Greenhouse Gas Protocol

Survey on Need and Scope for Updates or Additional Guidance

Survey Process Memo

Purpose
Greenhouse Gas Protocol is starting a process to collect stakeholder input to understand the need, scope, and potential approaches to inform updates or additional guidance related to GHG Protocol’s Corporate Standard, Scope 2 Guidance, Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard, and supporting documents.

The objective is to understand user needs, identify and address any gaps, and align with best practice approaches to ensure GHG Protocol standards for scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 are effective in providing a rigorous and credible accounting foundation for business to measure, plan and track progress toward science-based and net-zero targets in line with the global 1.5°C goal.

To inform this update process, GHG Protocol is conducting four surveys related to the following standards, guidance and topics:

- Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition), or Corporate Standard (2004)
- Scope 2 Guidance (2015)
- Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard, or Scope 3 Standard (2011)
- Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions, or Scope 3 Calculation Guidance (version 1.0) (2013)
- Market-based accounting approaches

Process
The surveys will be sent to all recipients of the GHG Protocol email list. Recipients may forward the survey to other interested stakeholders who may not be on the email list.

All survey responses must be submitted before February 28, 2023 through the online survey form. To access the surveys and provide your response, please click here. Survey responses submitted through other means will not be considered.

In addition to providing survey responses, stakeholders may submit a proposal(s) for updates or additional guidance to GHG Protocol standards or guidance by following the instructions in the proposal template available here.

Please note that the survey platform does not allow you to save your progress. We recommend that stakeholders compile their answers offline first and then use the survey form to submit once the responses are prepared. To facilitate this, a list of the questions presented in each survey can be found in the corresponding background memos, available here. Please note that each question response cannot exceed 4000 characters in length.
After the four surveys close, the GHG Protocol Secretariat will analyze the results and will share a summary with the public through our webpage. In this summary, responses will not be attributed to any individual respondent. The GHG Protocol Secretariat may also post submitted proposals on our webpage. Survey respondents that choose to submit a proposal using the proposal template will be able to indicate if they would like their proposal to be shared and if so, if they would like it to be attributed or anonymous. For any proposal respondent that requests to be anonymous, the GHG Protocol Secretariat will remove respondent information from the proposal before posting it to our site. All individual responses may be available to future Technical Working Group members. While the GHG Protocol Secretariat will request all Technical Working Group members keep the survey data confidential, this is not a guarantee of privacy or confidentiality. Therefore, by responding to any of the surveys, respondents are acknowledging and accepting that any of their responses could be made public.

For more information about the role of Technical Working Groups and other stakeholder groups involved in GHG Protocol’s governance process for developing and updating its standards and guidance, please refer to this document.

Next steps following the survey

The GHG Protocol Secretariat will review responses from the survey and determine the need and scope of the updates required in consultation and guidance from the Advisory Group and Technical Working Group that will be convened in the coming months as part of the formal governance structure. The results will also be used to prioritize and sequence any updates or additional guidance. The objective of the survey is to collect input from stakeholders to inform these decisions. The survey process does not indicate that any given standard or guidance will be updated. Instead, it is an opportunity to collect feedback and understand user needs.

As with all Greenhouse Gas Protocol standards, the updates and/or additional guidance will be developed through an inclusive, global, multi-stakeholder development process, with participation from business, NGOs, academia, and government worldwide. In parallel to the survey process, we will begin planning the stakeholder development process, including developing a common governance structure and coordinated Technical Working Groups depending on the scope of updates or additional guidance needed. Minor updates or additional guidance are expected to take one year. Any major updates or revisions are expected to take two years.

If you are interested to participate or receive updates about future standard/guidance development or update processes, please subscribe to the GHG Protocol email list to receive future notifications and updates.

Memos for each individual survey can be found here:

Corporate Standard Survey Memo
Scope 2 Survey Memo
Scope 3 Survey Memo
Market-based Accounting Survey Memo