

Cities Scoring FAQs

What will scores look like in 2020?

One overall letter score indicating the overall level of climate disclosure and performance as assessed by the information provided in the city response;

One Adaptation letter score indicating the level of climate disclosure and performance as assessed by the information provided in the city response to questions falling under Adaptation;

One Mitigation letter score indicating the level of climate disclosure and performance as assessed by the information provided in the city response to questions falling under Mitigation.

How can cities use their scores?

CDP encourages cities to use their scores as an indication of their performance across adaptation and mitigation, to understand where they might be able to focus resources and close gaps in their climate planning. Scores can also be used to track progress year on year, and allow cities to benchmark their performance against the average scores of other cities in the same region or of the same size.

What are the main changes in the scoring methodology for cities this year?

CDP Scoring has raised the bar on the 2020 scoring methodology in order to better align with the climate emergency we are facing. In particular, this means that the criteria to receive a score in Leadership has been tightened to highlight ambitious climate action. Although the 2020 methodology is a continuity of the 2019 methodology, these modifications may affect cities scores.

Which sections of the questionnaire are assessed for the Adaptation and Mitigation sub-scores?

Each section of the questionnaire falls into either Adaptation, Mitigation or both themes. Those sections which fall under “Adaptation” or “Both” themes are assessed to calculate the Adaptation sub-score. Those sections which fall under “Mitigation” or “Both” themes are assessed to calculate the Mitigation sub-score. See the table below to see which sections of the questionnaire are assessed in either the Adaptation or Mitigation sub-score.

Section of the Questionnaire	Inclusion in sub-scores
City details and governance	Both Adaptation & Mitigation
Climate hazards and vulnerability	Adaptation
Adaptation	Adaptation
City-wide emissions	Mitigation
Emissions reduction	Mitigation
Opportunities	Both Adaptation & Mitigation
Energy	Mitigation
Transport	Mitigation
Food	Mitigation
Waste	Mitigation
Water security	Adaptation

Which cities will receive a score in 2020?

Cities who submit the full Cities 2020 questionnaire by the scoring deadline will be scored.

Cities reporting using the shortened questionnaire are not scored, as this questionnaire does not provide a good representation of the level of action a city is taking to tackle climate change issues.

Are all the questions in the CDP questionnaire scored?

No, not all questions are scored. Almost all core CDP questions are scored, however, project specific questions, such as C40, ICLEI or WWF only questions are not scored.

Questions that appear only for Global Covenant cities are also not scored with the exception of question 4.6a. Question 4.6a is scored for Global Covenant cities in order to not exclude scoring Global Covenant cities who report their emissions sector and scope break down as per the Common Reporting Framework.

How can a city's score change from one year to the next?

Changes in the city response, missing data points and essential criteria are the three main reasons the score could be affected. One of the key areas that can have a significant impact on scoring is the essential criteria.

In order for a city to obtain a score in the Management or Leadership levels, they must have certain essential criteria. This means that regardless of the score, if a city does not meet the essential criteria then they cannot receive a score in Management or Leadership levels. The essential criteria are listed below:

- **Management essential criteria:** Cities must attach an adaptation plan in question 3.2a **or** attach an action plan in question 5.5a **and** have a city-wide GHG inventory.
- **Leadership essential criteria:** Cities must attach a vulnerability assessment in question 2.0b **and** attach an adaptation plan in question 3.2a **and** attach an action plan in question 5.5a **and** have a fully reported GHG emissions reduction target
- **A list essential criteria:** Cities must attach a city-wide inventory in question 4.5 **and** submit their response publicly in order to be in the A list.

How are scores published and used?

For cities who receive an A grade, CDP may make the city score public and publish it.

For cities who do not receive an A grade, CDP will only disclose the score to the city and to CDP group companies, companies that CDP licenses to operate using the CDP name and brand (for example, CDP North America, Inc, and CDP Europe AISBL), CDP reporting partners (including ICLEI, C40 and GCoM), research partners, report writers and scoring partners, in each case for use only within their organizations and not for publication.