



Policy: CDP-Water Questionnaire as Fulfillment of COP-Water Report

I. Overview

Corporate water disclosure is a rapidly evolving field with many companies and stakeholders advancing and encouraging an expanding set of best and emerging practices.

In October 2008, the CEO Water Mandate established a comprehensive disclosure and reporting policy (the “COP-Water”), requiring all endorsing companies to report annually on their progress in implementing the Mandate and its six core elements, or risk being expelled from the initiative. In broad terms, the policy requires three reporting aspects:

1. Annual statement of continued support for Mandate by the endorsing CEO;
2. Description of actions (recent/planned) undertaken with respect to the six elements;
3. Measurement of outcomes using broadly accepted metrics (e.g. GRI)

In 2010, the Carbon Disclosure Project – responding to growing investor interest in water-related risks – launched a water questionnaire for companies. This annual questionnaire – or “information request” – is sent to the largest corporations in the world and covers a broad range of relevant corporate areas – including Water Management and Governance; Risks and Opportunities; and Water Accounting.

As a result of early discussions between the Mandate and the Carbon Disclosure Project, the CDP-Water program includes reference to the CEO Water Mandate – specifically, in the “Guidance for Responding Companies”, a companion piece to the overall questionnaire. In this Guidance, in relation to the area Water Management and Governance, companies are encouraged to use the Mandate’s six core elements to frame and describe their actions.

Given growing concerns about “reporting fatigue” and the corporate desire to streamline reporting, Mandate endorsers present at the Stockholm conference on 26 August 2011 agreed that a completed CDP-Water questionnaire, with some required modifications and additions, should fulfill the Mandate’s COP-Water reporting requirement for interested companies.

II. How a CDP-Water Can Fulfill the COP-Water Requirement

While the CDP-Water does represent a comprehensive survey of key corporate water practices, the CEO Water Mandate reporting policy has important aspects deemed critical in order to preserve the initiative’s credibility and integrity as a UN initiative.

Specifically, these aspects include:

- i. The public nature of the COP-Water report;
- ii. The statement of continued support for the Mandate by the CEO;
- iii. Description of implementation actions in relation to the Mandate’s six elements and use of relevant metrics.

With these factors in mind, the CEO Water Mandate disclosure policy allows a completed CDP-Water questionnaire to fulfill the Mandate’s annual reporting requirement provided:

- The completed CDP-Water questionnaire is made public and posted on the CEO Water Mandate's website;
- A separate note/attachment accompanies the CDP-Water, expressing continued support of the Mandate by the endorsing CEO*;
- Under the Water Management and Governance section of the questionnaire, the responding company describes implementation in relation to the six elements of the Mandate, as recommended in the CDP-Water Guidance. And further, that metrics (eg, GRI) are incorporated, per Mandate policy.

* If the CEO's statement of support is contained in another corporate report (e.g., a sustainability report), a link to this reference will suffice

III. Submission Process

Each reporting cycle, an endorsing company of the CEO Water Mandate should indicate to the Secretariat that it wishes to have its CDP-Water questionnaire fulfill the annual COP-Water reporting requirement, and provide a link to the completed and modified CDP-Water, per policy.

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