



Transition  
Pathway  
Initiative

# Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) Annual State of Transition Report, 2020

In partnership with:



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# Agenda

- Welcome from Chair and Hosts
- About the TPI
- The State of Transition Report
- Reflections and Questions
- Using TPI: Two User Case Studies
- Questions
- Closing Remarks



# About the Transition Pathway Initiative

# About TPI

TPI is a **global initiative led by Asset Owners** and supported by Asset Managers

**70 supporters with over \$18 trillion** of combined Assets Under Management and Advice\*

Using **publicly disclosed data**, TPI assesses the progress companies are making **on the transition to a low-carbon economy**:

- **In line** with the recommendations of TCFD;
- **Providing data** for the **Climate Action 100+** initiative

All TPI data is published via an **open-access online tool**: [www.transitionpathwayinitiative.org](http://www.transitionpathwayinitiative.org).

- now incorporating data on **332 companies** across **16 sectors** with a high impact on climate change

\* As of February 2020



# TPI strategic relationships

The TPI's academic partner is the **Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment**, a research centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). It develops the assessment frameworks, provides company assessments and hosts the online tool

TPI's data partner is **FTSE Russell**, a leading global provider of benchmarking, analytics solutions and indices

Secretariat services and TPI supporter coordination are managed by the **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)**, an international investor network implementing the six Principles for Responsible Investment



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



# TPI Governance

## TPI Co-Chairs:



Environment Agency  
Pension Fund

## TPI Steering Committee:



Environment Agency  
Pension Fund



# Research Funding Partners



We would like to thank these organisations for their ongoing support of the TPI and for enabling the research behind our reports.



# Overview of the TPI methodology and tool



# Overview of the TPI Tool

TPI assesses companies in two ways:

1. **Management Quality**, i.e. companies' governance and management of their carbon emissions and of risks and opportunities related to the low-carbon transition
2. **Carbon Performance**, i.e. quantitative benchmarking of companies' emissions pathways against the 2015 Paris Agreement goals

We now cover **332** corporations worldwide in **16** business sectors, comprising:

- 141 energy companies (coal mining, electricity utilities, and oil and gas)
- 119 industrials/materials companies (incl. aluminium, cement, chemicals, paper, steel, etc.)
- 57 transportation companies (autos, airlines and international shipping)
- 15 consumer goods and services companies

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) tool. The header includes the TPI logo, navigation links for 'TPI tool', 'Publications and news', and 'About', and utility links for 'Newsletter', 'Login / Register', and a search icon. The main content area features a large blue and red abstract graphic on the right. The text on the left reads: 'The TPI tool' followed by a paragraph describing the initiative as a global, asset-owner led initiative that assesses companies' preparedness for the transition to a low carbon economy. Below this text is a prominent blue button labeled 'Access the tool'. The lower section of the page is divided into two columns: 'How investors can use the TPI' and 'Supporters'. The 'How investors can use the TPI' section includes a sub-heading and a paragraph, followed by a blue button with a plus sign and the text 'TPI for investors'. The 'Supporters' section includes a sub-heading and a paragraph, followed by a blue button with a plus sign and the text 'Who supports the TPI?'. The footer area contains logos for 'In partnership with' including VISE, the University of Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance, LSE, and PRI.

# Management Quality



**L0. Unaware of (or not acknowledging) climate change as a business issue.**

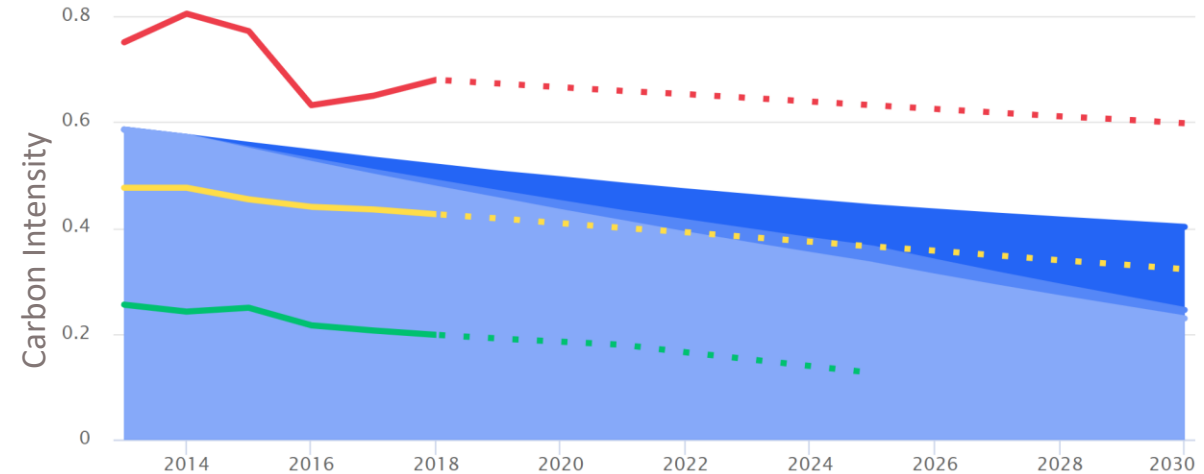
**L1. Acknowledging climate change as a business issue:** The company acknowledges that climate change presents business risks and/or opportunities, and that the company has a responsibility to manage its greenhouse gas emissions. This is the point at which companies adopt a climate change policy.

**L2. Building capacity:** The company develops its basic capacity, its management systems and its processes, and starts to report on practice and performance.

**L3. Integrating into operational decision-making:** The company improves its operational practices, assigns senior management or board responsibility for climate change and provides comprehensive disclosures on its carbon practices and performance.

**L4. Strategic assessment:** The company develops a more strategic and holistic understanding of risks and opportunities related to the low-carbon transition and integrates this into its business strategy decisions.

# Carbon Performance



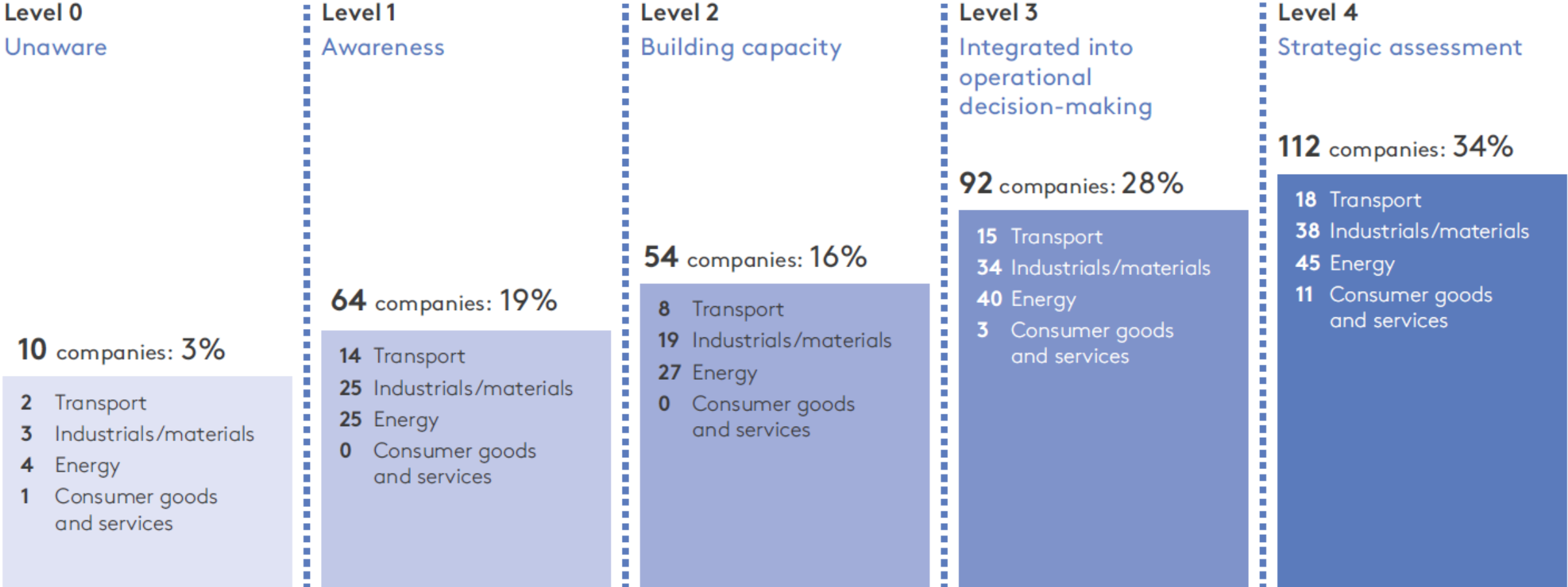
Company A is not aligned with any of the benchmarks

Company B is eventually aligned with the Paris Pledges, but neither 2C/ nor Below 2C

Company C is aligned with all Paris benchmarks, including Below 2C

# The State of Transition 2020

# Management Quality level

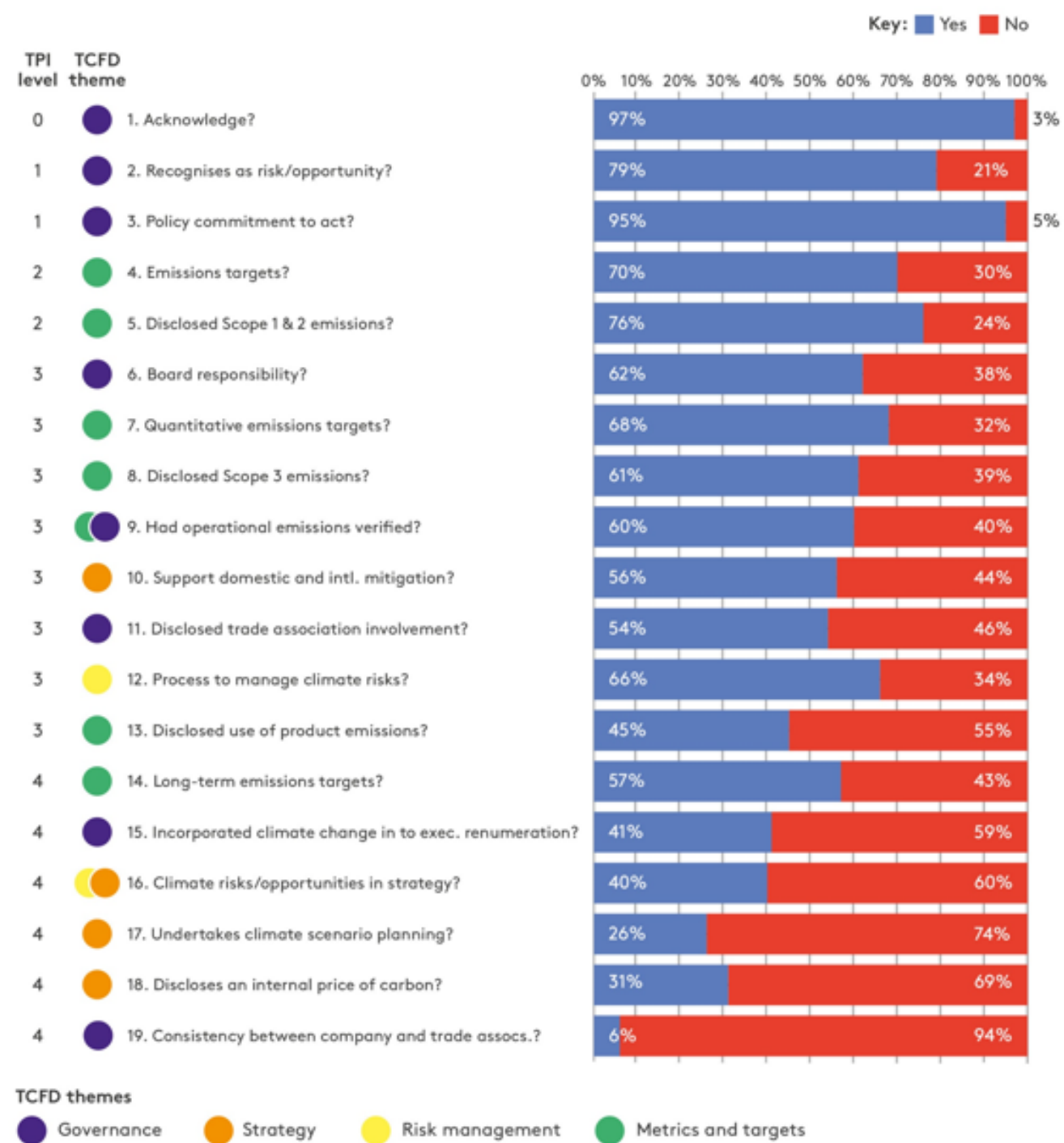


# Management Quality, indicator by indicator

Most companies implement basic carbon management practices

Fewer companies disclose the more advanced carbon management practices

We have added two new indicators of corporate climate lobbying (Q11 and Q19) – barely any companies have measures to ensure consistency between company and trade association positions on climate change (Q19)



# Trends in Management Quality

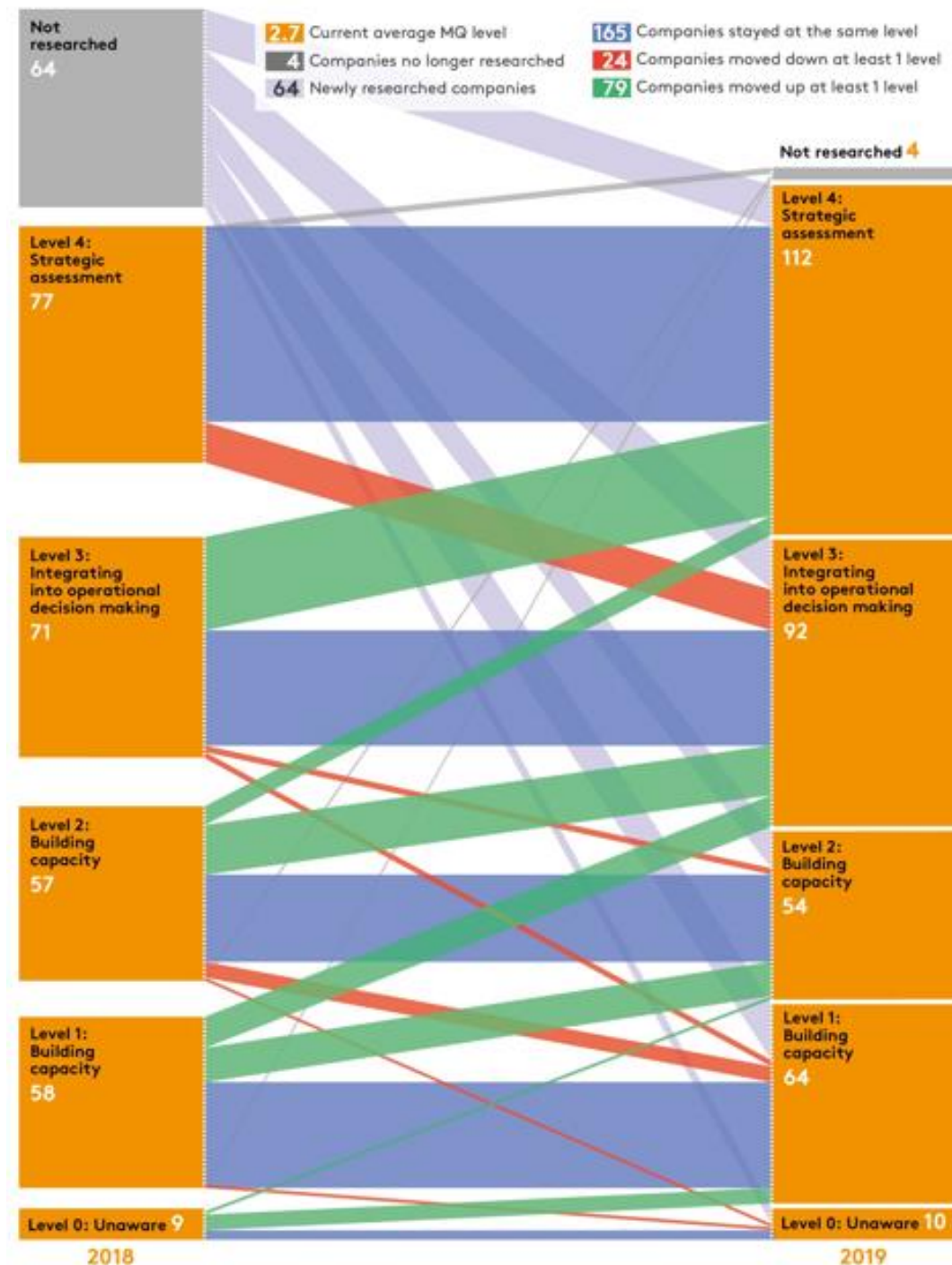
We have trend data on 268 companies. Of those:

- 165 (62%) have stayed on the same level as their last assessment
- 79 (29%) have moved up at least one level
- 24 (9%) have moved down at least one level

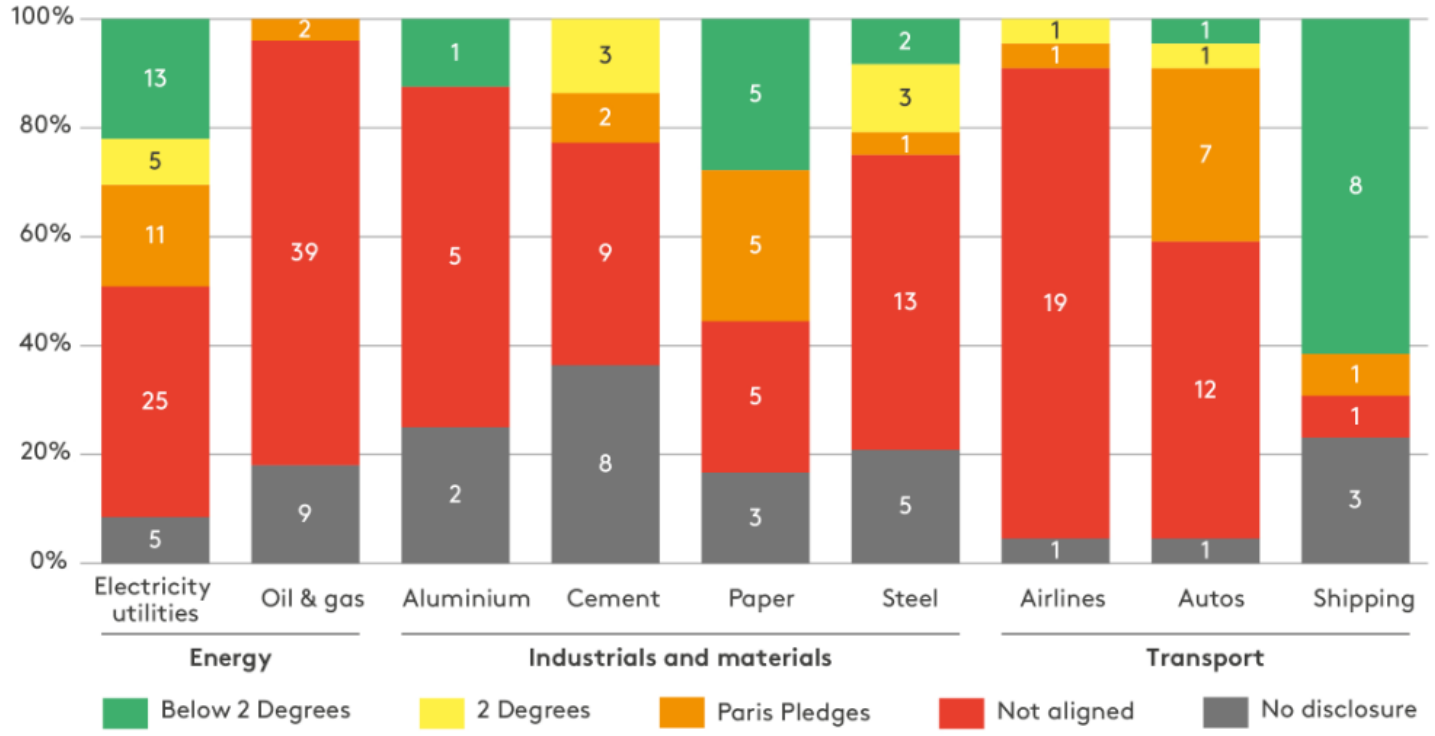
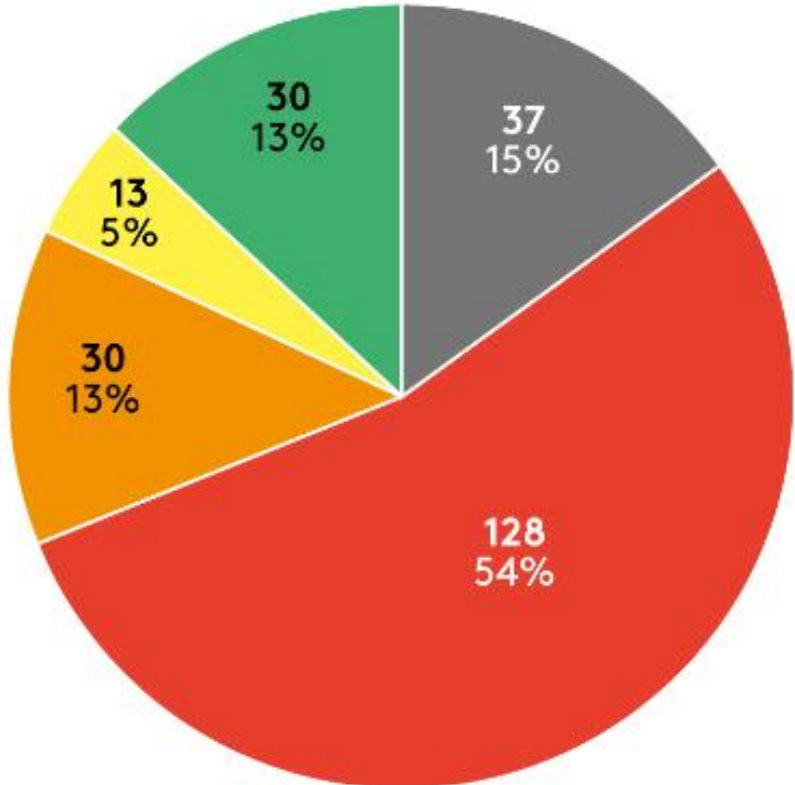
Adding 64 new companies, and removing 4, average Management Quality nudges up from 2.5 to 2.7

One of the most common reasons for moving up is nominating a board member/committee with explicit responsibility for climate change (Level 3 → 4)

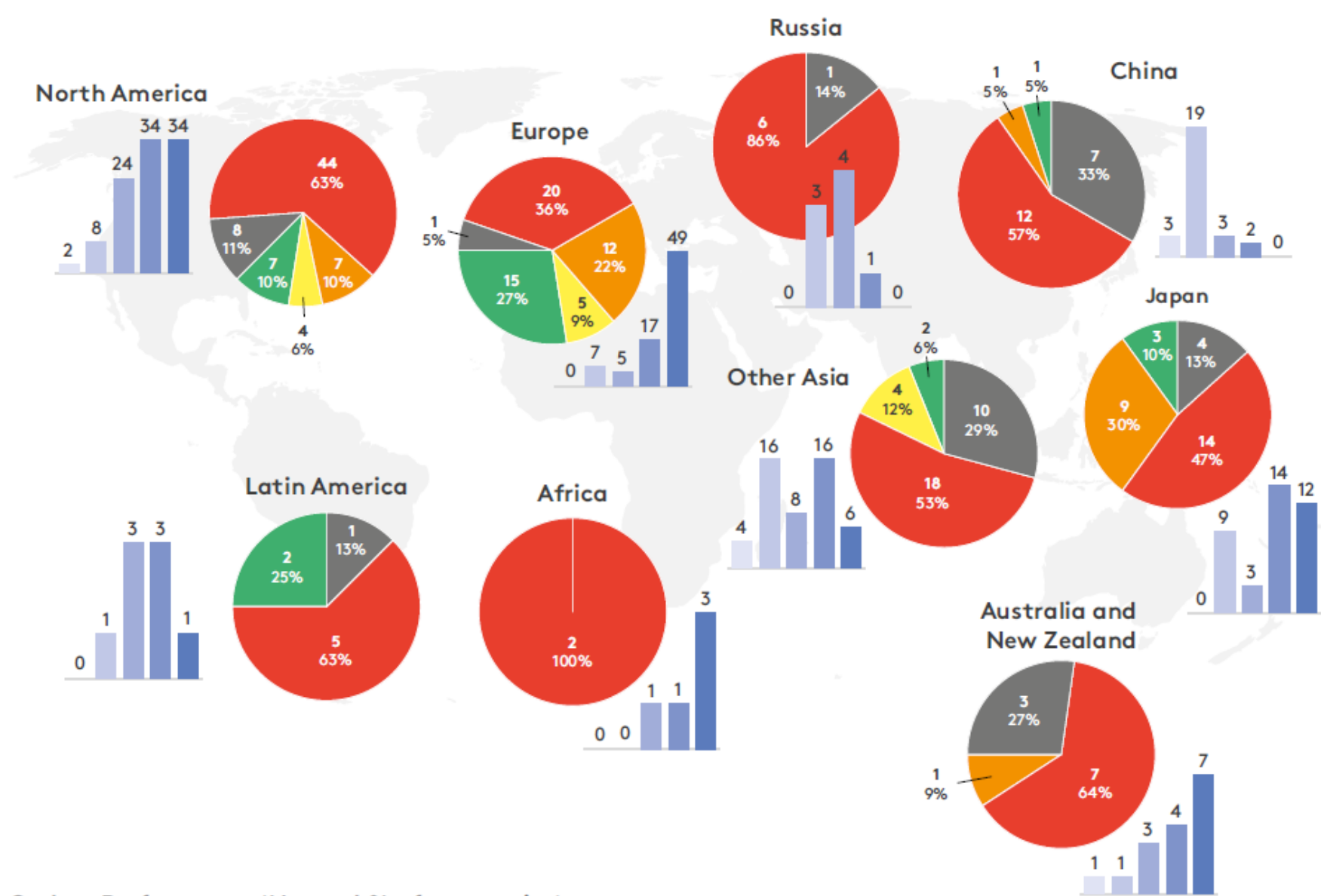
The new lobbying questions have contributed to companies losing 4\* status and moving from Level 4 to 3



# Alignment with the Paris Agreement benchmarks



# Management Quality and Carbon Performance by geography



Carbon Performance (No. and % of companies)

■ No disclosure ■ Not aligned ■ Paris Pledges ■ 2 Degrees ■ Below 2 Degrees

Management Quality (No. of companies)

■ Level 0 ■ Level 1 ■ Level 2 ■ Level 3 ■ Level 4



# Emerging issues: corporate net zero targets and offsetting

Over the last year, a number of companies have set net zero emissions targets, including 21 TPI companies in the energy sector

With net zero targets comes a reliance, to a greater or lesser extent, on offsetting

In principle, offsetting is a cost-effective strategy to meet the Paris Agreement goals

Investors should ask what the costs and risks of offsets are compared with companies' own emissions reductions

Many offsets are purchased on the voluntary carbon market, where prices and quality vary hugely, but prices are generally low

Companies face price and reputational risks. These need managing.

## Net-zero target

### Internal options:

Own reduction of regulated emissions

Own reduction of non-regulated emissions

Own negative emissions

### External options:

Purchased regulated emissions certificates

Purchased voluntary emissions certificates  
(Reductions or negative emissions)

Avoided emissions\*

\*Note: Avoided emissions are defined as "emission reductions that occur outside of a product's life cycle or value chain, but as a result of the use of that product".<sup>7</sup>

# Key sectoral opportunities for improvement

Investors' leading engagement priorities:  
based on analysis of Management Quality  
and Carbon Performance in each sector



Engage car makers to set long-term emissions targets, showing how innovation/investment strategies translate into alignment with the Paris temperature goals



Engage more oil and gas companies to disclose long-term targets, which cover emissions from use of sold products



Engage laggard coal mining companies to start taking climate change seriously



Ensure all cement producers disclose their emissions intensity according to the Cement Sustainability Initiative



Engage paper producers to increase verification of operational emissions in the sector



Engage airlines to provide more disclosure on proposed use of offsets to meet net emissions targets



Engage shipping companies to assign boardroom responsibility for climate change



Lobby governments outside the EU to set more ambitious climate goals for their electricity sectors



Engage steel makers to accelerate carbon intensity improvements



Engage aluminium producers to fully integrate climate change into operational decision-making



Engage the chemical sector to disclose useful measures of Carbon Performance

# Summary of results

Nearly 40% of companies are demonstrably unprepared for the transition to a low-carbon economy (by virtue of being on Management Quality Levels 0-2)

Average Management Quality continues to slowly improve, from 2.5 to 2.7

Few companies are implementing more strategic and long-term carbon management practices: investors should engage on this. There is a particular lack of consistency between company and trade association positions on climate change.

On Carbon Performance, more than 80% of companies remain off-track for a 2C world

Only electricity and paper companies are currently on track to meet their targets; in other sectors, companies will need to ramp up their efforts

New net zero announcements imply the use of offsetting, which presents risks that need managing



# Thank you

[transitionpathwayinitiative.org](https://transitionpathwayinitiative.org)

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