What Does 1.5ºC-Aligned Lobbying Look Like?

Supplementary Guidance for the Global Standard on Responsible Climate Lobbying

April 2025

Introduction

The Global Standard on Responsible Climate Lobbying ('Global Standard') requires corporate climate lobbying to be "consistent with the goal of restricting global temperature rise to 1.5ºC above pre-industrial levels" (Indicator 6) and for companies to annually publish a detailed review assessing the alignment of their climate lobbying with that goal (Indicator 9). This guidance will support companies in determining what 1.5°C-aligned policy positions and lobbying looks like, with examples of aligned and misaligned lobbying across different sectors[1].

Science-Aligned Climate Policy for 1.5°C

Science-aligned climate policy defines policy pathways that are aligned with the global scientific consensus on what is required to deliver the Paris Agreement's target of limiting global temperature rise to as close to 1.5°C as possible.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which synthesizes the latest scientific research and identifies areas of agreement across a range of climate-related policy topics, can be considered the definitive resource for science-aligned climate policy. The IPCC uses scenarios and emission pathways to explore future climate change trajectories and the related effectiveness of different mitigation efforts. Following a consensus-driven process for developing and selecting findings that relate to areas of agreement amongst scenarios that achieve Paris-aligned temperature goals, the IPCC's research provides a framework to understand which policy decisions and technology pathways align with these goals. Other authoritative resources which can provide useful supplementary guidance include the International Energy Association (IEA), whose 31 member countries and 13 association countries represent 80% of global energy consumption.

[1] *While most expert analysis indicates that we have missed the opportunity to restrict global temperature rise to 1.5°C, pursuing efforts towards it remains the goal of the Paris Agreement and these efforts will limit the negative impacts of climate change on people and planet.*

Transition Planning

The Global Standard highlights the need for companies to disclose forward-looking positions on the future policy pathways required to deliver its transition strategy (Indicator 14). Transition plans are a crucial tool to align a company's entire business model with a net zero pathway and provide a key opportunity for an entity to develop a forward-looking plan that aligns its future policy advocacy positions with net zero goals. Entities will first need to understand which 1.5°C-aligned policy changes are required to make their transition to net zero viable, before identifying how they can advocate to make those policies a reality. The benchmarks above can support this exercise.

The Transition Plan Taskforce Disclosure Framework, the gold standard for transition plans, requires information on "current *and planned* engagement with government, public sector and communities", with reference to direct and indirect lobbying through industry associations.

Science-Aligned Climate Policy Engagement

"Science-aligned climate policy engagement" refers to instances in which an entity's positions on and efforts to influence climate-related government policy align with the global scientific consensus on what needs to happen to deliver the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. To assess whether companies are supporting or opposing science-aligned climate policy, InfluenceMap's LobbyMap platform uses a system of science-based and government policy benchmarks

Science-Based Benchmarks

InfluenceMap has developed and made publicly available a set of science-based benchmarks using IPCC guidance, which can be used to check whether an entity's policy positions are consistent with 1.5°C aligned climate policies. The benchmarks currently fall into two categories:

- Technology-focused benchmarks overview the IPCC's analysis of the likely role of a range of different technologies and energy types, including fossil fuels and renewable energy, that may (or may not) be needed for transitioning the economy in line with 1.5°C consistent pathways.
- Sector-focused benchmarks summarize the IPCC's analysis on the timelines and technologies required to transition key climate-relevant sectors (currently limited to transportation), in line with 1.5°C consistent pathways.

Examples of Aligned and Misaligned Climate Policy Engagement

Autos

Benchmark: The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance on road transport identifies a need to phase out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and transition towards electrification (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Chapter 10, Section 10.4.1).

Aligned	Misaligned
The Electric Vehicle Council called for clear policy signals and significant investment across the electric vehicle (EV) value chain in Australia, to accelerate the clean energy transition, while also advocating for an ambitious National Electric Vehicle Strategy that sets targets for EV sales. Stellantis strongly supported the EU's CO2 2025 standards for light-duty vehicles by opposing any delay, or weakening, of the standards.	Toyota advocated for policymakers to oppose an ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicle ban and a 40% electric vehicle (EV) fleet target for 2035 in New Zealand. FuelsEurope advocated for a long-term role for ICE-powered light-duty vehicles over rapid electrification, emphasizing challenges surrounding the economic feasibility of a transition towards electric vehicles.

Aviation

Benchmark: The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance acknowledges that aviation is a hard-to-abate sector and decarbonization options still require research and development. It recognizes the need to transition to bio-based sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) in the short-term, alongside other alternative fuels in the decarbonization of aviation in the medium to long term, including synthetic fuels, electric power, and hydrogen power, while recognising the current technological limitations (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Chapter 10). The IPCC also acknowledges the need for demand reduction in aviation (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Chapter 5) due to the lack of viable decarbonization technologies, as well as a transition to alternative lower-carbon forms of transport.

Aligned	Misaligned
EasyJet supported specific regulatory measures to promote a transition to hydrogen-powered aircraft. Wizz Air supported extending the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) to all international flights.	Delta Air Lines advocated in favour of a long-term role for kerosene. Ryanair opposed a passenger flight cap at Dublin Airport.

Mining

Benchmark: The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance on mining, while not addressed in a dedicated section, touches on the need to decarbonize the mining sector by electrifying their energy supply, and transitioning to low- or zero-carbon fuels like hydrogen, ammonia, or biofuels in their operations (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Chapter 11).

Aligned	Misaligned
Fortescue Metals Group advocated to policymakers in support of Australia's Electricity and Energy Sector Plan. The company called for a rapid phase out of fossil fuels, supported regulatory measures to increase renewable deployment, and called for Australia's Hydrogen Headstart Program and hydrogen production credits to be expanded to support green hydrogen development. Teck Resources advocated in support of tax credits for critical mineral supply chains used to meet projected renewable technology demand in Canada, while also calling for government to support the decarbonization of critical mineral supply chains.	Glencore advocated to policymakers that the Australian Climate Change Authority's proposed emissions target of 65-75% by 2035 is overly ambitious. The company emphasized concerns around technological and economic readiness and capacity, and that the target should be more realistic. Whitehaven Coal advocated to policymakers for reforms to Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill to be simplified in order to support new fossil fuel projects, including coal mining.

Energy

Benchmark: The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance on the transition of the energy mix highlights the need for a significant reduction in fossil fuel use, with only a limited and targeted role for fossil gas with carbon capture and storage (CCS) (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Chapter 6), alongside an increasingly dominant role for renewables in the 2050 energy mix (IPCC, SR15, 2018, Chapter 2, Executive Summary). These pathways require the removal of fossil fuel subsidies, early retirements of oil and gas assets, reduced use of existing infrastructure, and a shift in energy investments away from fossil fuels and toward renewable and low-carbon technologies (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Technical Summary).

Aligned	Misaligned
Ørsted supported a steep ramp up in the role for renewables in the global energy mix between 2020 and 2050 in line with IPCC guidance The Clean Energy Council supported the acceleration of growth in the renewables sector and advocated for renewables backed with storage to replace fossil fuels.	ConocoPhillips advocated for the repeal of the US government's restrictions on permits for liquified natural gas (LNG) export facilities. Saudi Aramco advocated against the transition of the energy mix, opposing the phase out of oil and gas to support demand growth in the global south.

Steel

Benchmark: The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance on the decarbonization of steel production recognizes the need for a transition from GHG emissions-intensive steel production such as blast furnace steelmaking to various technological options available for achieving very low to zero emissions in the steel industry, including renewable hydrogen and electrification.

Aligned	Misaligned
Fortescue Metals Group supported government investment under the Future Made in Australia Bill to increase the development and production of green hydrogen to decarbonize the iron and steel industry. SSAB broadly supported fossil-free steel, seemingly advocating for an official definition of green steel that is fossil-free and avoids greenwashing.	The Japan Iron and Steel Federation advocated for tax exemptions for coking coal used in steel production. Nippon Steel promoted a long-term role for coking coal in blast furnace steel production, appearing to support CCU/CCS technologies as long-term solutions for emissions reductions without specifying a need to transition away from carbon-intensive production methods.

Consumer staples

Benchmark: Emissions from the consumer goods sector mainly originate from land-use and waste from the production of packaging, making circular economy and agriculture key climate policy areas for consumer goods companies. There are a variety of tools that the IPCC highlights that can be used to improve land-use efficiency, including transitioning consumer habits (especially diets), and the sustainable intensification of agricultural practices. Additionally, the IPCC highlights the importance of the waste hierarchy to tackle GHG emissions from waste in its 2014 Synthesis Report (AR5), stating that "important options for mitigation in waste management are waste reduction, followed by re-use, recycling and energy recovery (robust evidence, high agreement)".

Aligned	Misaligned
Unilever strongly supported a range of policy levers to transition diets and consumption patterns in line with the EU Farm to Fork Strategy. A coalition of consumer staples companies, including Colgate-Palmolive, Danone, Nestlé, and PepsiCo supported taking action across the entire plastics value chain in line with the waste hierarchy under the UN Global Plastics Treaty, calling for upstream solutions, such as elimination of problematic plastic materials and chemicals of concern, better product design, and scaling of reuse and refill systems.	Copa-Cogeca opposed recycled content targets, reuse and refill measures, as well as a ban on single use packaging under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation. Arla Foods did not support policy to transition consumer diets, such as the EU Farm to Fork policy, emphasizing food security and costs. The company was also unsupportive of taxing livestock. .

Utilities

Benchmark: The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance on the decarbonization of the power sector emphasizes the need for rapid decarbonization and the importance of accelerating the uptake of clean energy technologies in stating that "models continuously underestimate the speed at which renewables and storage expand" (IPCC AR6 WG3, Chapter 4). Similarly, the *Summary for Policymakers* report stated, with high confidence, that net-zero CO_2 energy systems require "electricity systems that emit no net CO_2," and a rapid transition away from coal, oil, and fossil gas to avoid stranded assets by 2030 and midcentury, respectively.

Aligned	Misaligned

Iberdrola supported a science-aligned definition of low-carbon hydrogen in the EU Hydrogen and Gas Decarbonization Package Delegated Act, which takes into account full lifecycle emissions and introduces leakage monitoring and strict performance standards for carbon capture and storage (CCS). SSE supported the urgent decarbonization of the power sector, advocating for the removal of fossil fuel subsidies and supporting policy measures to transition towards zero-carbon technologies and fully decarbonize electricity generation.	American Electric Power advocated for new fossil gas-fired power plants and a continued role for coal in the power sector, stating in its 2024 Sustainability Report that these fuels "will provide a bridge to net-zero by protecting grid reliability and affordability for customers." Utilities including Duke Energy, Vistra, and PPL Corp subsidiaries LG&E/KU urged the Administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rescind the finalized carbon standards for existing coal and new gas power plants, stating that it would "force premature coal plant retirements" by setting emissions standards for coal plants beginning in 2032.

Chemicals

Benchmark: Emissions from the chemical sector mainly originate from combustion of fossil fuels for energy use and chemical processes using fossil fuels as feedstocks. The IPCC's 1.5°C-aligned guidance on the decarbonization of the chemical sector recognizes the need to switch from fossil fuels to low- or zero-GHG emission energy carriers and feedstocks, electrification of the chemical process, or combining support for low/zero-GHG feedstocks in combination with carbon capture and storage (CCS) for the remaining CO2 emitted in the production process (IPCC AR6 WGIII, April 2022, Chapter 11).

Aligned	Misaligned
Cefic supported the upscale of carbon capture utilization and/or storage (CCU/S) for hard-to-abate sectors only and for CCU to be used as feedstock through the EU Industrial Carbon Management policy.	Air Liquide advocated to weaken the US Inflation Reduction Act's clean hydrogen tax credit by advocating for a prominent role for fossil gas as a feedstock for hydrogen production. BASF did not support the EU Renewable Energy Directive review, criticizing the policy's technology-specific approach and its stringent conditions around the production of hydrogen.