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Final standard · published June 11, 2026

SBTi Net-Zero Standard V2.0

The Corporate Guide

Carbon credits, Ongoing Emissions Responsibility, recognition levels, and the removal purchases that become mandatory from 2035. Every number from the published standard.

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS
DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

www.senken.io · June 2026

Contents

Key takeaways

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1. **The standard is final**
   Published June 11, 2026. Effective February 1, 2027, with validation under V2.0 starting in Q1 2027.

2. **Taking a position becomes public**
   From the first validation, every company declares whether it takes responsibility for ongoing emissions. A “no” requires a written explanation to SBTi.

3. **Removals become mandatory in 2035**
   Category A companies must buy carbon removals: 1% of emissions, rising every year to 100% by the net-zero year, with a growing durable share.

THE V2.0 FRAMEWORK

1. Reduce emissions in line with 1.5°C
2. Take responsibility for ongoing emissions (OER)
3. Neutralize residual emissions with removals

Credits still never count toward Scope 1-3 targets. That rule survived unchanged.

What changed from the draft

	NOVEMBER 2025 DRAFT		FINAL STANDARD · JUNE 2026
Recognition tiers	“Recognized” and “Leadership”	→	Three levels: Engaged, Advanced, Leadership
Leadership delivery	≥40% of budget into credits	→	Retired credits for 100% of covered emissions, plus the $80/t budget
Durability rule	41% durable removals by 2050	→	10% durable in 2035, rising linearly to 100% by the net-zero year
Timeline	Figures “TBD”, full transition assumed 2028	→	Effective Feb 1, 2027 · V1 open until end of 2027 · next target cycle from 2028
Net-zero targets	Assumed required for all	→	Now optional. Required: near-term 5-year targets (Scope 3 for large companies)

Where carbon credits count under V2.0

Your Scope 1-3 targets

NO CREDITS, EVER

Progress is measured on the physical GHG inventory alone (C26.2).

OER, from 2027

VOLUNTARY · ALL TYPES

Reductions outside your value chain, sink protection, and removals all qualify.

The 2035 requirement

MANDATORY · REMOVALS ONLY

Category A companies cover a rising share of emissions with removals (C45).

The net-zero year

REMOVALS, DURABILITY-MATCHED

All residual emissions neutralized; long-lived gases need long-lived storage (C46).

Ongoing Emissions Responsibility (OER)

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Participation is voluntary. The declaration is not.

- At target validation, every company states whether it takes part (criterion C38).
- The answer is displayed on the public SBTi Dashboard.
- A “no” requires a written explanation to SBTi.

What qualifies as a contribution

- Ex-post outcomes, independently verified, permanently retired at the moment of the claim.
- Occurred within the five years before the reporting year.
- Budget route can also fund forward removal agreements, research, adaptation, loss and damage.

OER never reduces your reported footprint. Contributions are accounted separately and cannot be netted against Scope 1, 2, or 3.

The three recognition levels

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Engaged

≥1%

of total ongoing Scope 1-3 emissions

DELIVERY

Retired credits tonne-for-tonne, *or* a contribution budget ($20/t recommended).

Advanced

≥10%

of total, including 100% of Scope 1+2

DELIVERY

Tonne-for-tonne, *or* a budget of $20 per tonne.

Leadership

Full internalization

100%

of total ongoing Scope 1-3 emissions

DELIVERY

$80/t budget *and* retired credits tonne-for-tonne on the full volume.

Measured on cumulative emissions over the five-year target cycle; recognition awarded at the end-of-cycle assessment (criterion C40).

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What you can say at each level

ENGAGED

"In 2027 we took responsibility for 1% of our ongoing emissions by retiring 10,000 tCO_2e of verified carbon credits, reported separately from our science-based targets."

ADVANCED

"We covered 100% of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions and 10% of our total footprint, applying a contribution budget of $20 per tonne to eligible climate action."

LEADERSHIP

"We applied an internal carbon price of $80 per tonne to 100% of our ongoing emissions and retired verified credits matching the full volume."

Illustrative wording. Public claims must follow the SBTi Claims Policy; recognition appears on the SBTi Dashboard.

Mandatory removals from 2035

Who is affected: Category A

- Turnover ≥ €450M *or* 1,000+ employees, in any country.
- Lower thresholds for companies in high-income countries.

The post-2035 criteria will be reviewed once more in Version 3 before they take effect, and SBTi plans a Call for Evidence on shorter-lived removals. The direction is settled; parameters may still move.

RAMP 1 · COVERAGE (C45.1)

1% → 100%

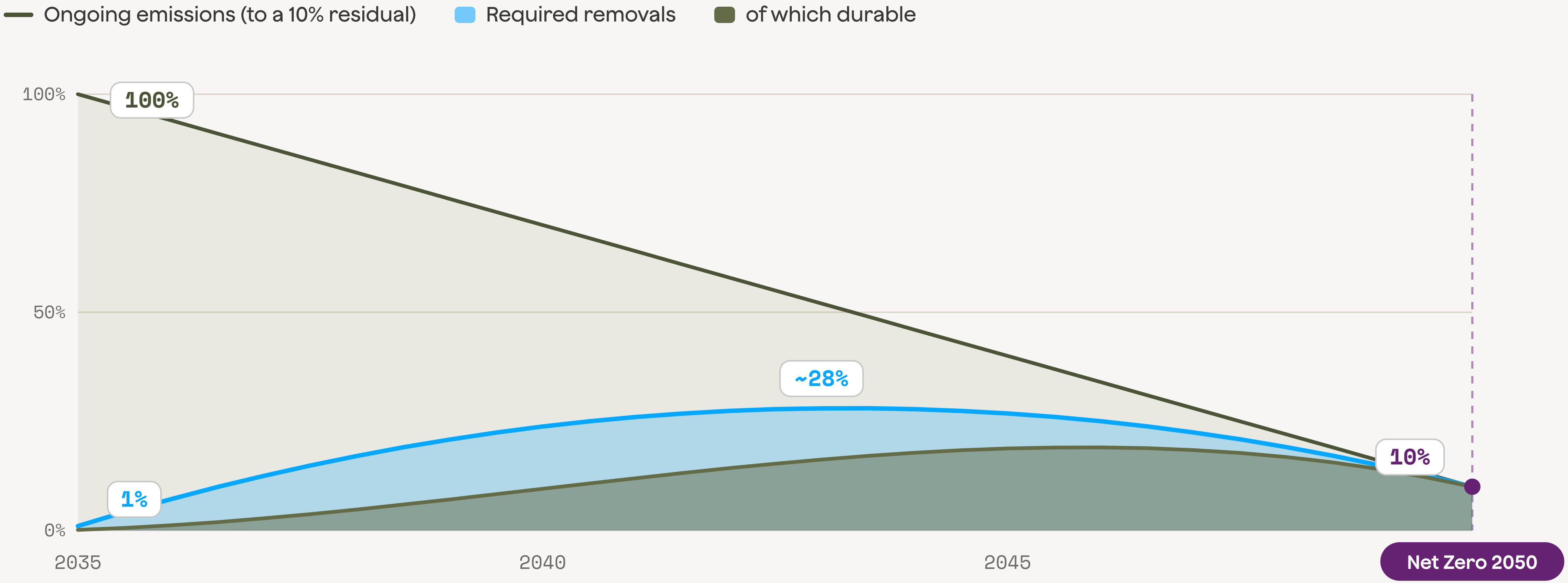
of ongoing Scope 1-3 emissions covered by removals, rising linearly from 2035 to the net-zero year (2050 at the latest).

RAMP 2 · DURABILITY (C45.4)

10% → 100%

of covered CO_2 met with long-lived removals (storage for centuries to millennia: DAC, mineralization), also rising linearly.

Removals grow as emissions fall



Worked example: a company emitting 1M tCO2e in 2035 buys 10,000 t of removals that year, peaks around 280,000 t per year in the early 2040s, and neutralizes the remaining 100,000 t entirely with durable removals at net-zero.

The net-zero year: neutralization rules

Every remaining tonne, every year

At and after the net-zero year, all residual emissions are neutralized with removals in the same reporting period they occur.

Durability matching

Residual long-lived gases (CO2, N2O) require long-lived removals. Removals may come from inside or outside the value chain.

Scope 1 direct, Scope 3 shared

Companies answer directly for Scope 1 residuals. Scope 3 can be neutralized jointly with value chain partners, with written agreements.

Article 6 enters the room

Companies report whether removal credits are host-country authorized and subject to corresponding adjustments (C46.6).

Timeline: 2026 to 2050

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VOLUNTARY PHASE · recognition program, declarations begin 2027

MANDATORY PHASE · from 2035

Jun 11, 2026

Final V2.0 published

Feb 1, 2027

Effective; public OER declaration at every validation

End of 2027

Version 1 closes for new targets

2028

Next-cycle (2030-2035) target setting begins

2035

Removals mandatory for Category A (≥10% durable)

Net-zero year ≤2050

100% coverage; all residuals neutralized

Carbon credit integrity under V2.0

What the final standard requires (C42)

- Documented due diligence on the implementing party and activity.
- Do-no-harm safeguards: human rights, biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples.
- Additionality: not legally required, not viable without the intervention.
- Reversal-risk safeguards with monitoring and compensation.
- Independent accredited verification; permanent retirement at claim.

Claims are not proof.

Most credits claim to meet these principles. Independent research finds the large majority of registry credits fail deeper quality checks. If those are in your portfolio, your OER claim is the thing at risk.

Senken's Sustainability Integrity Index screens 600+ data points per project. Roughly the top 5% pass.

Roadmap to SBTi alignment

1

Diagnose your position

Map targets against V2.0; list historic credit purchases; spot data and governance gaps.

2

Set your OER level

Engaged, Advanced, or Leadership. Test cost scenarios with finance against the $20/$80 anchors.

3

Design the portfolio

Define eligible project types; plan the durable-removal ramp; set diversification rules.

4

Align reporting

Link climate finance to CSRD and disclosures; define ownership and approval flows.

5

Lock in supply

Identify high-integrity suppliers; mix spot, forwards, and offtakes; build integrity criteria into contracts.

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1%

The 1% start is the smallest the obligation will ever be.

Both ramps climb every year after 2035. The companies that move before 2027 choose their projects and prices.

How Senken supports companies

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Senken is built for the compliance-first carbon market: everything you need to answer auditors, boards, and regulators with confidence.

Sustainability Integrity Index

600+ data points per project to verify compliance with SBTi and CSRD requirements before anything reaches your portfolio.

Science-based portfolio design

Short-lived and durable removals balanced to the V2.0 ramps, diversified across geographies and methodologies.

Defensibility & reporting

Integrity Reports per project and a Champion's Kit: documentation for SBTi, CSRD audits, your board, and the press.

WORKING WITH TEAMS AT T Lufthansa vodafone SIEMENS DZ BANK Union Investment

Two ways to start

For the 2035 mandate

2035 Removal Portfolio

A multi-year forward offtake of audit-grade durable removals against the mandatory requirement, locked at today's price.

- **Payment on delivery:** no cash bound until the obligation lands.
- Flexible repurchase options if your needs change.

sbti.senken.io/2035

For the voluntary program

OER Portfolio

Covers the recognition program from the Engaged level up: verified, retired, ex-post credits matched to your declared coverage.

- Reported separately from your targets, claim-ready wording included.

sbti.senken.io/oer

Case study: Deutsche Telekom

Starting point

Ambitious decarbonisation targets covering Scope 1, 2 and material Scope 3. A legacy portfolio of credits bought under older integrity assumptions. A strategic choice to lead on removals.

The approach

~75% nature-based

~25% durable removals

DAC, enhanced weathering and biochar in the durable share; each project through the 600+ datapoint SII due diligence.

Outcome

A future-ready portfolio aligned with where V2.0 landed, a clear internal credit policy, and stronger resilience to scrutiny from customers and media.

"Senken supported us end-to-end. From identifying the right projects to tracking results, their expertise has been invaluable in advancing our net-zero journey."

ANTJE-SUSAN METZ · Senior Manager, Deutsche Telekom

Frequently asked questions

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1 **Does V2.0 force us to use carbon credits?**

No. Targets are met through value-chain reductions only. What is mandatory from 2027 is declaring your OER position publicly at validation; from 2035, Category A companies must support carbon removals.

2 **Are removals only relevant after 2035?**

No. The ramp means early movers lock scarce durable supply at better prices and build governance before the obligation bites. With a net-zero target, removals also neutralize residuals at the net-zero year.

3 **Do we have to stop using avoidance credits?**

No, but be precise: no credit ever counts toward targets. Avoidance and reduction credits qualify for the voluntary OER program; the 2035 mandate and net-zero neutralization accept removals only.

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Let’s build your removals strategy before the 2027 budget round.

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Book a Meeting