

# Catalyzing Value Chain Decarbonization

## Corporate Survey Results

FEBRUARY 2023

# Context

- Value-chain decarbonization is one of the most **significant opportunities to catalyze system-scale transformation** towards a net-zero economy.
- On average, scope 3 emissions represent **70% of corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories** and are part of 96% of validated science-based targets.
- Given the scale and importance of scope 3 target-setting, and an increasing urgency for action, the SBTi has launched a **process to review and update scope 3 target-setting guidance, methods, and criteria** with the aim of ensuring the framework effectively catalyzes value-chain decarbonization while being cognisant of barriers corporates face.
- As a first step, a survey was conducted to **understand the challenges faced with scope 3 target setting**.
- This presentation outlines the **results of the survey** which will be used to inform the future development of scope 3 guidance updates. This report does not seek to provide clarifications on existing guidance or criteria.
- This comprehensive survey was carried out by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in September 2022.

# The end goal is clear, to reach a net-zero economy we need full value chain action

To reach a net-zero economy, the business model of companies need to evolve to continue to create value to society without causing the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

A net-zero value chain implies that each and every step involved in the provision of goods and services aligns to a level of emissions that is compatible with achieving climate stability.



Extraction /  
production of  
materials



Processing of  
materials



Transformation  
of materials



Product  
manufacturing



Distribution



Commercialization



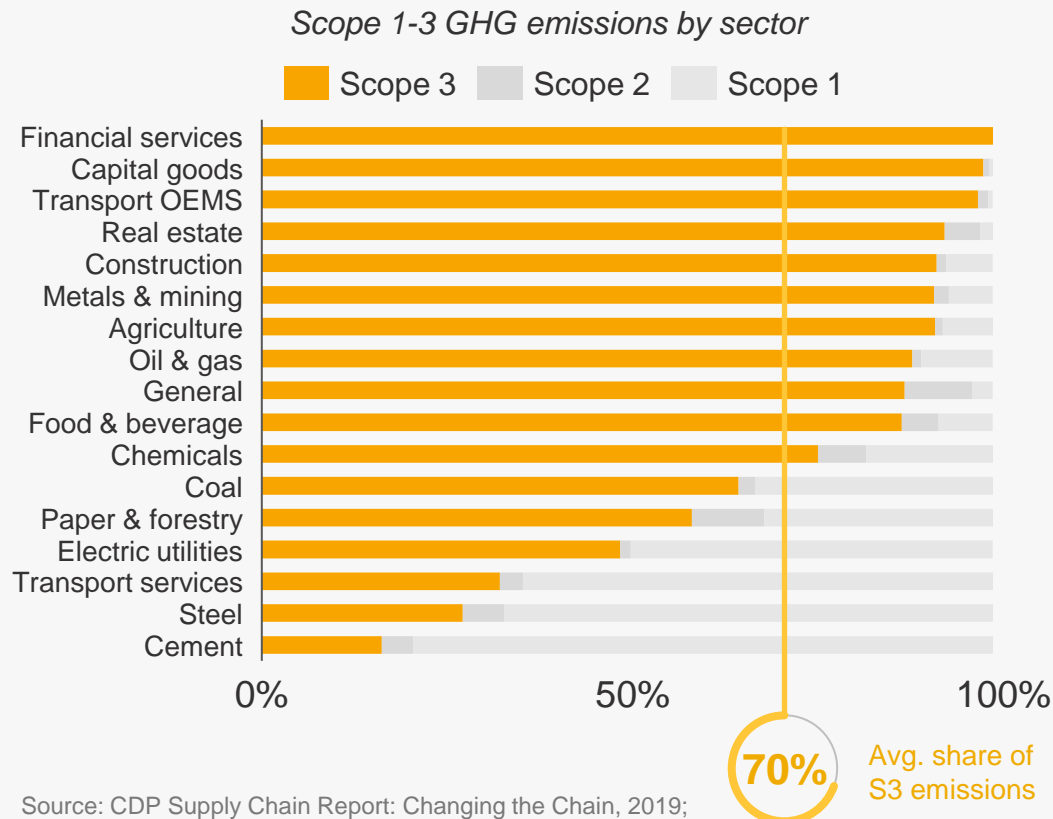
Use



End of life

# Scope 3 represents 70% of corporate GHG footprints; targets on these emissions are critical to achieving system-wide decarbonization

## Scope 3 is significant across most sectors...



Source: CDP Supply Chain Report: Changing the Chain, 2019;  
CDP Climate Change Questionnaire April 2022; BCG analysis

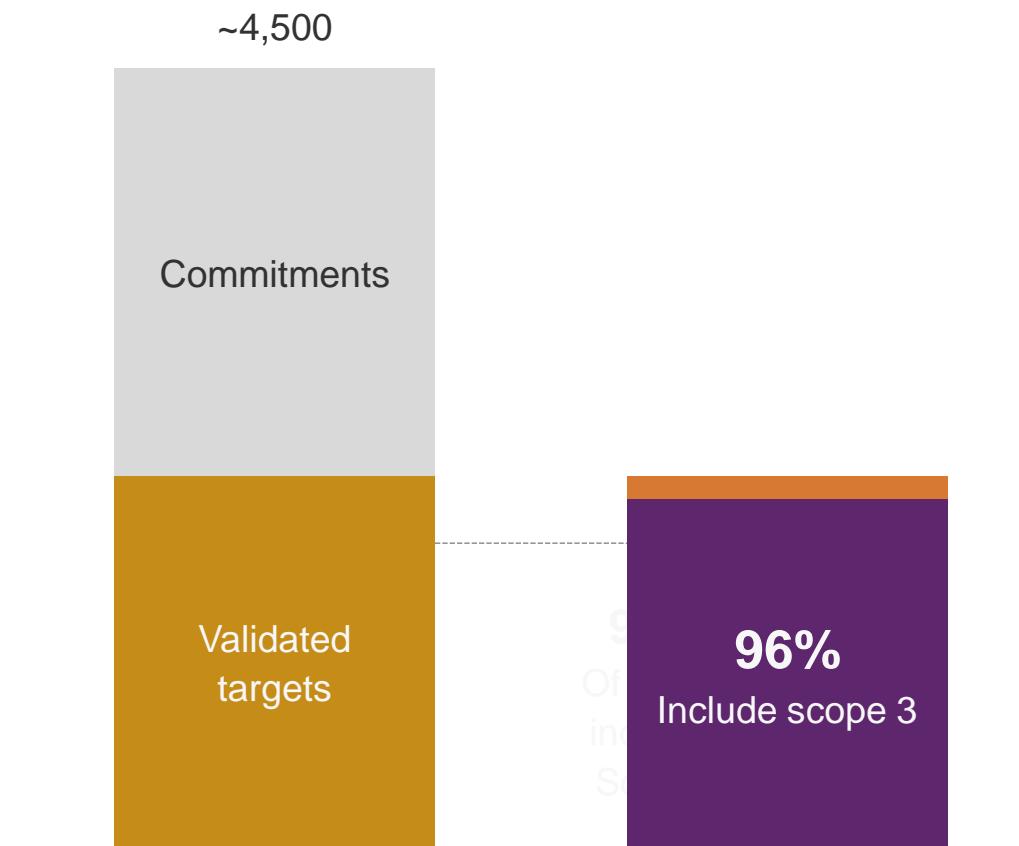
## ...and core to the SBTi's theory of change

- Achieving a net-zero economy requires a fundamental transformation of the economy, which can only be achieved by **aligning incentives and eliminating barriers to GHG reduction**.
- The SBTi believes in the importance of value chain action and builds on attributional accounting to make shared **cross-value chain responsibility** between actors explicit.
- By requiring economic actors to set targets not only on their direct emissions, but also on emissions in their value chain, the **SBTi seeks to align all actors behind a common goal**.

## Science-based targets, 2022

Number of companies ('000)

96% of validated  
science-based  
targets include  
scope 3



# However, barriers remain which may prevent effective translation of scope 3 ambition into value-chain decarbonization

## Baselining

### *Barriers to baselining scope 3 emissions*

- Availability of value chain emissions data (reliance on average emissions factors).
- Consistent application of scope 3 baselining standards.

## Target Setting

### *Barriers to setting scope 3 targets*

- Confidence in ability to deliver scope 3 targets.
- Availability of scope 3 specific science-based target-setting methods.
- Mismatch of growth plans and decarbonization ambition.

## Delivery

### *Barriers to delivering scope 3 targets*

- Ability to influence suppliers and customers.
- Cost of decarbonization.
- Ability to track progress due to data challenges.
- Awareness of "what counts" as a decarbonization lever.



## Objectives of the scope 3 guidance and criteria review

1. Clarify the **role and importance of scope 3 targets** in the delivery of 1.5°C pathways.
2. Evaluate **scope 3 target boundary conditions** and materiality thresholds.
3. Assess and refine existing scope 3 **target-setting methodologies**.
4. Identify **new target-setting methodologies**.
5. Consider **accountability mechanisms** for delivery of scope 3 targets.

The SBTi is launching a process to review scope 3 guidance & criteria

**To inform the SBTi scope 3 review process, a stakeholder survey was launched to understand challenges faced when baselining, setting and delivering scope 3**

Objective

**Understand challenges companies face when setting and delivering scope 3 targets**

**230** respondents

**>20** sectors

**All** major regions

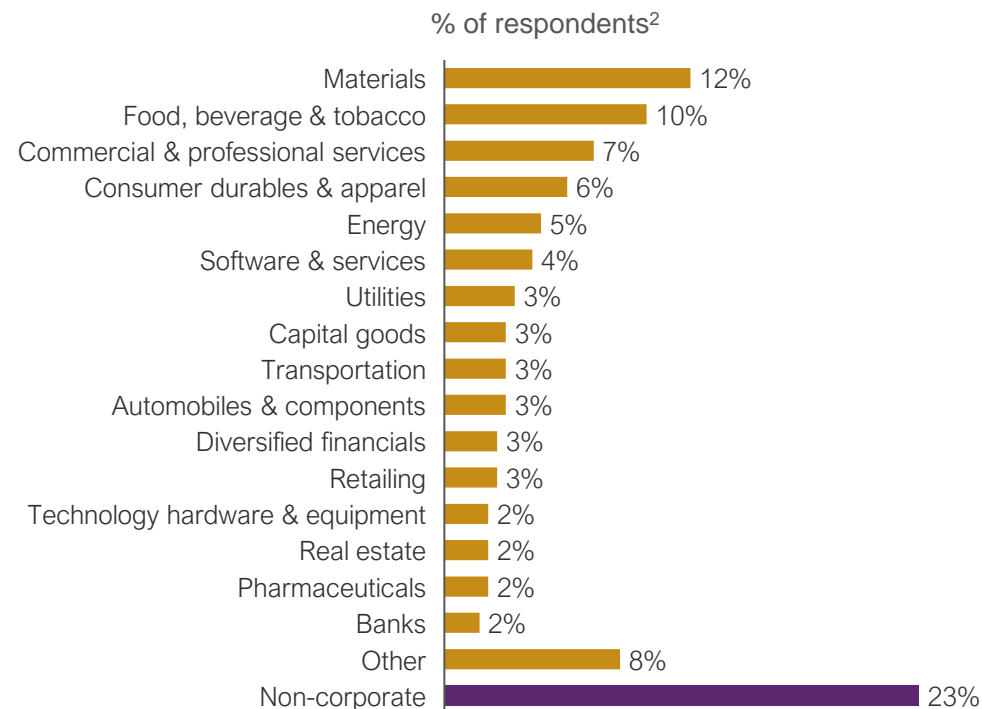
**85%** with commitments or targets

**>100** questions



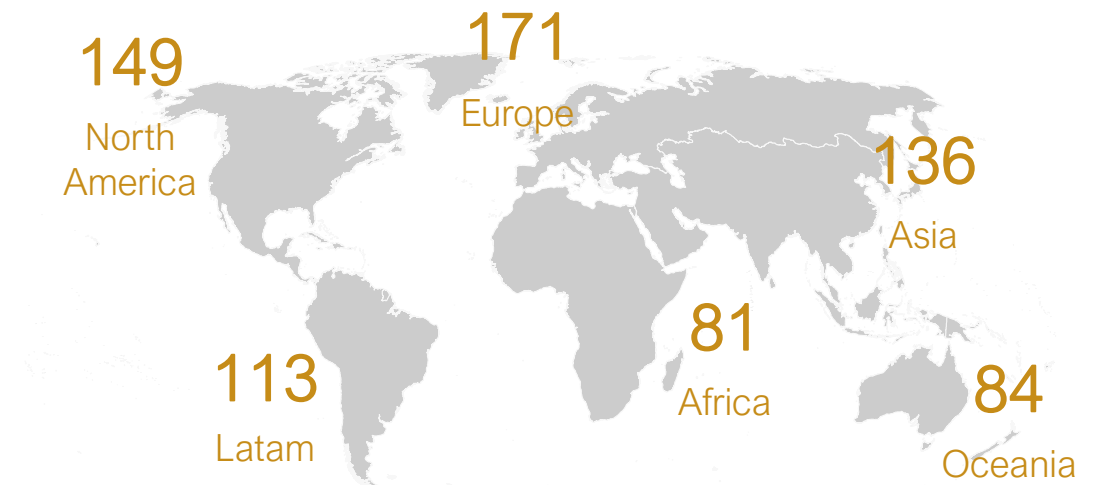
# Stakeholder engagement survey sampled a wide range of sectors and geographies

## Respondents represent a range of sectors...



## ...and geographies<sup>1</sup>

Number of respondents<sup>2</sup>



# Three categories of challenges were researched

**A.**

Challenges with  
**baselining**  
scope 3 emissions

**B.**

Challenges with  
**setting**  
scope 3 science-based  
targets

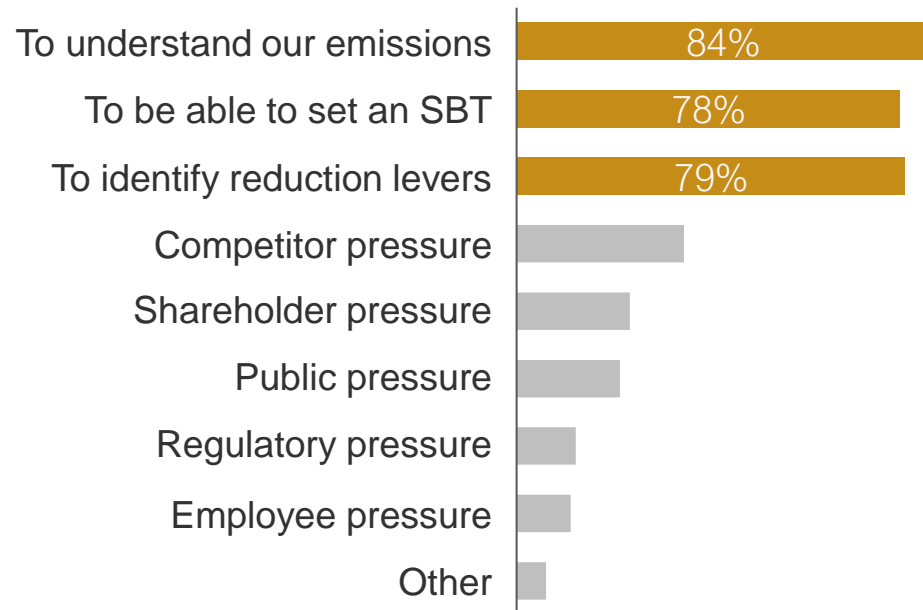
**C.**

Challenges with  
**delivering**  
progress towards a scope  
3 science-based target

# Baselining: Some companies are motivated to develop a baseline in order to set a target

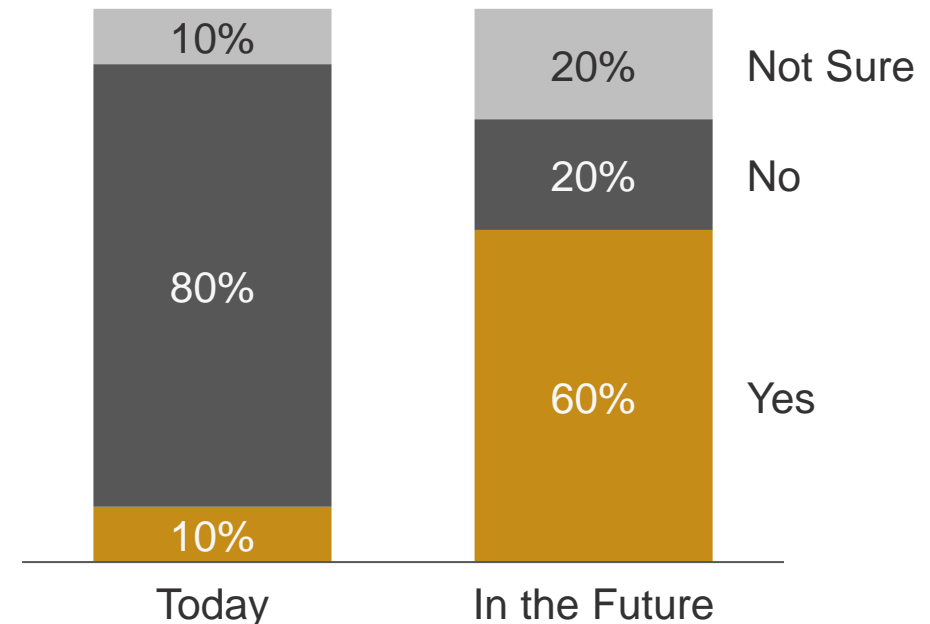
A primary motivator for baselining scope 3 emissions is to enable setting an SBT

Q. What was/is your motivation for developing a scope 3 GHG baseline? Select one or many, % of respondents



Regulation is not a motivator today, but is expected to be one in the future

Q. Are you currently subject to any regulatory disclosure on scope 3, or do you expect to be in the future?, % of respondents

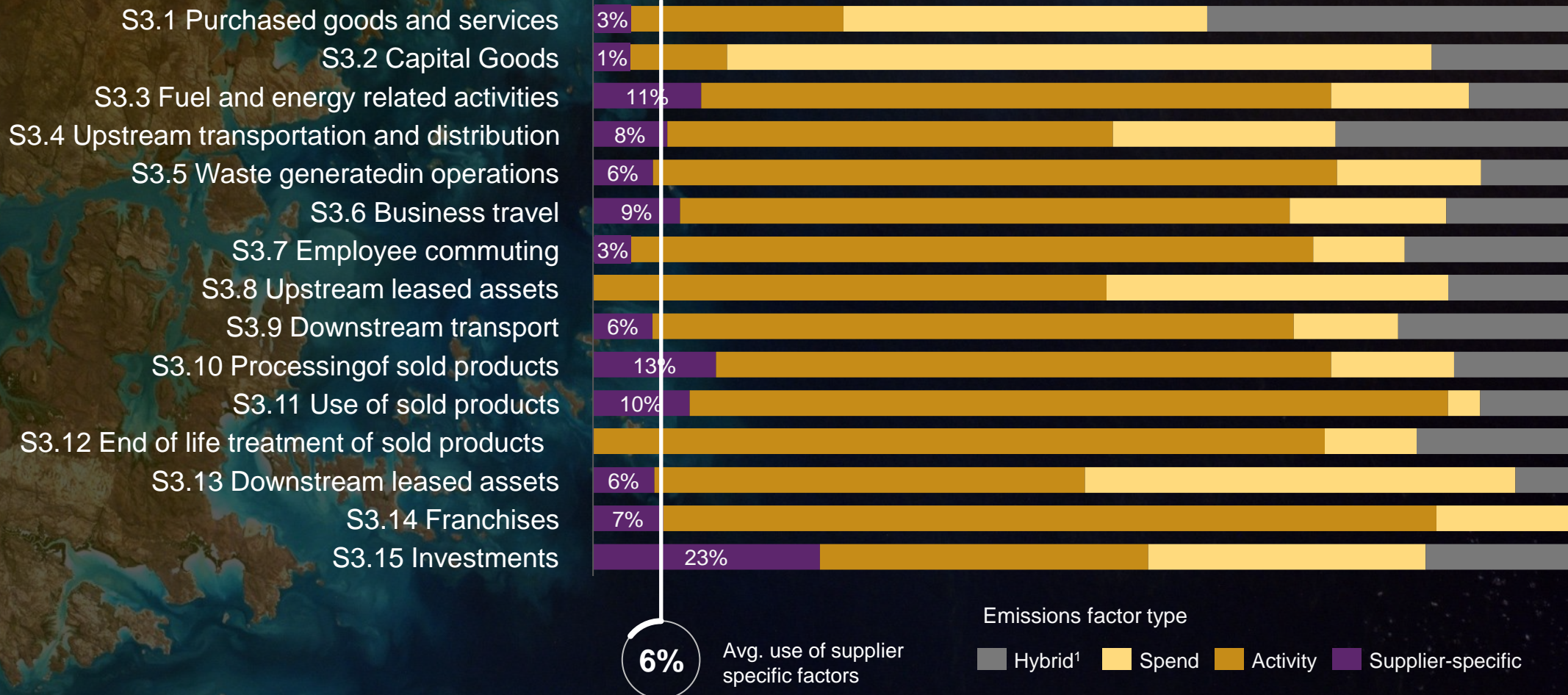




# Baselining Barrier #1: Data access

Supplier specific emissions factors only represent 6% of baseline calculations

Method used to estimate scope 3 emissions, % of respondents, N=175





# Baselining Barrier #2: Comparability

50% of companies re-baseline emissions due to methodological changes

Differing interpretations of accounting guidance can limit **baseline comparability**

In addition, changing methodological decisions often lead to **re-baselining**

## Due to....



Methodological choices e.g. spend vs. activity based emissions factors

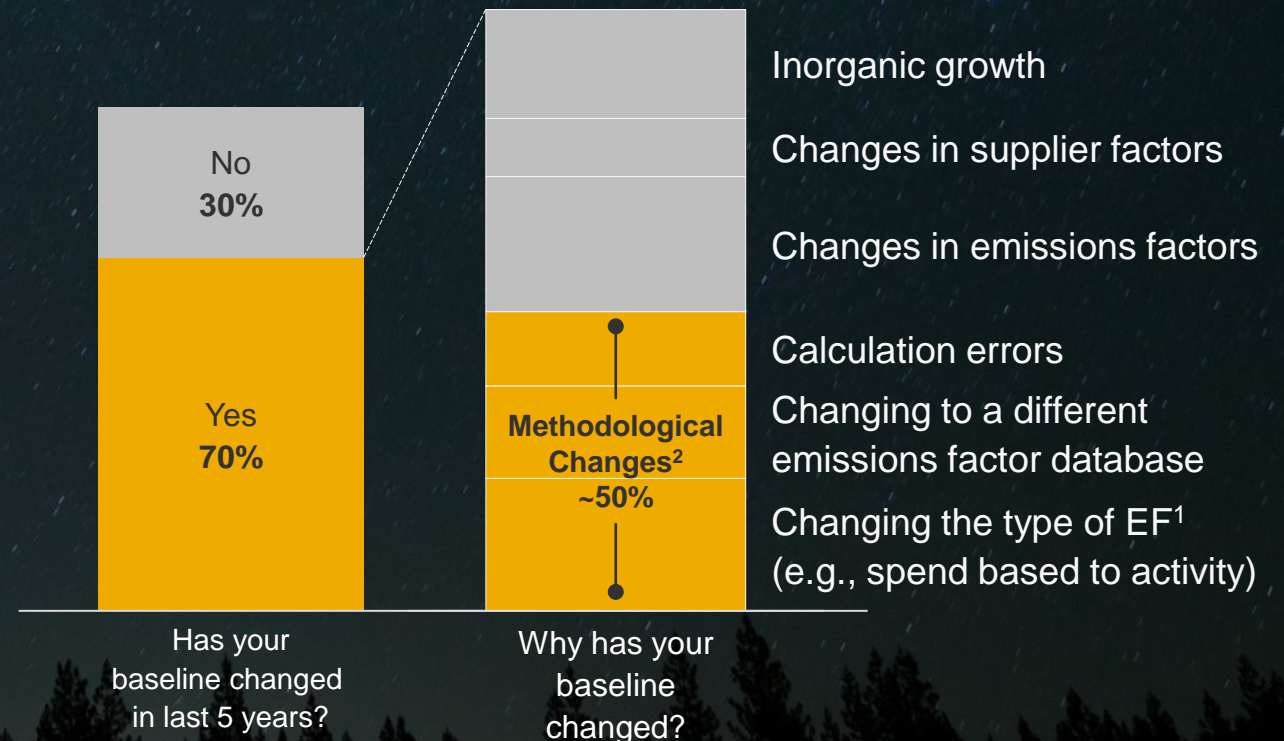


Optional categories e.g. indirect use phase



Lack of sufficient sector specific accounting guidelines

Q: Has your baseline changed in the last 5 years, why?, N=198

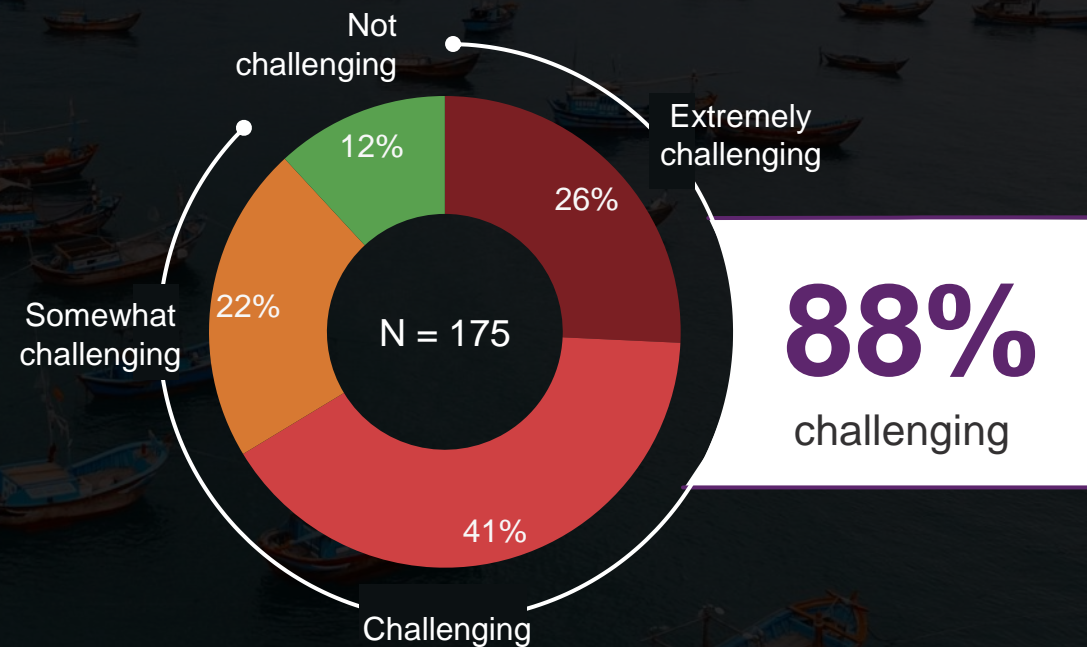




## Target Setting

Almost all companies  
find setting a scope 3  
science-based target  
challenging

Q: How challenging do/did you find setting a scope 3 target?



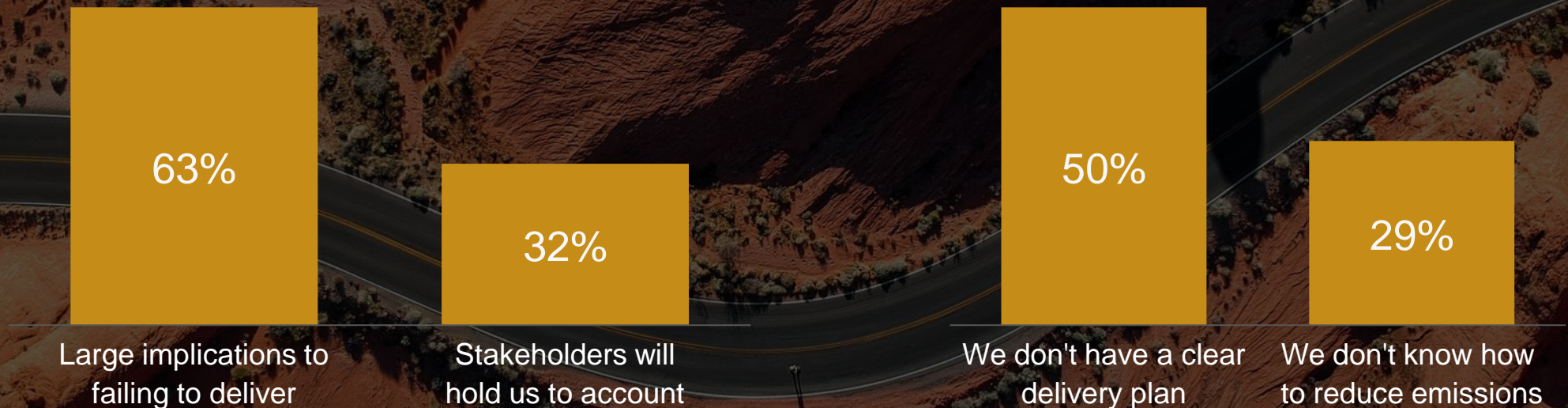


# Target Setting Barrier #1: Confidence

70% of respondents believe lack of confidence in delivery is a barrier to target setting

Respondents are concerned about the consequences of failure...

...and lack confidence because of unclear delivery roadmaps





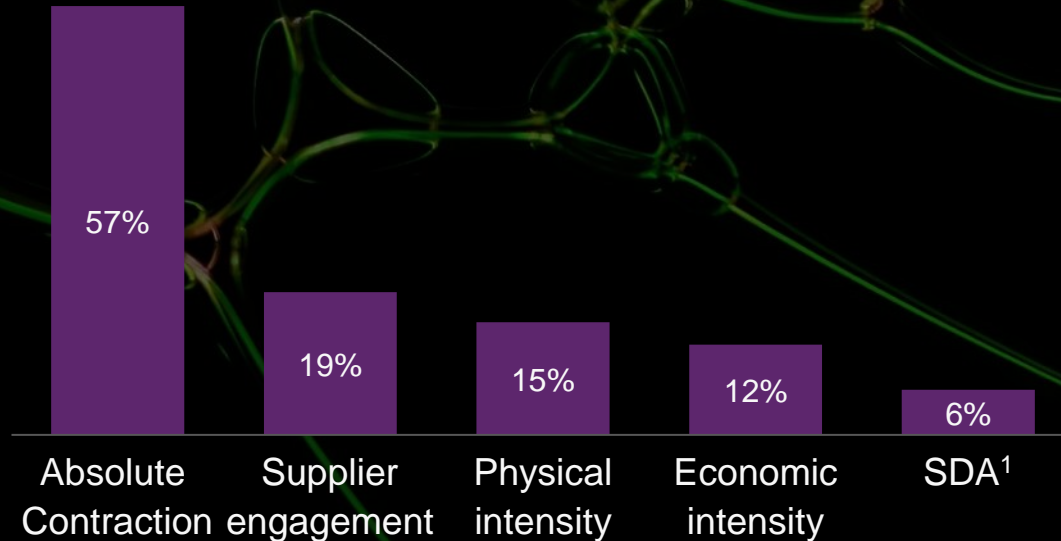
## Target Setting Barrier #2: Methods

Most respondents utilize absolute contraction as a scope 3 target-setting method

57% of companies use absolute contraction for scope 3 target setting...

...however, tailored sector specific guidance may help address perceived barriers

- Scope 3 emissions originate from many different sources including some high emitting sectors.
- For companies with scope 3 emissions in high emitting sectors, sector specific target-setting guidance may help create more nuanced targets compared to the absolute contraction method.
- In addition, respondents commonly cite growth ambitions as a barrier to target setting.
- Use of intensity-based target-setting methodologies may help to partially decouple planned growth from decarbonization ambition.





# Target Delivery

70% of scope 3 emissions concentrated in two categories

S3.1 & S3.11 seen as the hardest to decarbonize...

...representing >70% of global scope 3

Q. Which scope 3 categories do you find the most challenging to decarbonize  
% of respondents, N=168

**S3.1 Purchased goods and services**

**S3.11 Use of sold products**

S3.10 Processing of sold products

S3.12 End-of-life treatment

S3.15 Investments

S3.4 Upstream T&D

S3.2 Capital Goods

S3.9 Downstream Transport

S3.7 Employee commuting

S3.5 Waste in operations

S3.6 Business travel

S3.13 Downstream leased assets

S3.14 Franchises

S3.8 Upstream leased assets

S3.3 Fuel and energy

78%

59%

57%

55%

53%

40%

39%

29%

21%

16%

14%

13%

13%

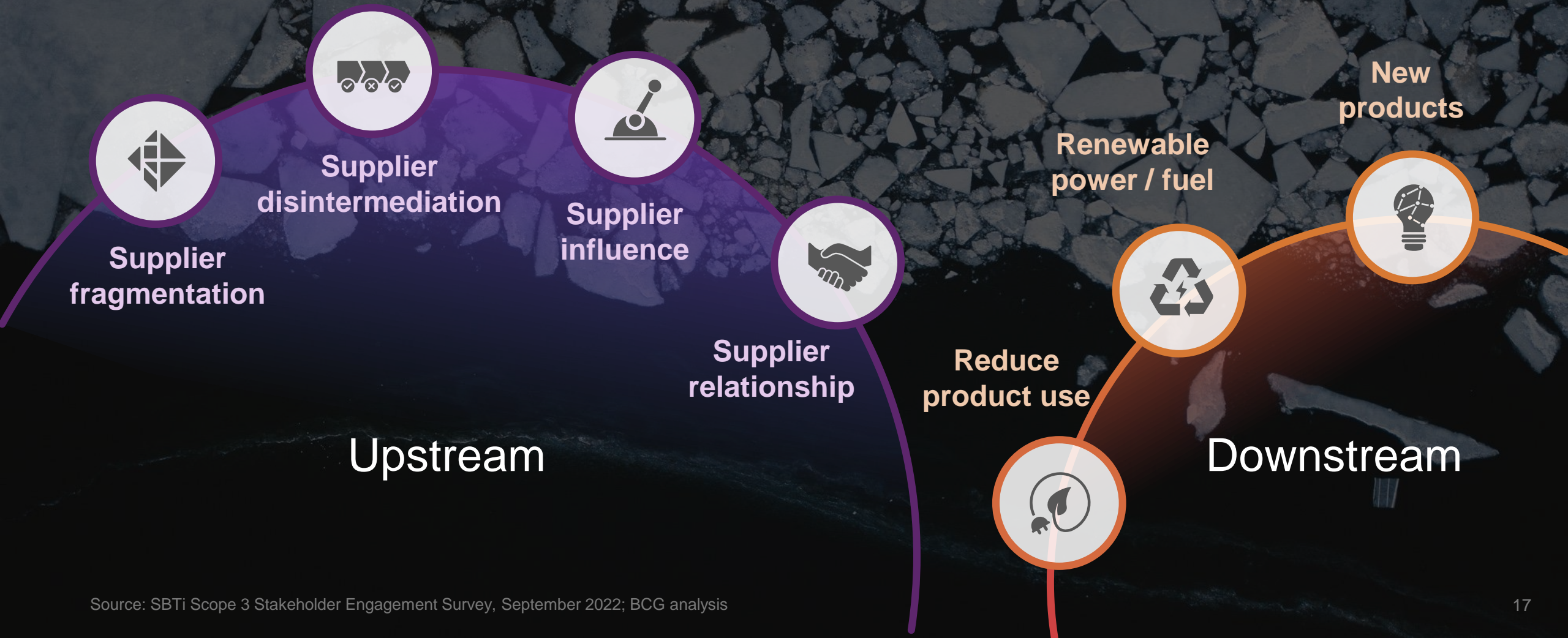
29%

42%



# Delivery Barrier #1: Influence

81% of respondents believe limited influence over supply chains is a barrier to delivery

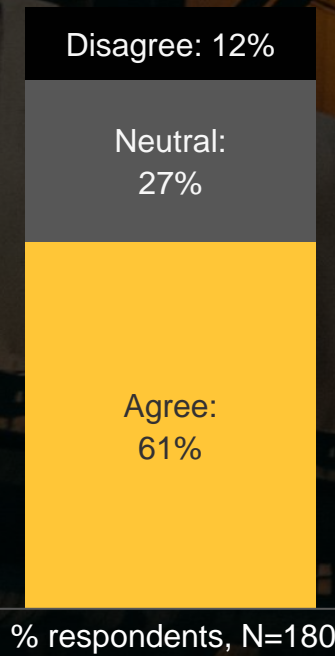




## Delivery Barrier #2: Cost

61% of respondents are concerned that cost is a barrier to delivering a scope 3 target

Is cost a challenge to delivering scope 3 targets?



Why is cost a challenge for delivering scope 3 targets?

% respondents, N=117

Buying low carbon products and services will incur a green premium

75%

Increased  
OPEX

Re-designing products will require CAPEX investment

30%

Increased  
CAPEX

Our competitors are slow to act, limiting pressure on us

20%

Insufficient  
business case



# Delivery Barrier #3: Tracking progress

Access to measured supply chain data is a barrier to tracking the delivery of targets

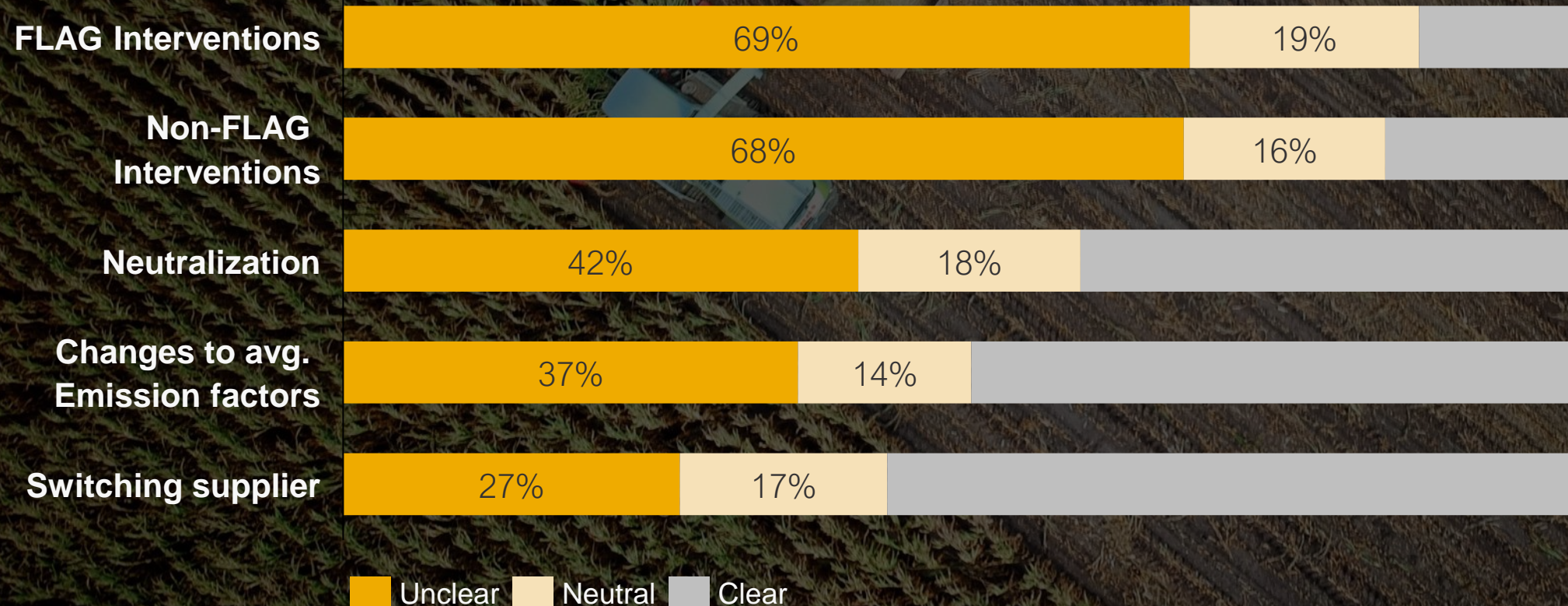




## Delivery Barrier #4: What counts

Some respondents are unclear on "what counts" as a valid scope 3 decarbonization lever

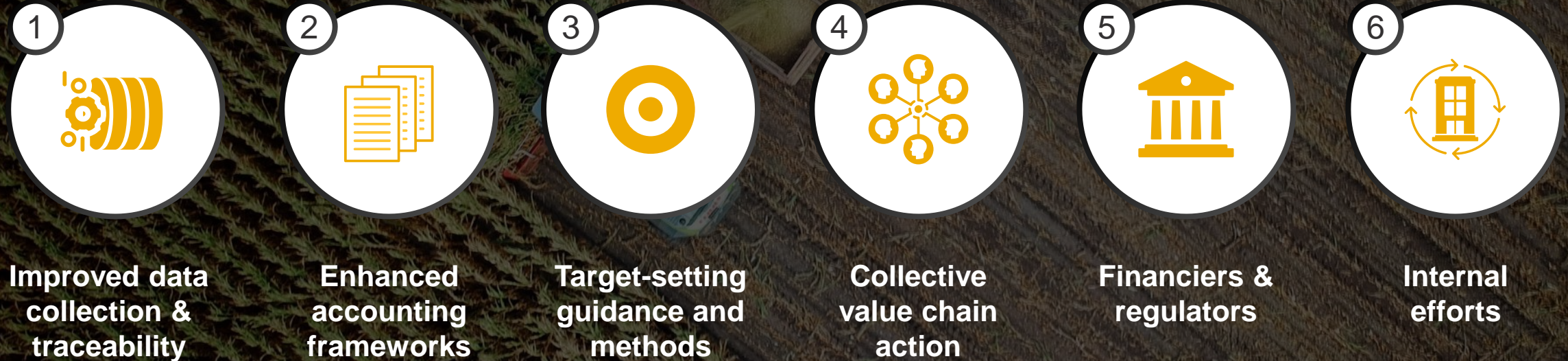
Q: How clear are you about which emission reduction activities can count towards delivery of a scope 3 science-based target? N=140





# Six high level solutions

Addressing barriers is critical to decarbonization – call to action for the entire ecosystem





# Six high level solutions

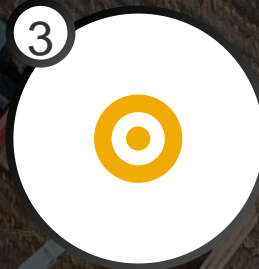
Addressing barriers is critical to decarbonization – call to action for the entire ecosystem



**Improved data  
collection &  
traceability**



**Enhanced  
accounting  
frameworks**



**Target-setting  
guidance and  
methods**



**Collective  
value chain  
action**



**Financiers &  
regulators**



**Internal  
efforts**

**Top  
Barriers  
Identified**

**Baseline : Data access**

**Baseline: Baseline comparability**

**Setting: Confidence in delivery**

**Setting: Methods**

**Delivery: Influence**

**Delivery: Influence**

**Delivery: Cost**

**Delivery: Tracking impact**

**Delivery: What counts**