ESG Rating Methodology and Governance Disclosure

The Climate Transition Assessment

July 2026

aberdeeninvestments.com

This disclosure is provided in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2024/3005 (the EU ESG Ratings Regulation) and has been prepared having regard to the disclosure requirements set out in Annex III, point 1 to that Regulation.

The Climate Transition Assessment is Aberdeen Investments' proprietary framework for assessing how companies manage the environmental impacts, risks and opportunities associated with the low-carbon energy transition.

The Climate Transition Assessment is developed and overseen by the Aberdeen Investments Sustainable Investment Team and is used to support investment analysis, fund oversight and sustainability profiling for companies in listed markets.

The Climate Transition Assessment is not marketed or sold as a standalone commercial ESG rating and does not represent a regulatory classification or external sustainability label. This disclosure applies solely to the Climate Transition Assessment methodology for companies and assets, used as a standalone climate assessment and is extended to other ESG tools and scores such as the Aberdeen Investments Overall Sustainability Assessment.

Rating Product Disclosures

1. 1(f) information on the ESG rating's clearly defined objective and marking whether the rating is assessing risks, impacts, or both, according to the double materiality principle, or any other dimensions, and in the case of double materiality the proportion of the risk and impact materiality;

The objective of the Climate Transition Assessment is to assess how companies or assets are positioned against a low-carbon energy transition. Informed by the Institutional Investor Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) Net-Zero Investment Framework (NZIF) asset level implementation guidance.

The Climate Transition Assessment forms part of a broader double materiality framework when combined with financial materiality assessments conducted by the Aberdeen Investments' equity and credit investment teams. Although the Climate Transition Assessment is an impact-focussed ESG rating, elements of the qualitative assessment may consider financial risks (e.g. where a company's ability to deliver on its strategy or capex plan is constrained), however these are used solely as inputs and do not form part of the rating output, which remains impact-focused.

2. 1(g) the ESG rating's scope, namely, whether it covers an individual E, S, or G factor or whether it is an aggregated rating aggregating E, S and G factors, or whether it covers specific issues such as transition risks;

The Climate Transition Assessment is an ESG rating focused on environmental (E) factors only, specifically climate transition risks, and does not assess social (S) or governance (G) factors. The rating covers key climate related issues, including emissions performance and disclosure, decarbonisation strategy, transition planning and targets, and capital allocation alignment.

These are assessed across six criteria:

1. Net-Zero Ambition
2. Interim Decarbonisation Targets
3. Emissions Disclosure
4. Decarbonisation Strategy
5. Capex Allocation
6. Emissions Performance

The final assessment produces 5 possible outputs:

1. Insufficient Data
2. Not Aligned
3. Committed
4. Aligning
5. Aligned

Results are reviewed regularly, and the Sustainable Investment Team may apply qualitative adjustments where appropriate to reflect company-specific circumstances or recent developments.

3. 1(h) in the case of an aggregated ESG rating, the weighting of the three overarching E, S and G categories of factors (for example 33 % for the E factor, 33 % for the S factor, 33 % for the G factor), and the explanation of the weighting method, including weight per individual E, S and G category;

The Climate Transition Assessment does not constitute an aggregated ESG rating and does not apply fixed numerical weights to Environmental, Social or Governance factors. Instead, as an environmental (E) focussed assessment, predefined logical rules are applied across the six criteria to determine the overall Climate Transition Assessment result. Social and governance factors may be considered only where they are relevant to the assessment of climate transition risks and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Climate Transition Assessment Result[1]	Criteria
Insufficient Data	Insufficient data to produce any result
Not Aligned	Evidence of no Net-Zero Ambition
Committed	1
Aligning	1, 2, 3
Aligned	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

* The Climate Transition Assessment result reflects a company's progress within a low-carbon energy transition.

The scoring criteria applies the following key principles:

- Companies without any evidence of a net-zero ambition, either via targets or business models that support a low-carbon energy transition are deemed Not Aligned even when achieving other criteria.

Climate Transition Assessment outcomes are used as analytical inputs within Aberdeen Investments' broader investment and oversight processes, taking into account the objectives and constraints of individual funds. The Climate Transition Assessment does not constitute investment advice or a standalone investment recommendation.

4. 1(i) within the E, S or G factors, specification of the topics covered by the ESG rating, and whether they correspond to the topics from the sustainability reporting standards developed pursuant to Article 29b of Directive 2013/34/EU;

The Climate Transition Assessment assesses the environmental topic of climate transition, including net-zero ambition, emissions performance and disclosure, decarbonisation strategy, transition planning and targets, and capital (capex) allocation alignment

These topics partially align with sustainability reporting standards developed under Article 29b of Directive 2013/34/EU; however, a formal one-to-one mapping is not applied.

5. 1(j) information on whether the rating is expressed in absolute or relative value;

The assessment is expressed on an absolute basis.

6. 1(o) if an ESG rating of a rated item covers the E factor, information on whether that rating takes into account the targets and objectives of the Paris Agreement or any other relevant international agreements;

The Climate Transition Assessments explicitly consider alignment with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including net-zero ambition, interim targets, emissions disclosure, decarbonisation strategy, capital (capex) allocation alignment and emissions performance.

7. 1(p) if an ESG rating of a rated item covers the S and G factors, information on whether that rating takes into account any relevant international agreements;

Social and governance factors are not explicitly assessed systematically in the Climate Transition Assessment. Should a social or governance factor be deemed to impact the credibility of one of the six criteria it may be considered on a case-by-case basis if qualitative adjustments are made when deemed appropriate.

General Methodological Disclosures

8. 1(a) Overview of the rating methodologies used and changes thereto, including whether analysis is backward-looking or forward-looking and the time horizon covered

The Climate Transition Assessment is Aberdeen Investments' proprietary framework for assessing how companies manage the environmental impacts, risks and opportunities associated with the low-carbon energy transition.

The Climate Transition Assessment methodology assesses six criteria to produce a single result, the methodology incorporates:

No.	Criteria	Backward or Forward-Looking
1	Net-Zero Ambition	Forward-Looking
2	Interim Decarbonisation Targets	Forward-Looking
3	Emissions Disclosure	Backward-Looking
4	Decarbonisation Strategy	Forward-Looking
5	Capital (Capex) Allocation	Forward-Looking
6	Emissions Performance	Backward-Looking

- We consider backward-looking analysis to reflect company disclosure of historical emissions
- We consider forward-looking analysis to reflect company targets, strategy, existing or planned capex intended to produce a future outcome.

The time horizon covered for assessing net-zero ambition and targets can extend out to 2050 and beyond. The Climate Transition Assessment is reviewed by the Sustainable Investments Team at least every 18 months, however this may be reviewed on an ad hoc basis in response to any material changes which may affect the outcome. Data inputs are subject to internal validation, review and governance processes to support the quality and reliability of the assessment.

9. 1(b) Industry classification used

The Climate Transition Assessment does not rely on a single prescribed industry classification framework. When the Sustainable Investment Team may apply qualitative adjustments where appropriate to reflect company-specific circumstances or recent developments industry classifications will be considered.

Companies are assigned to industries using established third party classification systems to support analysis and qualitative adjustments:

- Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) sub-industry classification
- Bloomberg industry classification

Further documentation on these classifications is available at **www.msci.com** and **www.bloomberg.com.**

10. 1(c) an overview of data sources, including whether data is sourced from sustainability statements required under Directive 2013/34/EU [the EU framework for preparing financial statements] or from information disclosed under Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 [SFDR] and whether sources are public or non-public, and an overview of data processes, estimation of input data in case of unavailability and frequency of data updates;

The Climate Transition Assessment methodology relies on a combination of publicly disclosed information (including sustainability statements under Directive 2013/24/EU and SFDR disclosures under Regulation (EU) 2019/2088) and third-party data providers.

Primary third-party data sources include MSCI ESG Research, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and Climate Action 100+. These providers supply climate targets, emissions data, green revenue, climate strategy and capex.

Additional publicly available datasets may be used where relevant, although such sources are not material to the rating outcome.

Data may be subject to estimation where unavailable; the approach to estimation and frequency of updates is described below.

Where data is incomplete:

- A company or asset may receive a result of Insufficient Data
- Manual qualitative assessments may be applied by the Sustainable Investment Team.

Third-party data is updated in line with providers' review cycles. Internally adjusted or manually input scores are typically reviewed at least every 18 months or following material developments.

11. 1(e) information on whether and how the rating methodologies are based on scientific evidence;

The Climate Transition Assessment is informed by the IIGCC Net-Zero Investment Framework, an internationally recognised research, standards and framework.

Guidance from the IIGCC Net-Zero Investment Framework informs the criteria against which companies and assets are assessed, the design of indicators and determination of assessment thresholds. The result produced represents analytical judgement rather than outputs derived from a scientific model.

12. 1(k) where applicable, reference to the use of artificial intelligence in the data collection or rating process including information about current limitations and risks of using artificial intelligence;

Third-party data providers used within the Climate Transition Assessment may employ artificial intelligence and automated techniques to collect and process sustainability-related information from public disclosures.

Within Aberdeen Investments, AI-enabled tools may be used to support research and information gathering. Artificial intelligence is not used to make decisions, assign scores or determine Climate Transition Assessment results. Assessments are subject to human analysis, review and oversight by the Sustainable Investment Team.

Limitations in Data Sources, Methodologies and Information

13. 1(m) any limitation in data sources and methodologies used for the construction of ESG Ratings;

Sustainability assessments are subject to inherent limitations, including differences in data availability, timeliness, quality and inconsistency across sectors, jurisdictions and issue areas.

Where data is unavailable or potentially erroneous, qualitative judgement may be applied. Sustainability assessments should therefore be interpreted as analytical views at a given point in time and may be revised as data and disclosure practices evolve.

14. 1(q) any limitation on the information available to ESG rating providers.

The Climate Transition Assessment relies on information that is publicly disclosed or otherwise reasonably accessible. Disclosures may be incomplete, prepared using different methodologies or subject to reporting delays. Data availability may also vary by jurisdiction, affecting comparability across regions.

Organisational Disclosures

15. 1(d) the ownership structure of the ESG rating provider;

Aberdeen Investments is the global investment management business of the Aberdeen Group and is not a standalone legal entity, but a business name and trading identity used by regulated investment management entities within the Group. The ultimate parent undertaking is Aberdeen Group plc, a United Kingdom-incorporated public limited company with its registered office at 1 George Street, Edinburgh, which provides group-level governance, strategic direction and oversight.

Aberdeen Group operates through three principal businesses: Investments (operated under the Aberdeen Investments brand), Adviser and interactive investor. The investments business is delivered through regulated subsidiary entities operating in multiple jurisdictions, all of which are wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by Aberdeen Group plc and subject to local regulatory supervision.

Group-wide governance frameworks apply across Aberdeen Investments, while day-to-day responsibility for investment activities and internal analytical tools rests with dedicated teams within the relevant regulated entities.

16. 1(l) general information on criteria used for establishing fees charged to clients, specifying the various elements taken into consideration, and general information on the business/payment model;

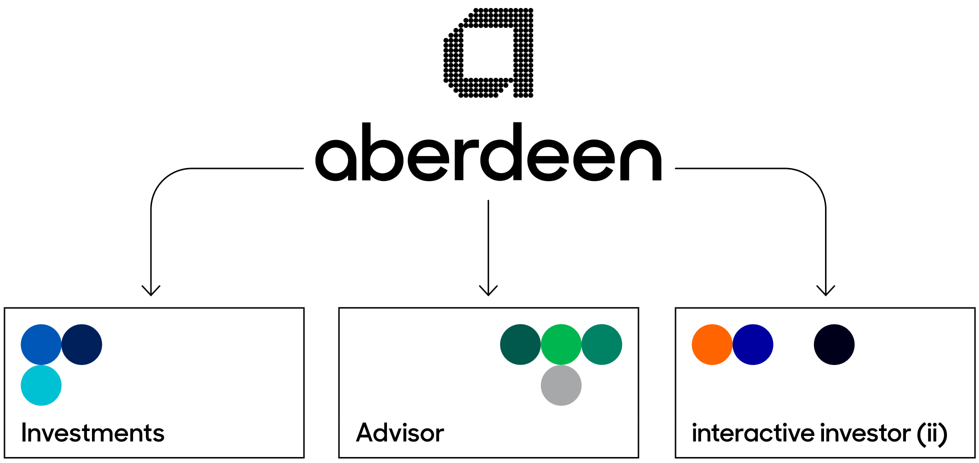
The Climate Transition Assessment is an internal analytical framework. It is not offered as a paid, standalone ESG rating service, and rated companies do not pay for assessment.

17. 1(n) the main risks of conflicts of interest and the steps taken to mitigate them;

In the context of the Climate Transition Assessment, potential conflicts of interest may arise from the Climate Transition Assessment being produced within a diversified asset management group that also undertakes investment management and product-related activities.

These risks are mitigated through organisational separation between the Sustainable Investment Team and investment functions, and group-wide policies on conflicts of interest and business conduct, which are published on Aberdeen Investments' website and apply to the Climate Transition Assessment.

Further information on relevant policies and governance arrangements is available at: **Document Library | Aberdeen Investments.**



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