

# Your guide to SBTi's Corporate Net-Zero Standard V2.0 for carbon removals

June 2026

After over two years of stakeholder engagement, SBTi, the world's leading body for climate target setting, published on June 11, 2026 the revised carbon removal guidance in its **Corporate Net-Zero Standard V2.0**.

We've distilled the key takeaways for corporates with SBTi targets.



Formalization of three-phase approach to carbon removal



Removals en-route to net zero: three recognition levels introduced today



A new shared responsibility approach for compensation of Scope 3 emissions



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# SBTi V2.0: What it means for net-zero strategies

## What is new, in short

Across the standard we see greater **pragmatism**, whilst maintaining climate ambition. This is reflected in how carbon removals are approached and their position within corporate net-zero strategies. Combined with alignment with [ISO's net-zero standard](#), SBTi V2.0 establishes a **standardized expectation for integrating carbon removals in the near term**.

SBTi is also moving the needle on a crucial missing piece of guidance for carbon removals: **value chain collaboration**. The new principle of shared responsibility provides companies with new pathways for Scope 3 removals. For many organizations, this creates a more tangible and credible business case for investing in carbon removals.

## SBTi's three-phase approach to carbon removals

1

**Formalized in SBTi V2.0**

*(included in draft of Nov 2025)*

### Recognize leadership today

Companies that voluntarily address ongoing emissions are formally recognized, creating incentives for early investment and leadership.

2

**Formalized in SBTi V2.0**

*(included in draft of Nov 2025)*

### Scale up from 2035 en-route to net zero target year

A clear mid-term signal is introduced, requiring companies to begin ramping up carbon removals ahead of their net-zero year, reflecting an approach we have also seen being built into regulation.

3

**Already part of SBTi V1.3**

### Compensate for all emissions at net zero

Companies must neutralize all residual emissions at the net-zero target with long-lived removals.

SBTi also recommends companies with missed targets to retire removals equivalent to the overshoot.

“ SBTi's Net-Zero Standard v2.0 brings a **more pragmatic and structured approach to carbon removals**: recognizing early action today, signaling a scale-up to mandatory removals by 2035, and requiring full compensation at net zero.

Together with ISO alignment, this provides much-needed clarity for companies on how to **integrate carbon removals** into their strategies, while the new concept of **shared responsibility for Scope 3 removals** helps unlock broader value chain action. Alongside continued progress on supportive policy and compliance mechanisms, we see this new guidance as a **very positive step** to accelerate the scale-up of carbon removals. ”

Christoph Gebald  
CEO of Climeworks

# Two key changes CSOs need to be aware of

## 1 - Removals en-route to net zero

**The Recognition phase (today – 2035) includes carbon removals, alongside other eligible climate contributions.**

### Volume of emissions addressed

1% of ongoing emissions (Scopes 1-3)

10% of ongoing emissions (Scopes 1-3)

→ inc. 100% of Scopes 1-2

100% of ongoing emissions (Scopes 1-3)

### Compliance options

Set internal carbon price on emissions (min. \$20/tCO<sub>2</sub> recommended) & invest fund in eligible measures

OR

Retire carbon credits equivalent to emissions

Set internal carbon price on emissions (min. \$20/tCO<sub>2</sub> required) & invest fund in eligible measures

OR

Retire carbon credits equivalent to emissions

Set internal carbon price on emissions (min. \$80/tCO<sub>2</sub> required) & invest fund in eligible measures

AND

Ensure fund goes to carbon credits for at least 100% of ongoing emissions

Title

**Engaged**

**Advanced**

**Leadership**

## Mandatory phase (2035 onwards)

Companies will be required to compensate for a defined share of ongoing emissions. This includes:

- A minimum percentage of emissions to be addressed from 1% in 2035 to 100% at net-zero
- A required % ramp-up of long-lived removals from 10% in 2035 to 100% at net-zero

## 2 - A new model for compensation of Scope 3 emissions



Across both phases

SBTi V2.0 is also moving the needle on a crucial missing piece of guidance for carbon removals: value chain collaboration. The standard introduces new pathways for Scope 3 removals through **shared responsibility across the value chain.**

What companies are required to do:

- a. At least one party shall clearly assume coverage of the emissions.
- b. Companies shall submit a written agreement or contract describing how coverage is allocated

## Climeworks' recommendations

We believe that the amendments balance the challenges faced by companies in the current environment with the necessary scale-up of carbon removals needed to reach net-zero. Here is what CSOs should do differently in 2026:

- 1 **Choose the tier of recognition** that best fits your company's ambitions, budget and stakeholder expectations.
- 2 **Align your ongoing emissions responsibility framework with your broader sustainability strategy**, identifying key opportunities to complement
- 3 **Prepare for mandatory removal phases from 2035** by including a build up of removals within your framework
- 4 **Define a clear funding approach** and investment envelope for the defined carbon removals.
- 5 **Collaborate with your suppliers and customers** to share Scope 3 responsibility.

We are here to support our partners in navigating this new recognition of carbon removals and setting targets for the SBTi.

[↗ Contact our team of advisors](#)