adaptation

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of any adaptation actions
- If an adaptation action exists, jurisdiction provides the relevant information requested in these questions or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Demonstrates awareness of the actions being taken to reduce the jurisdiction's vulnerability from climate change impacts and the sectors that the adaptation actions applies to
- Identifies and provides details of any potential co-benefits of the action
- Identifies and provides details of any funding sources used to realize the action

Management

Reporting at least one adaptation action row AND one mitigation action row is an essential criteria for Management

- Reports the timeframe for which the increased resilience is expected to last

Leadership

- Demonstrates that all identified climate hazards are being addressed by adaptation actions
- Has at least one adaptation action which is expected to provide medium- or long-term resilience

Mitigation

Disclosure

- Reports on the status of any mitigation actions
- If a mitigation action exists, jurisdiction provides the relevant information requested in these questions or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- Identifies and provides details of any potential co-benefits of the action
- Identifies and provides details of any funding sources used to realize the action
- Provides details on the primary emissions sector addressed by the action and states how the jurisdiction measures the impact of the action

Management

Reporting at least one adaptation action row AND one mitigation action row is an essential criteria for Management.

- Reports actions which address two of the three high impact sectors of waste, transport, and energy
- Provides an estimate of the impact of the action, in terms of emissions or energy savings or renewable energy generation achieved in the reporting year

Leadership

- The mitigation action(s) are making progress towards the emissions reductions required to meet the mitigation targets detailed in question 6.1.1

Finance

Disclosure

- Provides the relevant information requested in the question or specifies where they do not have the data

Awareness

- This section is not assessed at Awareness level

Management

- This section is not assessed Management level

Leadership

- This section is not assessed at Leadership level