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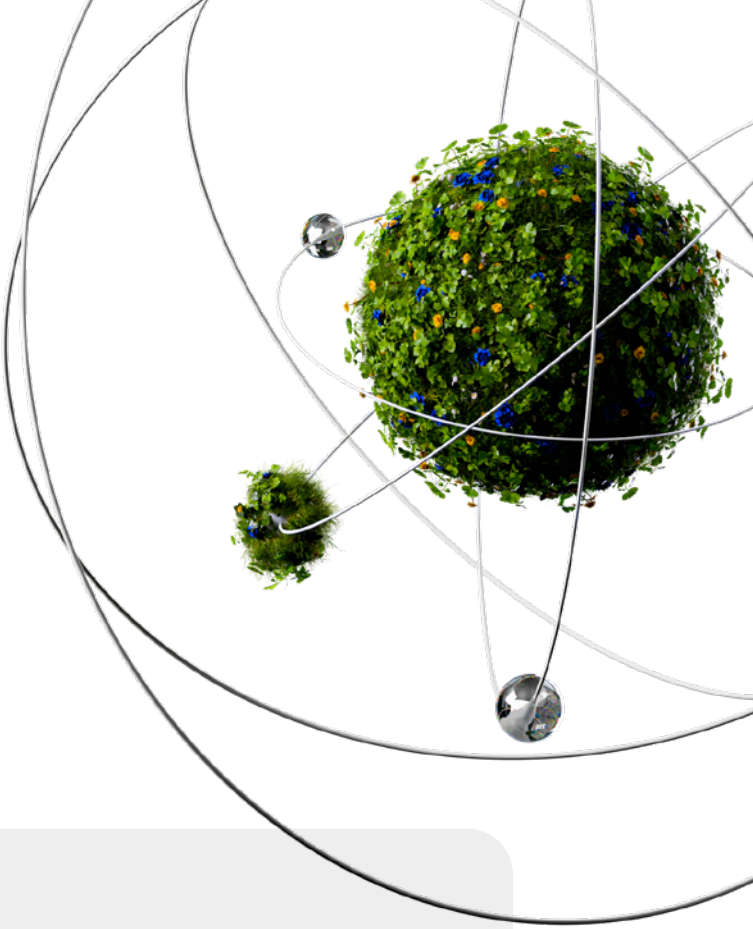

Bio-Techne Supplier Sustainability FAQ

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Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Science-based Targets

1. What is a GHG inventory and the GHG Protocol?

A greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is a complete record of all the emissions a company produces directly and indirectly, typically captured annually for a full fiscal year. It is the foundation for understanding a company's carbon footprint and is a prerequisite for setting a science-based target.

The GHG Protocol is the most widely used global standard for measuring and managing greenhouse gas emissions. It provides the accounting frameworks and guidance that most companies rely on.

To learn more about the GHG Protocol and process for developing a GHG inventory, visit https://ghgprotocol.org.

2. What are Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions?

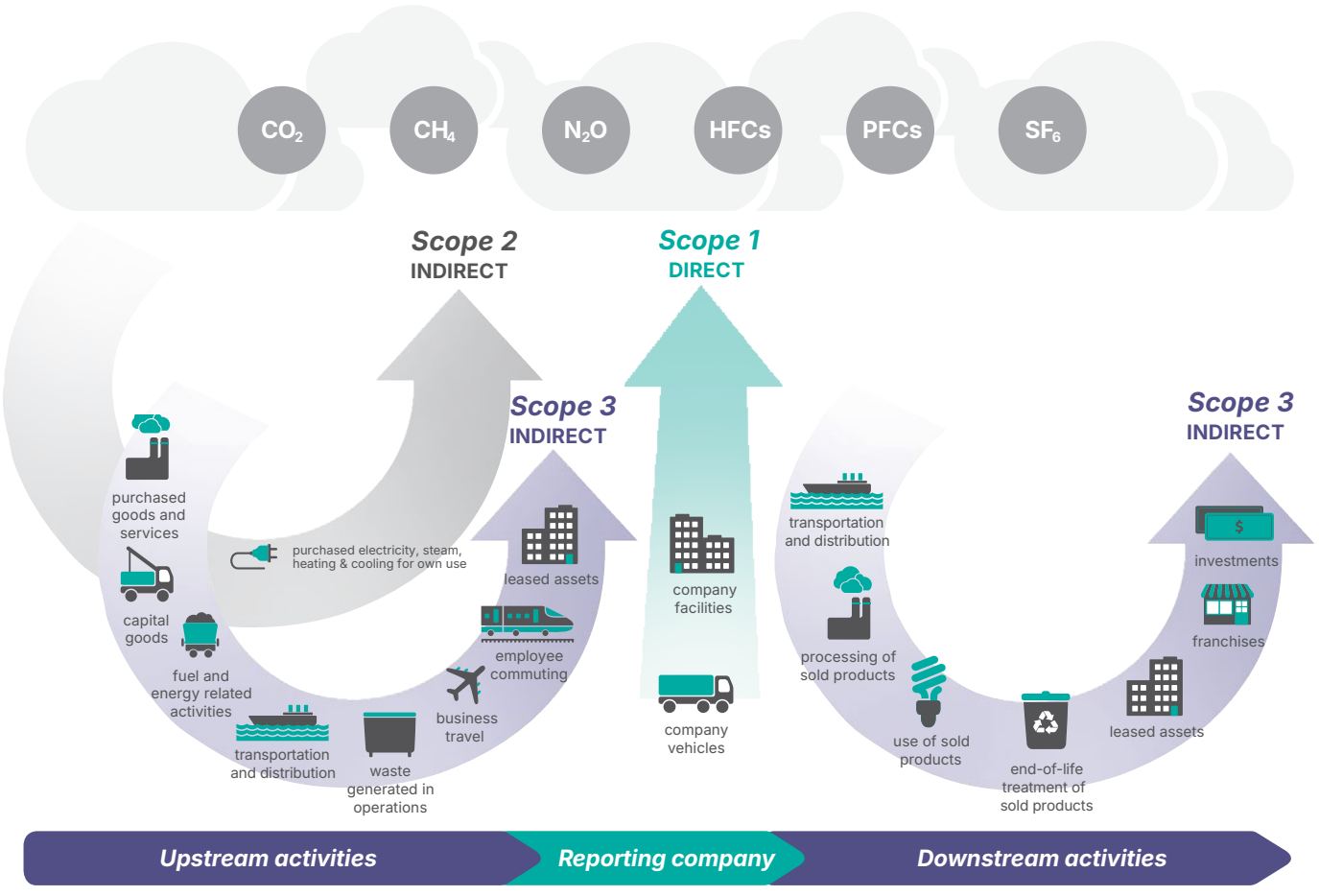
A greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is a complete record of all the emissions a company produces directly and indirectly, typically captured annually for a full fiscal year. It is the foundation for understanding a company's carbon footprint and is a prerequisite for setting a science-based target.

A company's GHG emissions are broken down into the following three scopes:

- **Scope 1:** direct emissions owned or controlled by the company, such as from fuel combustion or company vehicles
- **Scope 2:** indirect emissions from purchased electricity, steam, heat, or cooling
- **Scope 3:** all other indirect emissions that occur across a company's value chain, including from suppliers and customers

FIGURE 1

Overview of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain



Source: **WRI/WBCSD Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard (pdf)**

3. What tools or resources are available to help us get started?

A number of free tools and platforms are available to help organizations begin measuring and tracking their emissions — a critical first step toward setting a science-based target. For example, **Persefoni Pro** is a free carbon accounting platform that may be a useful starting point for organizations earlier in their sustainability journey.

4. What is a science-based target (SBT)?

Science-based targets are greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets that align with current climate science and the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Official SBTs must be validated by the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and adhere to the initiative's strict criteria.

5. What is the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi)?

Established as a partnership between CDP, the UN Global Company, World Resources Institute (WRI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) works to help the private sector set and validate ambitious science-based targets. With its own set of specific criteria, SBTi validates science-based targets through a rigorous approval process, starting with a target application, conducting a thorough review, and providing feedback for companies that need to re-submit a revision.

According to SBTi, nearly 13,000 companies have set validated SBTs, with more than 2600 others setting net-zero commitments. For more information regarding SBTi, visit **https://sciencebasedtargets.org.**

6. How long does it take and what does it cost to get a target validated by SBTi?

The validation process involves two steps: registration and target submission. Registration typically takes 5-10 business days, during which SBTi confirms your organization's eligibility and classification (corporate, SME, or financial institution). Once registered, target validation takes approximately 30 business days, though submissions may be processed sooner.

Validation fees are charged per submission and vary based on organization type and size. An invoice is issued after you submit your targets for validation, with payment due within 30 days. For current fee information and a step-by-step guide, visit the **SBTi Services target validation page** and the **SBTi Navigator for Getting Started**.

7. Where can I find more resources or request additional support?

Bio-Techne's **Supplier Sustainability Resource Hub** hosts a small curation of free/low-cost resources to help suppliers measure, improve, and set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The content is organized based on maturity level, so you can more easily locate the tools and guidance most relevant to your current needs. Suppliers can also request a complimentary, tailored discussion with an independent sustainability consultant directly through the hub.

Supplier Expectations

1. Why is Bio-Techne asking suppliers to set science-based targets?

Bio-Techne has made its own SBTi commitment, which includes a supplier engagement target requiring a significant portion of our supply chain emissions to be covered by science-aligned targets by 2030. As one of our valued suppliers, you are included in the scope of this effort. We see this as an opportunity to build a more sustainable supply chain together.

2. Do my company's targets have to be validated by the SBTi?

While we encourage suppliers to pursue official SBTi validation, we recognize the formal process may not be feasible for all organizations at this time. An officially validated SBT has been reviewed and approved by SBTi and is publicly listed on the SBTi portal. A science-aligned target has not gone through formal SBTi validation but meets equivalent criteria:

- A near-term emissions reduction target using the most recent GHG inventory as the base year
- A combined Scope 1 and 2 reduction target covering at least 95% of company-wide emissions, aligned with a 1.5°C pathway
- A Scope 3 target covering at least 67% of total Scope 3 emissions, if Scope 3 represents more than 40% of total company emissions

Suppliers pursuing this route should be prepared to share their methodology with Bio-Techne upon request. We encourage all suppliers to work toward formal SBTi validation over time.

3. What is Bio-Techne's deadline for suppliers to have a target in place?

We are asking suppliers to have a science-aligned target in place by 2030.

4. Does Bio-Techne require suppliers to set both a near-term and a net-zero target?

A near-term target is required. A net-zero target is not mandatory, though we encourage suppliers to consider long-term targets as best practice for meaningful decarbonization.

5. What information should we provide if we already have or are in the process of setting a target?

If your target is visible on the SBTi portal, please share the name of the organization as it appears there so we can confirm and source the data. If your target or commitment is not yet visible on the portal, please share confirmation of your submission or any acknowledgment correspondence you have received from SBTi directly with us at **Sustainability@Bio-Techne.com.**

6. What happens if we do not have a target in place by 2030?

We understand that setting a science-based target is a significant undertaking, and we are committed to supporting our suppliers throughout this process. We will work collaboratively with suppliers who are making progress in good faith. We encourage you to reach out early so we can discuss how Bio-Techne can help.

7. Where can I find more resources or request additional support?

Bio-Techne's Supplier Sustainability Resource Hub (link: **https://resources.bio-techne.com/enterprise/resources/sustainability-hub/**) hosts a small curation of free/low-cost resources to help suppliers measure, improve, and set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The content is organized based on maturity level, so you can more easily locate the tools and guidance most relevant to your current needs. Suppliers can also request a complimentary, tailored discussion with an independent sustainability consultant directly through the hub.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Companies

1. What is the SBTi SME pathway and how does it differ from the standard corporate route?

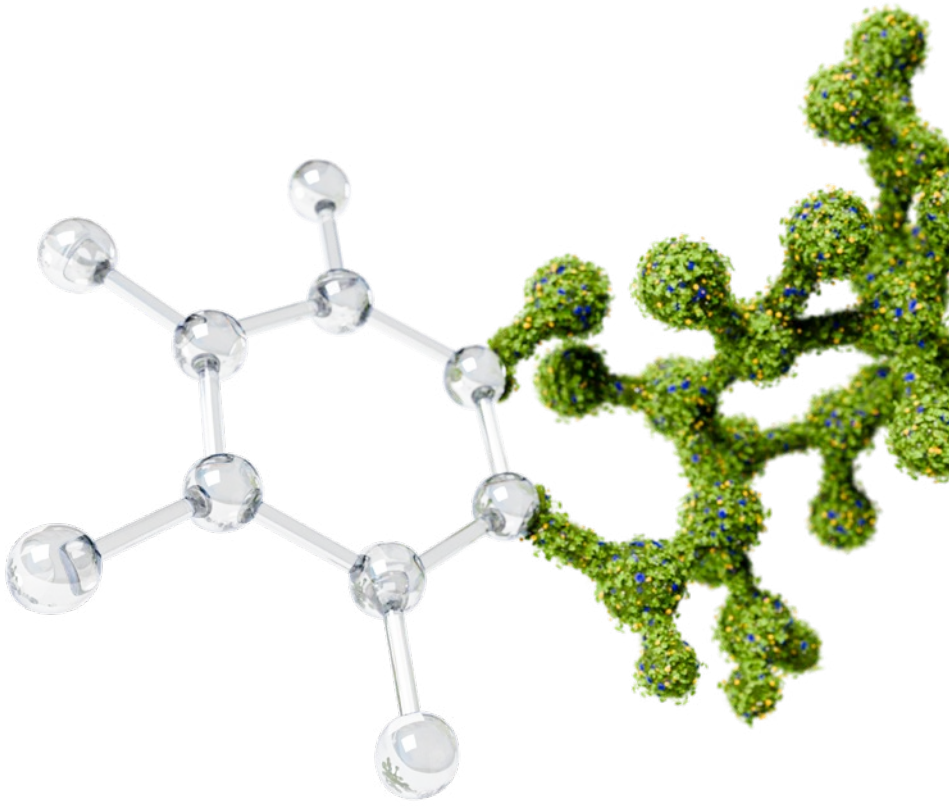
The SME pathway is a streamlined, lower-cost route to setting a science-based target designed specifically for smaller organizations. Unlike the standard corporate route, SMEs move directly to target-setting without a separate commitment stage, and can choose from a set of predefined validation options. SMEs are also not required to set near-term Scope 3 targets, though they are encouraged to measure and reduce their Scope 3 emissions over time.

2. How do I know if my company qualifies as an SME under SBTi criteria?

An SME is generally a company with fewer than 250 employees, under €50M in annual turnover, and under €25M in total assets, though additional criteria apply. For full details on SBTi's SME criteria and process, visit the **SBTi SME FAQ**.

3. What role does a parent company play in determining SME eligibility?

If your company is a subsidiary of a parent company, the eligibility for SME classification may be impacted. To qualify as an SME, your company must not be part of a parent entity whose combined businesses exceed the SME thresholds or belong to sectors requiring corporate validation. Additionally, if your parent company is classified as a Financial Institution or operates in sectors deemed ineligible through the SME criteria, your company will not be eligible for SME classification and will need to follow the corporate validation route.



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