

A background image showing a close-up of several hands in business attire writing on a document with pens. The image is partially obscured by a teal banner at the bottom.

Quick Brief

A news update from the NBI on its programmes,
business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

1 December 2015

CDP South Africa Review reveals excellent progress made by South African companies in responding to climate change

2015 has been a special year for CDP in South Africa. During this year the National Business Initiative (NBI), has contextualised the 2015 progress within the past eight years of CDP activity in South Africa, through a visual display of infographics that illustrate companies' response to climate change since the inception of CDP in 2007. The CDP climate change journey in South Africa provides remarkable insight into how companies in the country are rising to the challenge of taking action in responding to climate change.

[Click here to view the CDP South Africa Infographics](#)



The CDP began in South Africa in 2007, with Incite and the NBI working together to promote company disclosure and transparency of their response to climate change. The initial focus of the CDP was only the JSE 40 companies, which was expanded to the JSE 100 companies in 2008. Starting out CDP in South Africa was an interesting process; in many instances companies did not have the skills required or the necessary understanding of what responding to climate change would mean for their company.

Over the short period South African companies have made phenomenal progress in ensuring that climate change is recognised as an issue requiring urgent action in company board rooms. Companies have reached excellent levels of disclosure and we see that the focus has shifted from climate disclosure to climate change performance and action, with companies implementing a range of measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Here are five fascinating findings that effectively illustrate the progress that South African companies have made:

- Disclosure scores have reached record high levels. The median disclosure score in 2015 was 96 (out of 100) (up from 71 in 2009).
- Climate change awareness is high across all levels in companies. This is illustrated through 100% of companies having board or senior management oversight of climate change (up from 79% in 2008), 95% of companies integrating climate change into their business strategies (up from 80% in 2008) and 81% of companies providing incentives for climate change management (up from 17% in 2008).

- We have seen a steady decline in emissions during the period. In the context market capitalisation growth of over 100%, total scope 1 and 2 emissions of the JSE 100 sample have declined by 6.6% from 2009 to 2015.
- Emission reduction activities are reducing costs and are saving companies millions. Companies have reported a total savings of R6.7 billion by implementing emission reduction activities from 2011 to 2015, which is equivalent to R1.3 billion per annum.
- More companies are paying attention to understanding emission in their value chains. 92% of companies are reporting more than one category of value chain emissions (up from 62% in 2009).

These results show South African companies' commitment to responding to climate change. As COP21 commences in Paris this week, it is interesting to note that most companies recognise the importance of an international agreement that will mark a crucial turning point if the negative consequences of warming above 2 degree Celsius, particularly for the African continent, are to be avoided.

The NBI congratulates South African companies on 2015's impressive CDP results and on the progress they have made since CDP was first implemented in South Africa in 2007. We are also looking forward to see how companies continue to drive performance to ensure that we continue to be one of the world's leading nations in responding to climate change.

The NBI, with funding from the British High Commission's Prosperity Fund, has produced a series of ten infographics to highlight the key messages that emerged from CDP in South Africa from 2008 to 2015. The above key findings can be found on the High-Level Impacts of CDP in South Africa infographic, [click here to view](#).

[Click here to view the High-Level Impacts Infographic](#)



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