



SCIENCE
BASED
TARGETS

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

SBTi AUTOMOTIVE STANDARD EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Version 1.0

May 2024

ABOUT SBTi

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is a corporate climate action organization that enables companies and financial institutions worldwide to play their part in combating the climate crisis.

We develop standards, tools and guidance which allow companies to set greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets in line with what is needed to keep global heating below catastrophic levels and reach net-zero by 2050 at latest.

The SBTi is incorporated as a charity, with a subsidiary which will host our target validation services. Our partners are CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, the We Mean Business Coalition, the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Change/update description	Release date	Effective dates
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Version for the SBTi Automotive Standard Expert Advisory Group Terms of Reference	May 29, 2024	May 29, 2024

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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

1. This document outlines the Terms of Reference for the SBTi Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the Automotive Standard Project. The project will be carried out according to the [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) for Development of SBTi Standards](#).
2. This document may undergo minor revisions, and thus the version provided to potential EAG members may differ from the version initially published.

ABOUT THE AUTOMOTIVE STANDARD PROJECT

3. The objective of this project is to develop a target-setting standard for the automotive sector, which would include revising or superseding existing guidance for the automotive sector currently contained in the [Land Transport Guidance](#). This will apply to producers of all newly manufactured road vehicles classified as: new light duty passenger vehicles, new light commercial vehicles, new medium freight trucks and new heavy freight trucks, as well as relevant companies in the value chain, such as auto part manufacturers. The Terms of Reference for Automotive Standard, can be found [here](#).
4. In preparation for the formal initiation of this project, the SBTi and its technical partner, the Smart Freight Centre (SFC), have undertaken limited research. The intention is that research will increase when the project officially commences.
5. The expected impact outcomes of this project are to develop an updated sector-specific target-setting standard and criteria for companies in the automotive sector by the development and publication of the following:
 - SBTi Automotive Standard.
 - 1.5°C aligned sector specific pathways.
 - Target-setting tool.
6. The scope of this sector project is to:
 - Enable a Sectoral Decarbonization Approach (SDA) that allows companies from the automotive sector to decarbonize in line with 1.5°C-aligned scenarios.
 - Transition from a target-setting guidance towards an Automotive Standard aligning with the most recent [SBTi Corporate Net-Zero Standard](#) and incorporating best available practices for the sector.
7. An estimated timeline of deliverables, milestones and meetings can be found in [Annex I](#) of this document.

PROJECT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND POLICY

8. This project will be developed through a transparent and inclusive multi-stakeholder process following the high-level governance structure described in this section. The SBTi will act as convening agent, drafting lead and project manager in this process.
9. The Automotive Standard project will be supported by the following bodies in SBTi's governance:
 - Project Team: This team includes staff from the SBTi and is accountable to the SBTi's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for project delivery.
 - Expert Advisory Group (EAG): This is an advisory group of volunteer experts, who could be independent or work for organizations that are relevant to the named project, set up to provide advice and input during the development of thematic or project-specific resources, and to bring an informed perspective from a stakeholder or interest group.
 - [Executive Leadership Team \(ELT\)](#): The ELT is responsible for designing and overseeing implementation of the SBTi's overall strategy, making day-to-day decisions for the initiative, and providing guidance and quality control. The Chief Technical Officer oversees and is accountable for the SBTi's technical developments.
 - [Technical Council \(TC\)](#): The SBTi TC is an independent deliberation and technical decision-making body, with delegated authority from the Board, to review and approve SBTi standards and other normative documentation, according to the Standard Operating Procedure for Development of SBTi Standards, and exclusively in the public interest.
 - [Board of Trustees](#): The Board approves SBTi strategy and work plan, appoints and oversees the TC, and adopts standards and other major technical decisions following deliberation from the TC.
 - The SBTi may also consult with its Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Scientific Advisory Group (SAG):
 - [Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#): This is a group of volunteer expert advisors from business, academia, government, non-profit and multilateral organizations. They provide expert advice from a practitioner's perspective throughout the development or revision of SBTi technical outputs (e.g. standards, guidance documents, etc.) for which a project-specific EAG has not been created.
 - [Scientific Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#): This is a group of volunteer expert advisors in climate change mitigation from the scientific community. They provide expert advice from a scientific perspective throughout the development or revision of the SBTi research papers, standards, methods and pathways.
10. The SBTi may also consult and engage with wider stakeholders through public consultation and other engagement mechanisms.
11. The SBTi's technical governance structure is detailed on the [SBTi website](#).

ABOUT THE ADVISORY GROUP

12. The SBTi creates thematic and/or project-specific Advisory Groups to provide advice on specific topics and development or revision of related resources based on the needs of the project. For example, to advise on specific topics within standards or development of sector-specific standards.
13. This Automotive Standard EAG will be a group of volunteer advisors with in-depth knowledge of global climate change mitigation and/or expertise in science-based target setting from a diversity of perspectives. It acts in an advisory capacity to the SBTi over the duration of the project.
14. Advisory Groups play an advisory and consultative role in the development of SBTi standards and other technical resources, rather than a decision-making role. Input from Advisory Group members is considered by the SBTi and governance bodies in the drafting and approval of these resources.
15. The Automotive Standard Project Team will manage logistics and engagement with the Advisory Group, with support where needed from the Technical Operations Team and/or the Technical Department.
16. Advisory Group members serve in their individual capacity as technical experts for the Automotive Standard Project Team. The Advisory Group contributes to the review of drafts and final deliverables prepared by the Project Team and provides input and advice on priority topics in a constructive manner.
17. Where necessary, additional external experts may be invited to thematic meetings to contribute to the discussion.

COMPOSITION

18. The Advisory Group members are experts in or represent one or more of the following areas:
 - Climate mitigation for corporations.
 - Corporate climate accounting.
 - Setting, implementing, and strategies to reduce GHG emissions in line with science.
 - Scope 3-related initiatives, including supplier engagement, supply chain management, circular economy, and life cycle assessment.
 - Measurement, reporting, and auditing related to climate.
 - Climate accountability from a civil society perspective.
 - Climate justice.
19. The Advisory Group includes expert representatives from business, academia, research, government, non-profit, civil society, and multilateral organizations. Ideally,

representatives of corporates taking part in the Advisory Group should be, at minimum, committed to setting science-based targets.¹

20. The composition of the Advisory Group should be gender equitable, reflect the viewpoints of different actors within the climate action ecosystem, including those directly affected (i.e. companies, financial institutions, or stakeholders in the sector or realm of project development) and, should be regionally balanced so that advice provided to the SBTi is inclusive, diverse and measured.
21. The following criteria as self-identified by the applicant will be applied when determining the composition of the group:
 - Gender diversity, using the 40:40:20 rule (40% female, 40% male and 20% flexible to any gender, including non-binary and other gender identities).
 - Organizational diversity, including representatives from corporates, financial institutions, academia, research, government, non-profit, civil society, impacted communities and multilateral organizations, to include:
 - A maximum of 50% representation from corporates and financial institutions (including consultancies).
 - A minimum of 20% representation from civil society / non-profit organizations.
 - Regional diversity, aiming for 30% representation from the Global South.²
22. Only one representative per organization is eligible to serve as a member of the Advisory Group at any given time. The SBTi may allow for more than one representative from a particular organization if within that organization there are wholly independent governance structures and the members represent separate bodies within these governance structures.
23. The SBTi shall use best endeavors to achieve balance and diversity amongst Advisory Group members, however, the work of the Advisory Group shall not be invalidated by its inability to achieve an optimum level of diversity.
24. Any consultancy providing paid support to the SBTi may not be represented on any SBTi Advisory Group.

APPOINTMENT

25. The SBTi will hold an open call for applications to join the Automotive Standard Expert Advisory Group. Candidates may be invited to apply for membership in an Advisory Group or may be selected through an open call for individuals with specific expertise on a topic.

¹ More information on the commitment process can be found at <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/step-by-step-process>.

² According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Global South broadly comprises Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia (excluding Israel, Japan, and South Korea), and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

26. The SBTi will inform members of the Technical Advisory Group and Scientific Advisory Group of the formation of Expert Advisory Groups and members of these groups may apply to participate.
27. Applications will be assessed through an evaluation of relevant qualifications and the needs of the SBTi Technical Department.
28. In addition to meeting desired composition metrics above, the criteria below will be used to evaluate all Advisory Group applications:
- Demonstrated technical competence and knowledge of climate mitigation: All members, regardless of whether they are practitioners, advocates, or academics, should have demonstrated a high level of knowledge and technical competence in climate mitigation, including a general understanding of climate science, carbon accounting, and science-based target setting. A broad base of skills, experience, and perspectives is needed; therefore, members may have backgrounds that reflect a diverse range of expertise and roles that are relevant to the mission of the SBTi.
 - Communication skills: Effective oral and written communication skills in English are necessary. Communication skills also include the ability to listen to and consider the views of others with an open mind and without prejudice and discrimination.
 - Awareness of the climate action landscape: Members should understand the climate action landscape in which the SBTi operates. This should include awareness of sustainability, climate mitigation, business and financial reporting issues that are relevant to the mission of the SBTi.
 - Awareness or experience in third-party standard setting and/or certification or verification schemes: Members should have a basic understanding or awareness of how formal standard-setting or validation occurs through third-party providers or be open to learning from those that do.
 - Ability to work in a collegial and collaborative atmosphere: Members should be able to show respect, tact, and consideration for one another's views and those of third parties.
 - Integrity, objectivity, and discipline: The credibility of members should be demonstrated through their integrity and objectivity. This includes intellectual integrity as well as integrity in dealing with fellow members of the Advisory Group and others.
 - Commitment to the SBTi's mission and public interest: Members should be committed to achieving the objective of the SBTi to drive ambitious climate action in the private sector. Members should also be committed to serving the public interest.
 - Experience and knowledge of the automotive industry: All members, regardless of whether they are practitioners, advocates, or academics, should have experience and practical knowledge of the automotive industry. This should include awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing the industry to develop a science-based target-setting sector specific pathway in line with 1.5°C.

29. As Advisory Group members serve in their individual capacity as experts, changes of members through the project duration are discouraged. Members shall not appoint delegates to carry out their functions as advisors. Ad hoc alternatives will only be considered in rare instances.
30. Members of the Advisory Group retain their position for the duration of the project, but can also voluntarily resign at any point by informing the SBTi and following the applicable requirements and measures below.
31. The SBTi retains the right to terminate membership of any Advisory Group member (e.g. due to breaching of the Advisory Group Code of Conduct, applicable SBTi policies or regulations, or any term in this document, project termination, etc.) with immediate effect. The SBTi will communicate the reason for termination to the member. If the member is not satisfied with the reason for termination, they have a right to raise a complaint to standardscomplaints@sciencebasedtargets.org.
32. In case of changes in the professional affiliation or termination of the membership, the following requirements and measures will apply:
 - Advisory Group members will inform the SBTi in writing if they would like to terminate their membership before the commitment period expires and with a notice period of 30 days. The member will be removed from SBTi communications and should be replaced by a new expert.
 - Advisory Group members that resign or are terminated during the commitment period will not be recognized in final deliverables.
33. If, throughout the duration of their membership, an Advisory Group member begins to provide formal support to the SBTi through a paid or pro-bono consultancy agreement, then they will be asked to resign and their membership shall be terminated.
34. The SBTi may supplement the Advisory Group with additional members during the development of the project.
35. The SBTi will inform the Advisory Group about the finalization of the project, and will notify the members of the conclusion of their appointment and the dissolution of the Advisory Group.

COMMITMENTS

36. In general, members are expected to:
 - Adhere to the SBTi Code of Conduct for Advisory Groups.
 - Actively participate and share technical expertise during conference calls.
 - Participate in all Automotive Standard Advisory Group meetings to ensure continuity and progress on the project of interest.
 - Dedicate the necessary time offline to review and contribute to drafts and outputs presented by the SBTi and its technical partners, which may include:
 - Target-setting methods.

- Sector specific standards and/or guidance.
 - Supplementary guidance documents.
 - Provide inputs in a constructive spirit, namely in improving clarity and scientific or technical accuracy.
 - Optionally participate in virtual and in-person events (e.g. workshops, launch events, etc.).
37. Commitment for Advisory Group activities include:
- Estimated six conference calls over the course of the project (60-120 minutes each), with optional participation in additional conference calls in sub-groups or round tables as needed.
 - Estimated commitment of 6 days per year.
38. The SBTi will provide periodic updates of the project to the Advisory Group and define the topics to be covered in each meeting in advance.

Meetings

39. The SBTi will endeavor to arrange meetings with sufficient notice and hold meetings at a reasonable time of day so that as many members are able to attend as possible. If Advisory Group members cover a wide range of time zones, the SBTi may repeat Advisory Group meetings.
40. Members that are unable to attend Advisory Group meetings should inform the SBTi in advance. Members found to repeatedly miss Advisory Group meetings without informing the SBTi may be terminated, based on a “three strikes policy”, i.e. if the member does not inform the SBTi three times that they are unable to make the meetings, the SBTi may terminate their membership.
41. Members shall not appoint delegates to attend meetings on their behalf nor share invitation links. However, in rare instances and subject to explicit mutual consent, the SBTi may allow an alternative from the same organization with a similar profile to attend as an observer.
42. The SBTi will aim to provide preparatory materials at least 5 working days in advance of meetings. Members should review information provided in advance of meetings to prepare their contribution to the discussion.
43. The meetings shall be held in confidence, meaning that any information shared or views expressed cannot be shared externally, even if not attributed to an individual.
44. The SBTi will take notes during calls, and promptly create and distribute meeting minutes for review. Meetings may be recorded by the SBTi for minute taking only, after which time they will be deleted. Members of the Advisory Group shall not record and/or distribute calls.
45. Members are expected to contribute to follow-up actions after meetings as agreed upon or specified in the meeting minutes. Between meetings, email consultations

may occur for urgent matters that cannot wait until the next formal Advisory Group meeting.

Antitrust

46. Members shall not engage in any discussion, activity or conduct that may infringe on any local or international antitrust or competition law. For example, the following shall not be discussed during any meeting of the Advisory Group:
- Current or future prices, pricing strategies, or price related information.
 - Output, capacity, inventory levels, or costs.
 - Data related to market share.
 - Current or future marketing strategies.

Confidentiality

47. Members shall not distribute materials to any person in advance of publication without explicit written permission of the SBTi. Members agree to treat as confidential any information provided to them by the SBTi while participating in the Advisory Group unless otherwise stated.

Ethical Responsibility

48. Members shall strive to meet the highest standards of ethics and integrity in all aspects of their provision of services, including in conducting matters of the Advisory Group individually and collectively. Members shall not engage in any activities that involve negligence, intentional misrepresentation, competition, or willful wrongdoing that could harm the interests, reputation, or objectives of the SBTi.

Language

49. All written and oral communication, including but not limited to meetings, emails, and discussions, shall be conducted in the English language. The SBTi may arrange for the provision of interpreters for meetings or translations of documents upon request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND REMUNERATION

50. Being a member of the Advisory Group is a voluntary, part-time position and Advisory Group members do not receive any financial remuneration.
51. Advisory Group members shall consent to the use of their name in relation to the Advisory Group, but not for any additional purpose.
52. Funding or services (e.g. consultancy) provided to the SBTi by Advisory Group members' affiliated organizations does not confer any special status in the Advisory Group, project governance, or oblige the funding organization to participate in the Advisory Group.

53. Members are free to publicly communicate about their involvement in the Advisory Group, including on social media (e.g. LinkedIn), but shall respect all confidentiality and ethical responsibility requirements. Once membership is completed on a project, information must be updated accordingly.
54. For those participating in in-person workshops, travel costs shall be covered by the Advisory Group members' own budget.

COMMUNICATIONS

55. Advisory Group members must follow the [SBTi Communication Guidelines](#) and applicable Social Media Policy at all times.
56. Advisory Group members and the SBTi shall use the following wording when communicating about membership and will not portray or imply any other association or collaboration between the member and the SBTi:
- *Member of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the Automotive Standard OR*
 - *"[Member name] participates in the Science Based Targets initiative's (SBTi) Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the development of the Automotive Standard . The Advisory Group has an advisory role only, and decisions on final technical resources will be made by the Technical Council or the Board of Trustees of the SBTi."*
57. In circumstances in which a full description of the Advisory Group is required, Advisory Group members shall use the following wording:
- *The Automotive Standard EAG is a group of volunteer advisors with in-depth knowledge of global climate change mitigation and/or expertise in science-based target setting from a diversity of perspectives that acts in an advisory capacity to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) over the duration of the project.*
58. Membership of the Advisory Group does not constitute being an SBTi employee. Members must not describe themselves as such or use terms which could be interpreted as implying that they are an SBTi employee or represent the SBTi.
59. Advisory Group members are not expected to comment publicly on the work of the Advisory Group or act as an SBTi spokesperson on behalf of the Advisory Group as a whole or other members.
60. Any media/journalist enquiries about the work of the Advisory Group should be forwarded to and managed via the SBTi Communications Department (communications@sciencebasedtargets.org).
61. Advisory Group members are selected for their expertise and independence of thought, so it is recognized that they may undertake media or public speaking

appearances or comment publicly about broader topics which are not directly related to the work of the SBTi.

DECISION-MAKING

62. The SBTi Project Team retains the authority to make decisions to advance project execution and deliverables in line with relevant SBTi Standard Operating Procedures.
63. General input, advice, agreement and contentious issues shall be recorded, and main opposing views and rationales noted.
64. Should there be breaches of SBTi applicable policies or codes of conduct, the SBTi reserves the right to involve staff from compliance and legal to assess and respond to them.
65. The decision over and approval and adoption of final decisions and deliverables rests solely with the SBTi's Technical Council and Board of Trustees.

ANNEX I: ESTIMATED TIMELINE OF DELIVERABLES, MILESTONES AND MEETINGS³

The timeline presented here is subject to change.

TIME	KEY MILESTONES
Month 1	Selection of EAG members
Month 2	1 st EAG meeting (welcome, explanation of 1.5°C project scope and feedback on project plans)
Month 3	2 nd EAG meeting (first detailed EAG discussion)
Month 5	3 rd EAG meeting (EAG to provide feedback on the first draft of the standard)
Month 8	4 th EAG meeting (present and align draft 2.0 before public consultation)
Month 8/9	Draft standard review by Technical Council
Month 9-10	Public consultation (60 days)
Month 11	5 th EAG meeting (summarize findings from consultation, address relevant points needing resolution and agree approach for finalization)
Month 12	Public consultation (45 Days)
Month 13	6 th EAG meeting (the SBTi to present the final draft and get feedback before finalization)
Month 14	Technical Council Approval; and Board Adoption
Month 14 / 15	Final EAG meeting to discuss communications, dissemination, and next steps Launch of final products and agreement of next steps

³ This timeline is approximate.



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