

Sustainable Business Council – Member Review

FAQs

What is member review and how does it work?

When organisations join SBC as full members, they agree to meet SBC’s member commitments over time.

The SBC Member Review is a biennial assessment that evaluates how member organisations are delivering on those commitments and on their sustainability ambitions. The review serves as both a benchmarking tool and an accelerant for the sustainability journey – offering valuable feedback, identifying trends, and spotlighting best practices to help SBC members drive meaningful progress and set higher standards across the New Zealand business landscape.

The project typically runs from December through to June with several key touch points through this period:

- A request for evidence, whereby members provide information relating to the relevant commitments based on the length of membership.
- SBC will review the information provided and provide feedback to members on commitments and discuss priorities and plans for the future.

We’ve only recently joined as members and aren’t currently publicly reporting – what do we need to do?

If the member review occurs prior to 2 years of membership, and the member is not yet publicly reporting, the member organisation should provide an update on progress against the initial plans provided as part of the SBC application process, this can be a short report supplemented with weblinks, policies or other sources as appropriate.

We already report publicly on sustainability, do we still need to provide a summary to SBC?

No, if your sustainability reporting is publicly available, you can simply direct SBC to those reports.

Where can I get support to meet the member commitments?

As well as webinars and case studies on good practice, SBC has a number of comprehensive practical guides covering the different commitments to support businesses including:

- Sustainability Reporting: [SBC Guide: Reporting toolkit](#) – overview of the concepts of sustainability reporting, types of reporting, common frameworks and protocols.

- Sustainability Reporting: [SBC Guide: Sustainability strategy and plans](#) – includes practical guidelines for creating your own sustainability strategy.
- Sustainability Reporting: [SBC Guide: Materiality toolkit](#) – overview of how to approach and materiality and stakeholder engagement
- Climate Action: [SBC Guide to measuring, reducing and reporting on emissions](#)
- Climate Action: [SBC Guide to assessing and disclosing climate change risks and opportunities for business](#)
- Climate Action: Transition Planning [overview: the why and what of transition planning](#) as well as [a detailed guide for executives to drive change within organisations](#)
- Nature: [SBC Guide to Nature](#) – Overview of nature, nature concepts and related terminology and interplay with business (risks and opportunities).
- Nature: [SBC Business Case for Nature Toolkit](#) – 4 part toolkit providing a cohesive framework for developing the business case for nature from starting out to scaling up with templates and guidance.
- Human rights: [SBC guide on Human rights](#) gives a practical overview of human rights, identifying relevant human rights risks, establishing processes to mitigate and prevent them and developing appropriate policies.
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion: This [SBC guide on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - offers practical steps on how to develop and demonstrate support for DEI – from reviewing your current state, goal setting, engaging the team and embedding it into your strategy.

What is the WBCSD framework?

The WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) is our global umbrella organisation. Their member criteria framework was developed to assess their global members in a range of areas including climate, nature, human rights, DEI and non-discrimination and transparency. It provides a useful benchmark against international best practice and pathway to potential next steps for progress. SBC's member commitments have recently been updated with this international best practice framework in mind.

What has changed in the member commitments?

In our current member commitments, we have brought forward measuring climate emissions to a year zero requirement and have aligned the remaining member commitments with the current SBC strategy – this includes adding a requirement on nature, human rights and diversity, equity and inclusion.

What happens if we can't achieve one or more of the member commitments?

Members are expected to make a genuine effort to meet the commitments. However, it

is acknowledged that from time to time there may be events that are out of members control that delay progress. In such instances members can request an extension, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. SBC reserves the right to exit members who continually fail to meet commitments and show no intention to improve.

Is the information I provide made public?

No. Information provided to SBC as part of the review is not shared publicly; neither is the feedback provided to members. Anything that is shared on trends emerging in the reporting will be aggregated. In instances where we come across good practice exemplars, we will seek permission from members prior to sharing any details.

We are keen to keep engaging - what are examples of other SBC initiatives or projects we can participate in as members?

Examples include communities of practice, collaborative projects, sector-specific programs, conferences, in person and online events or advocacy campaigns run by SBC. The SBC annual plan in any given year has an overview of opportunities for the year ahead along with our [opportunities for connection page](#).