

The Global Network for Zero & SBTi Crosswalk

The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) is recognized as one of the world's most influential emission reduction mechanisms.

Launched in 2015 in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), SBTi was developed to advance the goals set in the Paris Agreement and drives ambitious climate action by enabling organizations to set science-based emission reduction targets. Science-based targets show organizations how much and how quickly they need to reduce their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

GNFZ's net zero certification shares the same goals of and aligns with SBTi. This crosswalk offers a brief comparison of the two frameworks to show how the two programs complement each other. To discuss these alignments in more depth, reach out to team@gn-zero.com to set up a meeting.

GNFZ's net zero certification alignment with SBTi

Common Foundation:

GNFZ's net zero certification is based on the industry-leading GHG Protocol, leveraging the GHG Protocol as our default methodology for calculating our emission assessment. Similarly, SBTi relies on the GHG Protocol as a foundation for organizations to measure and report their emissions.

Emission Scope:

GNFZ's net zero certification and SBTi both focus on operational carbon emissions, which are emissions directly associated with the reporting entities' day-to-day operations; GNFZ calculates GHG emissions in the unit of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) categorized into Scope 1, 2 and 3 (direct and indirect emissions).

Reporting:

GNFZ allows projects to report emissions for multiple reporting periods to understand their emission trends; similarly, SBTi requires historical emissions data to help set science-based targets.

Targets:

GNFZ's net zero certification requires the development of and adherence to an emission reduction plan, which is tailor-made by the project team along with their team of expert consultants and defines the project's timeline and sector-specific emission reduction strategies. Likewise, SBTi is focused on helping companies set science-based emissions reduction targets that are time-bound and sector-specific.

Transparency and Integration:

GNFZ and SBTi emphasize transparency through public commitments, independent third-party review and validation, stakeholder engagement and transparency by aligning emissions targets with corporate strategy and involving the entire value chain.

Target Audience

GNFZ's net zero certification addresses buildings, businesses and organizations of all sizes and has no minimum criteria for participation. GNFZ is dedicated to leaving “no building or business behind” — any building or business anywhere in the world could leverage our platform to achieve net zero certification.

SBTi's target audience is large companies (500+ employees) aspiring to establish science-based targets and long-term goals aligned with 2050 targets. It is not applicable to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

Emission Data Calculation

GNFZ has created a simple, open, highly secure, data-driven and cloud-based platform that projects leverage to achieve certification. This platform features a user-friendly emissions calculator that enables buildings, portfolios and organizations to compute their emissions efficiently.

SBTi requires participating companies to manually input their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emission data, and does not have a built-in tool for automated data calculations.

Structure

GNFZ's certification process embraces flexibility, permitting companies to calculate emissions through a simple questionnaire. This allows organizations to set emission reduction targets that align with their unique goals.

SBTi's structured framework focuses on near-term science-based targets, long-term science-based targets, mitigation efforts beyond the value chain and neutralizing any remaining emissions.

Third-Party Validation

GNFZ emphasizes transparency through public commitments and independent third-party review and validation. GNFZ's process goes beyond mere validation to provide certification, all the while ensuring rigorous scrutiny of emissions calculations, net zero plans and targets. The process extends to evaluating carbon offsets and scrutinizing net zero implementation milestones, culminating in issuing a final net zero certification. GNFZ incorporates third-party feedback for validation and as a mechanism to enhance implementation quality, foster transparency and prevent greenwashing.

In accordance with SBTi, organizations can authenticate their objectives through SBTi's Call to Action Campaign, which provides a comprehensive technical assessment to verify that the target adheres to the selected SBTi method. Companies are permitted to reference this third-party review in their public communications. Additionally, they can seek third-party verification for their emissions inventories. However, SBTi does not mandate doing so.

Emissions Coverage

Both GNFZ and SBTi define true net zero as eliminating all Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

Target Setting

GNFZ empowers companies to customize their targets according to their preferences and requirements, fostering a personalized approach to emissions reduction.

SBTi prescribes specific reduction targets for participating companies concerning both near-term and long-term goals.



An Additional Layer

Organizations that have achieved, or are on track to achieve, SBTi targets may want to pursue GNFZ's net zero certification as an additional recognition layer for their comprehensive efforts in addressing climate change, as GNFZ recognizes and celebrates a project at every stage of its journey to achieve net zero.

Projects going through GNFZ certification have multiple opportunities for recognition along the way to net zero:

Assessment Certificate:

Awarded to projects after the completion of a carbon assessment, calculating the project's Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. This is performed after an inventory of the project's various emissions sources from data provided by the client.

Net Zero Plan Certificate:

Awarded when a client completes and submits a net zero plan, which the client has total flexibility to develop based on their scope, schedule, and budget.

Carbon Offsets Certificate:

Awarded when a client wants to validate their carbon offsets as described in their net zero plan.

Net Zero Milestone Certificates:

Awarded when a client achieves intermediate net zero milestones, reflecting progress against permanent removal of carbon emissions.

Final Net Zero Certification:

This is awarded when a project achieves zero Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, which the project is expected to sustain. Whenever the status changes, the project must recertify by starting with an assessment.

Complementary Goals

GNFZ's net zero certification and SBTi are complementary rather than conflicting. GNFZ recognizes those who have gone beyond reduction efforts to achieve a net zero carbon footprint, and SBTi encourages organizations to set and achieve ambitious emissions reduction targets.

Conclusion

In summary, GNFZ and SBTi work harmoniously to help organizations address decarbonization. GNFZ aids in calculating emissions and offers recognition for achieving a net zero carbon footprint through emissions reduction and offsetting, while SBTi provides the scientific framework for emissions reduction. Many clients going through GNFZ certification elect to do both SBTi and GNFZ and we at GNFZ encourage this for companies looking to be leaders in the field.

Find us

Learn about net zero certification:

globalnetworkforzero.com

Contact us with any questions:

team@gn-zero.com



@GlobalNet4Zero



Global Network for Zero

