



InfluenceMap

Corporate Climate Policy Engagement Leaders, 2023

An InfluenceMap Report

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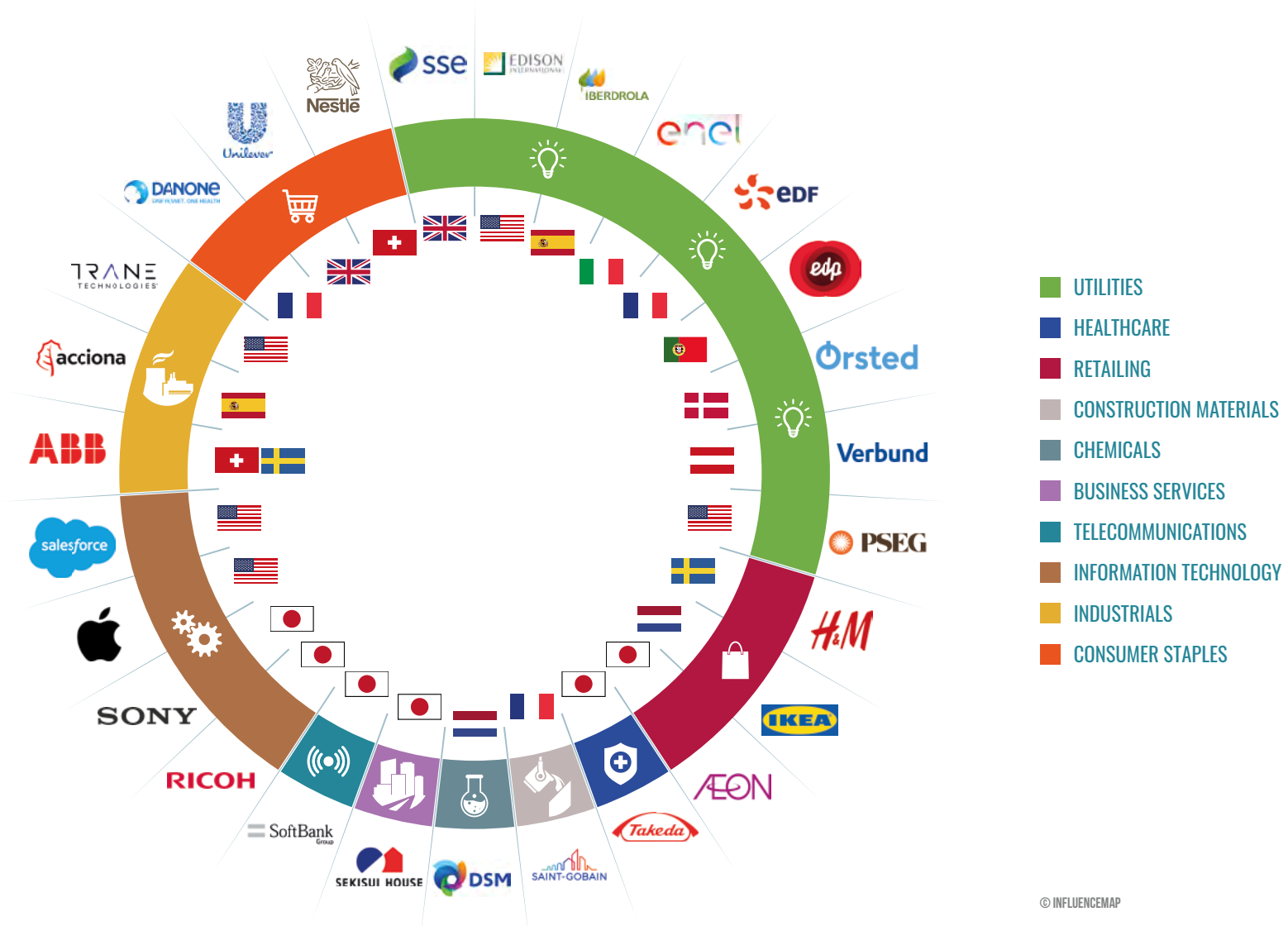
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Executive summary

- **InfluenceMap periodically publishes an analysis to identify the companies around the globe that have achieved best practice in climate policy advocacy.** The 2023 Corporate Climate Policy Engagement Leaders report provides an updated analysis of the global landscape for science-aligned climate policy influence, setting a clear bar for positive and active climate advocacy.
- **The 2023 Global Leaders list identifies a total of 27 companies globally meeting all criteria for leadership (Organization Score, Engagement Intensity, and Indirect Influence) based on InfluenceMap's world leading platform for measuring corporate climate policy engagement.** The companies represent a range of economic sectors – primarily Utilities, Information Technology, Industrials, and Retailing – across Europe, the United States, and Japan. Together, they make up roughly 5% of the entire InfluenceMap database of nearly 500 companies assessed for their climate policy engagement.
- **Positive corporate policy engagement is critical for progress on the climate crisis, given the gap between what is needed from governments and the policies in place.** The corporate sector globally holds huge sway over climate policy, yet InfluenceMap research shows that the majority of companies outside the fossil fuel value chain remain largely on the sidelines, not prioritizing climate in their advocacy. Fortunately, the number of corporate leaders in Europe, North America, and Asia-Pacific has grown following previous InfluenceMap reports on this topic, indicating an encouraging trend.
- **16 of the 27 leaders in climate policy engagement are headquartered in Europe, compared to six in Japan and five in the United States.** This year's list includes established leaders in climate policy advocacy such as IKEA, Unilever, and Iberdrola, as well as new arrivals DSM-Firmenich and Saint-Gobain in Europe, and Apple and Trane Technologies in the U.S. Companies in Japan pushing for science-based policy include Ricoh and Softbank from the Information Technology sector and healthcare company Takeda.
- **To make the 2023 list, companies need to meet three criteria, each of which correspond to key InfluenceMap metrics.** Global leaders must engage positively, aligning their climate policy advocacy with science-based pathways for delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement (InfluenceMap Organization Score), and they must engage actively with those positions (InfluenceMap Engagement Intensity). Companies were excluded from the Global Leaders list if they demonstrate highly negative indirect influence through industry associations with no formal disclosure of their efforts to address misalignment with their negatively engaging groups. More details on InfluenceMap scores are available [here](#).
- **The analysis identifies an additional cohort of 17 companies that demonstrate various aspects of leadership but have not quite met all three criteria.** A common reason for companies missing out on full leadership was the failure to transparently and robustly addressing the negative climate policy influence they are having via industry associations, despite their own positive direct engagement.

Global Corporate Climate Leaders



Introduction

Climate Change and Corporate Influence

In April 2022, the UN's climate science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released its *Sixth Assessment Report: Mitigation of Climate Change*. The report emphasizes the need to substantially reduce fossil fuel consumption and shift investments from fossil fuels toward low-carbon technologies in order to limit global warming to 2°C. It also reiterates the **importance of regulatory action** at various levels of government to achieve the necessary emissions reductions.

International bodies have consistently identified the need for **decisive policy interventions by governments** around the world to drive the energy transition and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Despite this urgent, science-based guidance, the policy plans of the world's governments fall short of global climate goals. In its *2022 Emissions Gap Report*, the UN Environment Program finds that current climate policies globally point to a 2.8°C temperature rise by the end of the century, and that only an “urgent system-wide transformation” will deliver the necessary GHG emissions reductions.

The IPCC's April 2022 report identified “**opposition from status quo interests that are exerting political influence**” as a key reason for the lack of progress on climate policy globally, and added that **fossil fuel companies**, both upstream and downstream, make up the majority of organizations opposed to climate action.



The IPCC's April 2022 report identified “opposition from status quo interests that are exerting political influence” as a key reason for the lack of progress on climate policy globally, and added that fossil fuel companies, both upstream and downstream, make up the majority of organizations opposed to climate action.



Best Practice in Climate Policy Engagement

As outlined in InfluenceMap's "*Net Zero and the Need for New Leadership in Climate Policy Engagement*" briefing, InfluenceMap's policy trackers in *Australia, Europe, Japan, South Korea*, and the *US* all show that the majority of engagement on key climate policies is undertaken by a minority of vested, oppositional corporate interests from the fossil fuel value chain. **However, the corporate interests holding back climate progress represent only a fraction of the overall economy, leaving a vacuum for corporate leadership in climate advocacy.**

A push to align corporate climate policy engagement with the goals of the Paris Agreement is emerging as one of the most pressing climate issues. Various standards and recommendations have been formalized on this issue, including but not limited to:

- The *Global Standard on Responsible Climate Lobbying*, launched by a wide coalition of investors in 2022 to achieve a "step-change in the commitment of investors and companies to responsible climate lobbying in practice."
- The UN High-Level Expert Group's 'Integrity Matters' *report*, published at COP27 as a "roadmap to prevent net zero from being undermined by false claims, ambiguity and 'greenwash.'" One of the report's recommendations focuses specifically on policy engagement, noting that "Non-state actors must align their external policy and engagement efforts, including membership in trade associations, to the goal of reducing global emissions by at least 50% by 2030."

- The *AAA Framework* for Climate Policy Leadership, launched in 2019 by 11 NGOs including Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Ceres, Union of Concerned Scientists, and others. The three actions of the AAA Framework – Advocate, Align, and Allocate – are also captured in *We Mean Business*' steps to achieving climate leadership.
- Race to Zero, a global campaign rallying non state actors to "take rigorous and immediate action" to halve global emissions by 2030. Race to Zero sets out *criteria* for its members, including the need to "align external policy and engagement, including membership in associations, to the goal of halving emissions by 2030 and reaching global (net) zero by 2050" within a year of joining.

InfluenceMap's "*Net Zero and the Need for New Leadership in Climate Policy Engagement*" briefing explains how companies can help tip the scales toward positive climate policy advocacy by actively prioritizing their climate policy engagement. Fortunately, an increasing number of corporate leaders are displaying elements of leadership on this issue.

The 2023 Global Leaders Methodology

InfluenceMap regularly publishes its “A-List of Climate Policy Engagement” report to identify the companies around the globe that have achieved best practice in climate policy advocacy, as well as those that appear on track for leadership. **The 2023 Global Leaders in Climate Policy Engagement provides an updated analysis of the global landscape for climate policy influence, setting a clear bar for positive and active climate advocacy.**

To make the Global Leaders List of 2023, companies need to meet three criteria, each of which correspond to key InfluenceMap metrics.

- **Global Leaders must engage positively with climate policy, with an InfluenceMap Organization Score of 75% or above.** In InfluenceMap assessments, Organization Scores 75% and above indicate full alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Scores between 50% and 75% indicate a mix of positive and negative or unclear engagement, while scores below 50% indicate generally negative engagement.
- **Companies must engage actively on climate policy, with sufficient InfluenceMap Engagement Intensity.** Engagement Intensity measures how strategically or actively a company is advocating on climate policy. In Europe, where a greater presence of climate policy allows for more engagement by corporates, companies must have an Engagement Intensity of 35% or higher. In North America and Asia, companies must achieve an Engagement Intensity of at least 30% and 15%, respectively.
- **Companies were excluded from the Global Leaders list if they demonstrate highly negative indirect influence, measured by membership in more than three Industry Associations with Organization Scores below 50% and no formal disclosure of their misalignment with those groups.** *Investor expectations* stipulate that companies should produce reviews of their links to industry associations to assess whether or not those groups are lobbying

in alignment with the Paris Agreement. If companies maintain links to more than three groups with scores under 50% and have not clearly specified misalignment in such a review, they will not make the list of Global Leaders.

To determine the 2023 leaders, InfluenceMap relied on its database of 500+ companies and 250+ industry associations, and its established system for assessing these entities’ climate policy engagement. (Please see the LobbyMap [methodology](#) for more details). Our system for adding companies to the LobbyMap database prioritizes the largest companies as measured by the Forbes Global 2000, which aggregates a range of indicators relevant to economic size and political influence. As such, the 2023 Global Leaders of this report were identified from a total universe of over 500 companies, which includes the 300 largest non-financial companies from the 2023 Forbes 2000 list.

In addition to size, the process for adding companies to the LobbyMap database considers each company’s likely relevance to climate change in LobbyMap’s focus regions. Such may include:

- Companies in sectors that are key to the global energy transition, including energy, utilities, transport, industrials, heavy industry, and mining. In line with this, for example, InfluenceMap assesses the target list of the Climate Action 100+ initiative. We are currently expanding our coverage of the agriculture and food and drink sectors.
- Companies from any sector that have been flagged as potentially engaging on climate policy in an active and positive manner, for example, via membership in global corporate climate initiatives. In line with this, for example, InfluenceMap assesses over 150 of the largest [Race to Zero](#) company members.

Currently the LobbyMap database is focused on companies headquartered or operating in North America, Europe, South Korea, Japan, and Australia. We are currently in the process of expanding regional analysis to include China, Brazil, India, South Africa, and Mexico.

Global Leaders in Climate Policy Engagement

Following the release of the first *Global Stocktake* to measure progress and gaps toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, and with COP 28 approaching in December, governments and other stakeholders around the world will be closely evaluating and communicating on their plans to accelerate climate action. Some companies and industry interests may be expected to take a progressive stance on the outcomes of the Global Stakeholder, outlining real plans to address the ambition gap. Others are more likely to delay and distract from the urgently needed progress with language around “lower carbon” fuels and a “moderated” energy transition.

At such a critical turning point for global climate action, identifying and distinguishing the true corporate leaders in climate policy advocacy from those holding back progress is of vital importance.

Since the release of the 2021 A-List of Climate Policy Engagement report, InfluenceMap has added corporate advocacy on land use related policy to its company assessments. In addition, the IPCC has *identified* the GHG emissions-reduction potential of government policies designed to increase circular material flows. As such, engagement with climate-relevant circular economy policies, such as the EU’s Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, will contribute to InfluenceMap scores in due course but have not been included in the assessments for this report.

- **The 2023 Global Leaders list identifies a total of 27 companies globally meeting all three criteria for leadership**, measured by their InfluenceMap Organization Score, Engagement Intensity, and membership in no more than three industry associations with highly negative influence and no attempt to disclose and address this misalignment (see “The 2023 Leaders Methodology” above).
- **The companies represent a range of economic sectors** across Europe, the United States, and Japan, with the majority of companies headquartered in Europe. More details on each company’s climate advocacy, and the nuances of climate policy engagement in different regions, are available in the following section.



At such a critical turning point for global climate action, identifying and distinguishing the true corporate leaders in climate policy advocacy from those holding back progress is of vital importance.



Company	Sector: Market Cap (as of Sept 2023)	Country Headquarters	Organization Score	Engagement Intensity	Industry Associations
<i>Nestlé</i>	Consumer Staples: \$315.28 bn USD	Switzerland	81%	51%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Unilever</i>	Consumer Staples: \$126.42 bn USD	United Kingdom	83%	64%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Ørsted</i>	Utilities: \$22.37 bn USD	Denmark	83%	48%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>SSE</i>	Utilities: \$22.05 bn USD	United Kingdom	82%	50%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>EDP</i>	Utilities: \$18.63 bn USD	Portugal	83%	52%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Verbund</i>	Utilities: \$13.6 bn USD	Austria	83%	43%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Enel</i>	Utilities: \$67.71 bn USD	Italy	81%	64%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>DSM-Firmenich</i>	Chemicals: \$0.46 bn USD	Netherlands	83%	57%	3 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Iberdrola</i>	Utilities: \$73.97 bn USD	Spain	80%	61%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Acciona</i>	Industrials: \$7.46 bn USD	Spain	81%	41%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>H & M</i>	Retailing: \$21.54 bn USD	Sweden	81%	44%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement

<i>IKEA</i>	Retailing: N/A	Netherlands	80%	53%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>EDF</i>	Utilities: \$53.52 bn USD	France	77%	62%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>ABB</i>	Industrials: \$70.45 bn USD	Switzerland	77%	46%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Danone</i>	Consumer Staples: \$38.69 bn USD	France	79%	49%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Saint-Gobain</i>	Construction Materials: \$31.57 bn USD	France	75%	51%	3 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Public Service Enterprise Group</i>	Utilities: \$29.56 bn USD	United States	75%	59%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Edison International</i>	Utilities: \$25.96 bn USD	United States	75%	52%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Trane Technologies</i>	Industrials: \$1.19 bn USD	United States	79%	44%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Salesforce</i>	Information Technology: \$215.63 bn USD	United States	82%	46%	3 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Apple</i>	Information Technology: \$2,859.65 bn USD	United States	87%	34%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Softbank Group</i>	Tele-communications: \$63.23 bn USD	Japan	77%	19%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Sony Group</i>	Information Technology: \$107.87 bn USD	Japan	79%	22%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement

<i>Ricoh</i>	Information Technology: \$5.08 bn USD	Japan	75%	20%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Aeon</i>	Retailing: \$18.09 bn USD	Japan	75%	23%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Takeda Pharmaceutical</i>	Healthcare: \$48.5 bn USD	Japan	75%	21%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Sekisui House</i>	Business Services: \$13.83 bn USD	Japan	75%	17%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement

Regional Leaders in Climate Policy Advocacy

Different countries and regions have made different strides in combatting the climate crisis. A wider array of climate policy in some countries presents greater opportunities for corporate engagement, which can result in more advocacy and higher InfluenceMap “Engagement Intensity” (EI) scores. (To qualify as a Global Leader in this report, companies were required to have an EI of 35% if Europe-based, 30% if U.S., and 15% if Asia-Pacific). Corporate political activity also takes different forms from one region to another, with distinct laws and regulations related to corporate lobbying.

Since the release of the last A-List report, InfluenceMap analysis has begun to expand to new countries such as India and China. The following sections acknowledge the nuances of climate policy progress and related advocacy in each region.

Europe

Since the release of InfluenceMap’s A-list of Climate Policy report in 2021, the European Union has negotiated and concluded core policies within its ‘Fit for 55’ package, including the EU [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#), [Light Duty Vehicle CO2 Emissions Standards](#), and reform and extension of the [EU Emissions Trading System](#) (EU ETS). In 2022, InfluenceMap launched its [EU Platform](#) to track corporate engagement on the ‘Fit for 55’ package as well as policies related to the energy transition, such as the EU [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) and [Renewable Energy Directive](#). InfluenceMap analysis on the EU platform highlights both a positive impact on climate policy ambition, driven by key corporate leaders, alongside persistent opposition from certain companies in the fossil gas, automotive, chemicals, and steel sectors.

Overall, 16 of the 27 global leaders in climate policy engagement are from Europe. European companies’ advocacy on climate policy has become increasingly aligned with the Paris Agreement from 2021 to 2023, as evidenced by the growth in European leaders from 12 in 2021 to 16 in 2023. While progress is notable, for many companies, advocacy still occurs in the form of high-level support for emissions reductions and tends to be more varied, or nonexistent, on stringent regulatory measures.

Continued leaders (featured on the 2021 A-List report) are Nestlé, Unilever, Ørsted, EDP, Verbund, Enel, Iberdrola, Acciona, H&M, IKEA and EDF.

- **Nestlé** and **Unilever** of the Consumer Staples sector have both engaged positively on policies to progress the energy transition as well as policies to improve the agricultural sector. For example, in US lobbying disclosures from [Q1](#), [Q2](#), and [Q3](#) of 2022, Nestlé disclosed that it advocated in support of the climate provisions in the Build Back Better Act. In July 2022 [meeting notes](#) between Unilever and Cabinet members of Vice President Timmermans, obtained by an InfluenceMap Freedom of Information request, the company appeared supportive of policy to replace fossil carbon in its operations.
- **Acciona** of the Industrials sector has engaged positively with renewable energy policy, appearing to support policy to increase the deployment of renewables in the EU Electricity Market Design reform in a May 2023 [consultation response](#) and directly advocating to President Biden to pass a budget reconciliation bill that includes clean energy provisions in a [joint letter](#) from July 2022.
- Companies from the Utilities sector including **Ørsted**, **EDP**, **Verbund**, **Enel**, **Iberdrola** and **EDF** have engaged positively on policies related to emissions trading and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. For example, in a [February](#)

2023 letter to EU Heads of State and Government, Iberdrola strongly supported ambitious EU ETS reforms. Additionally, in *feedback submitted to the EU commission* in April 2022, Enel advocated for increased ambition under the EU's Methane Regulation for the energy sector.

- *H&M* and *IKEA* of the Retailing sector have engaged positively on the energy transition. For example, IKEA signed an *open letter* in February 2023 advocating for binding zero emission vehicle purchase targets for corporate fleets as part of the EU Commission's Greening Corporate Fleets Initiative and ambitious targets for public and private charging infrastructure in the context of the EU Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation.

Addressing Industry Association Misalignment - Enel

Enel advocates consistently positively on climate policy, featuring in both the 2021 and 2023 Leaders reports. Alongside its direct advocacy, the company has publicly disclosed in detail the misalignment with its more negative industry associations. Enel's 2023 industry association review is currently the highest ranked in InfluenceMap's analysis of *corporate lobbying reviews*. While it has not fully met investor expectations, aspects of the review demonstrate best practice in addressing misalignment with climate policy positions. For example, Enel is the only company to identify all cases of misalignment with associations in line with InfluenceMap's database on corporate lobbying. Notably, around the time of its review, Enel left the *Canadian Chamber of Commerce*, an industry association that demonstrates negative advocacy on climate change policy in Canada and the U.S.

The new arrivals to the 2023 Global Leaders list are SSE, ABB, Danone, DSM-Firmenich¹ and Saint-Gobain. Like those listed above, each of these companies demonstrate positive top-line positions on climate policy followed up with support for specific climate-related regulations.

- Utility *SSE* has engaged positively with policy related to renewable energy, stating strong support for the UK's offshore wind target for 2030 in its *2022 CDP Disclosure*.
- *ABB* of the Industrials sector and *Saint-Gobain* of the Construction Materials sector have demonstrated support for policy related to energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. For example, in a March 2022 *response to an EU public consultation*, Saint-Gobain strongly supported more ambitious reforms to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. ABB stated support for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Methane Regulation Supplemental Proposal in *comments* submitted to the EPA in February 2023, advocating for minimum detection thresholds that are "achievable" and highlighting other performance parameters.
- *DSM-Firmenich* of the Chemicals sector and *Danone* of the Consumer Staples center have engaged positively with policy to support the energy transition. For example, in a *February 2023 Letter* to EU Heads of State and Government DSM-Firmenich strongly supported the EU Green Deal Industrial Plan and advocated for sector decarbonization targets and a phase out of fossil fuel subsidies.

¹ In May 2023 Royal DSM, listed as a 2021 Potential Leader, merged with Firmenich to form DSM-Firmenich and has made the 2023 Global Leaders list.

Potential Future Leaders in Europe:

The table below names seven additional companies that appear to be on the path to climate policy engagement leadership.

Company	Sector: Market Cap (as of Sept 2023)	Country Headquarters	Organization Score	Engagement Intensity	Indirect Influence
<i>Vestas Wind Systems</i>	Industrials: \$21.81 bn USD	Denmark	84%	33%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Philips</i>	Information Technology: \$19.87 bn USD	Netherlands	81%	30%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Novo Nordisk</i>	Healthcare: \$334.26 bn USD	Denmark	81%	26%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Schneider Electric</i>	Industrials: \$96.46 bn USD	France	75%	56%	4 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Siemens</i>	Industrials: \$117.1 bn USD	Germany	72%	65%	9 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Moller Maersk (Maersk)</i>	Transportation: \$30.95 bn USD	Denmark	73%	52%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Volvo Cars</i>	Automobiles: N/A	Sweden	63%	35%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement

These companies were identified by their InfluenceMap Organization and Engagement Intensity scores and the extent to which these are relatively high for their sector: all companies have an OS above 73% and an EI above 25%. They do not achieve full leadership status for the reasons listed below:

- While some companies may be positive on climate policy, their advocacy is not as strategic as their peers, as evidenced by an InfluenceMap Engagement Intensity under 35%: this holds back *Vestas Wind Systems*, *Philips*, and *Novo Nordisk*.
- *Siemens* and *Schneider Electric* show active and generally positive engagement on climate policy but retain links to industry groups strongly opposing climate change, and have yet to take clear, public action to address misalignment. For example, both companies are members of *BusinessEurope* – an association that actively advocates with negative positions on climate policy in Europe. (See below for more details on Siemens’ indirect influence).
- *Moller Maersk (Maersk)* narrowly missed out on this year’s Global Leaders list as it demonstrates climate policy advocacy that is not sufficiently positive for inclusion, as evidenced by an Organization Score below 75%. Though the company appears to support climate regulations for shipping at a global level, InfluenceMap analysis indicates negative engagement on the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). For instance, in an *April 2022 Position Paper*, the company did not support the full inclusion of maritime transport in the EU ETS.
- *Volvo Cars* stands out among its sectoral peers in the EU for its climate policy engagement. In joint letters from *October 2022* and *March 2023*, it supported an EU 2035 zero-emissions CO2 target and advocated against a loophole allowing ICE-powered vehicles to continue using e-fuels after 2035. However, it was *reported by Go Auto* in June 2023 that Volvo Cars Australia took mixed positions on light-duty vehicle CO2 emission standards in the country, advocating for lower stringency in line with its predominantly negative industry group the *Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI)*.

Industry Association Misalignment – Siemens

Siemens stands out as a leading company from the Industrials sector with an Organization Score of 74% and Engagement Intensity of 64%, nearly fulfilling the requirements to achieve the A-List. However, the company continues to hold memberships to eight industry associations with an OS under 50% – such as the *Federation of German Industries (BDI)* – leading to notable instances of contrasting positions on key EU policies. For example, BDI has consistently expressed opposition to the EU ETS, including in its *November 2021 Feedback* on updating the policy. By contrast, in an *open letter* to EU President Ursula von der Leyen in May 2022, Siemens stated strong support for more ambitious EU ETS reform. As of August 2023, the CEO of Siemens and another senior executive are on the Presidential Board of BDI.

The company provides some detail around its indirect influence in its *2022 CDP Disclosure*, stating for example that it is attempting to reform BDI and that it has “already influenced” *BusinessEurope* to change its position. Siemens also discloses inconsistent positions with groups such as the *US Chamber of Commerce*, adding that it is in the process of actively influencing the group. However, the company’s disclosure excludes key details around its internal influencing strategies and does not list its membership in the *California Chamber of Commerce*, *International Air Transport Association (IATA)*, or *Canadian Chamber of Commerce*, all of which engage negatively on climate.

A key reason that European companies were excluded from the 2023 Global Leaders list is their relatively low Engagement Intensity.

- Though some companies have stated high-level support for climate policy, an increase in detailed policy engagement would raise Engagement Intensity.
- Strategic, positive advocacy is also an important counterweight to negative engagement by active European industry associations. Many EU-based industry associations remain misaligned with science-based policy pathways to deliver the Paris Agreement, highlighting the importance of new and continued leadership in corporate climate advocacy to advance climate policy in the region.
- Companies can take a range of actions to address misalignment, from internal efforts to reform to exiting a group. Detailed disclosure through an industry association review, in line with the [Global Standard on Responsible Climate Lobbying](#), lays the foundation for action.

North America

The 2023 Global Leaders list identifies five companies from the United States. Currently, within North America, InfluenceMap primarily assesses climate policy engagement in the United States with a growing Canada program.

Since the release of InfluenceMap's A-list of Climate Policy report in 2021, the U.S. has made modest progress on climate policy. Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2021 has catalyzed an unprecedented influx of spending into clean energy technologies, the impacts of which are *already being seen*. The federal government has also introduced multiple regulations aimed at reducing emissions in the power, transportation, and oil and gas sectors which, as evident in the analysis on InfluenceMap's [US platform](#), have attracted significant levels of advocacy from US companies and industry associations.

In Canada, the federal government set a legally binding net zero target as of June 2021. Under the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, released in December 2021, the government has also committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40-45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. **However, Canada has not yet delivered the *level of climate policy needed for rapid decarbonization***, according to Climate Action Tracker.

At the same time, both the U.S. and Canada have seen a wide-ranging debate over energy permitting reform and how best to facilitate the buildout of energy infrastructure. In the U.S., fossil fuel interests have largely *advocated for new fossil fuel infrastructure* in opposition to IPCC guidance, while some companies and industry associations have called explicitly for policy changes to enable more renewable energy projects. In March 2023, the U.S. government approved [ConocoPhillips' Willow Project](#) to drill oil in Alaska, and in August 2023, the US federal appeals court cleared the way for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a new natural gas project – all of which underscores an ongoing debate around the pace and scale of the North American energy transition.

The 2023 Global Leaders list identifies five companies from North America, all of which are headquartered in the United States:

- **Trane Technologies** (with global headquarters in Ireland, but an active North American branch based in North Carolina), engages actively on a range of climate policy areas in Europe and the U.S., including the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act and more ambitious U.S. building electrification policies, both federally and in the states. The company also left the US Chamber of Commerce in 2019.
- **Salesforce** has been outspoken on major climate policies in the U.S, including those outside its immediate business model, such as land use-related policy and automotive standards. Notably, the company distanced its climate positions from the US Chamber during debate over the Build Back Better Act in 2021.
- **Apple** hold highly positive positions on climate policy. The company's climate policy engagement is most notable in its support from senior leadership such as Lisa Jackson, who has openly called for ambitious climate legislation such as a federal Clean Energy Standard.
- **Edison International** advocates positively on climate at the federal level and in California through its subsidiary, Southern California Edison, which has called for policies to reduce fossil gas demand and use in California. It is notable, however, that Edison's CEO Pizarro serves as the 2023-2024 Chair of the Board for the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), an industry association with far more negative positioning on climate. Pizarro seems to have *supported* recent negative advocacy by EEI on the EPA's power plant regulations, activity which, if continued, could lower the utility's InfluenceMap scores.
- **Public Service Enterprise Group** narrowly makes the 2023 leaders list, with an Organization Score of 75%. Former CEO Ralph Izzo publicly advocated for measures such as a federal carbon tax and clean energy standard. The company's positions on fossil gas and the energy transition are less clear. Like Edison International, PSEG is a member of EEI, as well as the American Gas Association.



The federal government has also introduced multiple regulations aimed at reducing emissions in the power, transportation, and oil and gas sectors which, as evident in the analysis on InfluenceMap's US platform, have attracted significant levels of advocacy from US companies and industry associations.



Potential Future Leaders in North America:

The table below names eight additional companies that appear on track for best practice in climate policy engagement.

Company	Sector: Market Cap (as of Sept 2023)	Country Headquarters	Organization Score	Engagement Intensity	Industry Associations
<i>Microsoft</i>	Information Technology: \$2,473.21 bn USD	United States	86%	42%	5 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Walmart</i>	Consumer Staples: \$434.6 bn USD	United States	79%	22%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Constellation Energy</i>	Utilities: \$34.29 bn USD	United States	66%	33%	0 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Alphabet</i>	Information Technology: \$1,700.68 bn USD	United States	83%	28%	5 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>HP Inc</i>	Information Technology: \$29.7 bn USD	United States	80%	30%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Exelon</i>	Utilities: \$39.66 bn USD	United States	73%	63%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Biogen</i>	HealthCare: \$38.19 bn USD	United States	77%	26%	1 group misaligned from Paris Agreement

The majority of the companies identified above as “potential leaders” in North America have sufficiently positive climate policy engagement but are lacking in other criteria, such as Engagement Intensity or indirect influence through negative industry associations.

- **Constellation Energy and Exelon** both have Organization Scores below 75%, indicating room for improvement in their engagement on major climate policy areas such as power sector emissions standards and the role of various energy sources, such as fossil gas, in the energy transition. Constellation in particular has distinguished itself from its utility peers by expressing disappointment with EEI’s opposition to the EPA’s proposed power plant rules. The company has potential to achieve Global Leader status in the future if it addresses its negative advocacy around fossil gas and additionality requirements for hydrogen production.
- **HP Inc, Biogen, Alphabet, and Walmart** all demonstrate sufficiently positive climate advocacy, and could make the Global Leaders list in the future should they increase the level of their engagement, as indicated by Engagement Intensity scores under 30%.
- **Microsoft** shows active and positive engagement on climate policy but retains membership in more than three industry associations with highly negative engagement on climate policy. Microsoft has made some effort to disclose and address misalignment in some, but not all, of those groups.

In North America, where the majority of the world’s most powerful and negative industry associations are concentrated, there is a fast-growing number of companies that seem to be prioritizing climate in their policy advocacy. However, an active oil and gas sector has continued to weaken policy proposals and secure new fossil infrastructure, including in Canada, where InfluenceMap has not identified any current corporate leaders in climate advocacy. A continued increase in the number and strength of leaders in corporate climate advocacy will help tip the scales toward policy progress.

Asia Pacific

Asia Pacific is the world’s most populous and fastest growing region, where climate policy will be critical to meeting global climate targets. According to the World Bank, the East Asia and Pacific region alone account for one-third of global GHG emissions and 60% of the world’s coal consumption. InfluenceMap assesses how companies influence climate policy in [Japan](#), [South Korea](#), and [Australia](#) and is in the process of expanding analysis to other countries in the region.

Compared to Europe and the U.S., corporate engagement on climate policy in Asia (excluding Australia) is less visible partly due to transparency laws and practices. Corporate policy engagement also appears to be under less scrutiny by the media, investors, and civil society, and underutilized by progressive companies to further their decarbonization agendas. At the same time, incumbent corporate interests have a strong influence on governments while promoting climate narratives that can delay or weaken climate action. As a result, in many Asian markets, climate is not high on the government’s agenda and fewer climate policies are proposed. **In this context, companies have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership through proactive agenda-setting and advocacy for ambitious climate policy.**

Six companies were identified as leaders in climate advocacy in Asia, all of which are headquartered in Japan. In 2023, the Japanese government adopted a GX (Green Transformation) Strategy, a \$1 trillion (150 trillion yen) investment roadmap for public-private financing over the next ten years to decarbonize various industrial sectors domestically and to support the energy transition in Asia. The companies below have engaged more positively and actively than their peers on the country’s major climate policies:

- **Ricoh** actively advocates for various climate policies, including carbon pricing, 2030 emission targets, decarbonization of the energy mix, and a 50% renewable target by 2030. As co-chair of the Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP), Ricoh Chairperson Yoshinori Yamashita presented a proposal on behalf of the group to the Prime Minister requesting a carbon tax and/or emissions trading and greater expansion of offshore wind.
- **Takeda Pharmaceutical** is highly engaged on a range of policies as part of the executive team at the JCLP, issuing policy statements to the Japanese government on the need for carbon taxes or emissions trading, renewable energy, and GHG emission targets. Takeda's former Representative Director Masato Iwasaki has held direct meetings with Japan's Prime Minister and Diet members.
- **Aeon** has directly advocated for the Japanese government to set more ambitious national 2030 targets for renewable energy and emissions reductions. It also appears to support energy efficiency legislation and carbon taxes. (Aeon's Engagement Intensity remains 23%, qualifying the company for Global Leader status, although it is notable that the company's climate engagement seems to have tapered off in recent years).
- **Sekisui House** supported mandatory solar panel installation among other policy measures to increase renewables to meet Japan's 2030 target share. It has also engaged positively on energy efficiency standards for buildings and supported net zero emission housing (ZEH) requirements.
- **Softbank Group's** CEO is the executive director of the Renewable Energy Council which issues policy statements advocating for an urgent transition. The company has also co-signed a joint letter by Japan Climate Initiative (JCI) calling for an ambitious 40-50% share of renewables in 2030 ahead of the 6th Basic Energy Plan developed in 2021.
- **Sony Group** has been calling for greater development of renewables in Japan. Notably, the Chairman and CEO Kenichiro Yoshida warned the Japanese government it may have to shift manufacturing out of the country unless regulatory reform is implemented for greater access to renewable energy. The company was also a signatory to Japan Climate Initiative's open letter calling for a 40-50% renewable target by 2030.

Potential Future Leaders in Asia:

In the table below, InfluenceMap identifies three additional companies in Asia-Pacific that appear on track for leadership. All four of the companies have an InfluenceMap Organization Score above 65% and have demonstrated positive advocacy on specific climate policies.

Company	Sector: Market Cap (as of Sept 2023)	Country Headquarters	Organization Score	Engagement Intensity	Industry Associations
<i>Daikin</i>	Industrials: \$50.96 bn USD	Japan	72%	28%	2 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>LG Chem</i>	Chemicals: \$30.54 bn USD	South Korea	67%	28%	3 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement
<i>Fortescue Metals Group</i>	Metals & Mining: \$39.04 bn USD	Australia	72%	33%	3 groups misaligned from Paris Agreement

In Japan, as explained above, there has been some progress on climate policy in the last few years. Going forward, corporate attention is likely to remain focused on various technology and regulatory elements of the GX Strategy, as well as the recently introduced ‘carbon levy,’ GX emissions trading programs, regulations surrounding offshore wind, and the energy mix under the 7th update of the Basic Energy Plan expected in 2024.

- With an Engagement Intensity of 28% and Organization Score of 71%, Daikin has strategically championed the introduction and improvement of energy efficiency standards for air conditioners, as well as regulations that enable a transition to heat-pumps across global markets, including Europe, US, Asia, and the Middle East.
- In Japan, Daikin’s engagement appears relatively limited and at times unclear, especially on renewable energy regulations and carbon pricing policies. It could further demonstrate positive leadership by disclosing and reviewing the climate policy positions adopted by its industry associations.



Going forward, attention is likely to remain focused on various technology and regulatory elements of the GX strategy...



In South Korea, a 2050 carbon neutrality target was announced by the government in 2020, followed by an updated 2030 NDC emissions reduction target announced at COP26 in 2021. In Korea, 'third-party lobbying activity' (lobbying conducted by a paid lobbyist on behalf of a third party) is banned by law. However, South Korean companies and their industry associations comment on climate policy and the energy mix through a variety of engagement channels, including those listed in the UN's [Guide for Responsible Corporate Engagement in Climate Policy](#) such as social media, sponsoring research, and direct contact with regulators and elected officials. While companies often participate in government committees and policy forums to provide industry perspectives, active and transparent direct policy engagement is still less common in Korea than in other regions.

- [LG Chem](#), the largest Korean chemical company, ranks the highest among the Korean companies assessed on InfluenceMap's [Korea platform](#). LG Chem CEO Shin Hak-Cheol has vocally supported drastic climate action and transition of the energy mix away from fossil fuels, especially through climate groups such as the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders. While LG Chem has also supported renewable energy infrastructure and policy in South Korea, the company's direct climate policy engagement within the country appears to be more limited than its advocacy on the global stage. groups such as the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders. While LG Chem has also supported renewable energy infrastructure and policy in South Korea, the company's direct climate policy engagement within the country appears to be more limited than its advocacy on the global stage.
- The primary reason holding back LG Chem's entry to climate policy leadership is its membership in negative industry groups that are opposing climate policy, such as the [Korea Petrochemical Industry Association \(KPIA\)](#) and the [Korea Enterprises Federation \(KEF\)](#). LG Chem has yet to take clear, public action to address misalignment with negative industry associations on climate policy positions.

In Australia, the federal elections in May 2022 led to a change in federal leadership and an increase in ambition of the country's 2030 climate target. InfluenceMap's [Australia platform](#) documents corporate engagement on a range of federal and regional climate-related policies, including the country's flagship GHG emissions policy, the [Safeguard Mechanism](#),

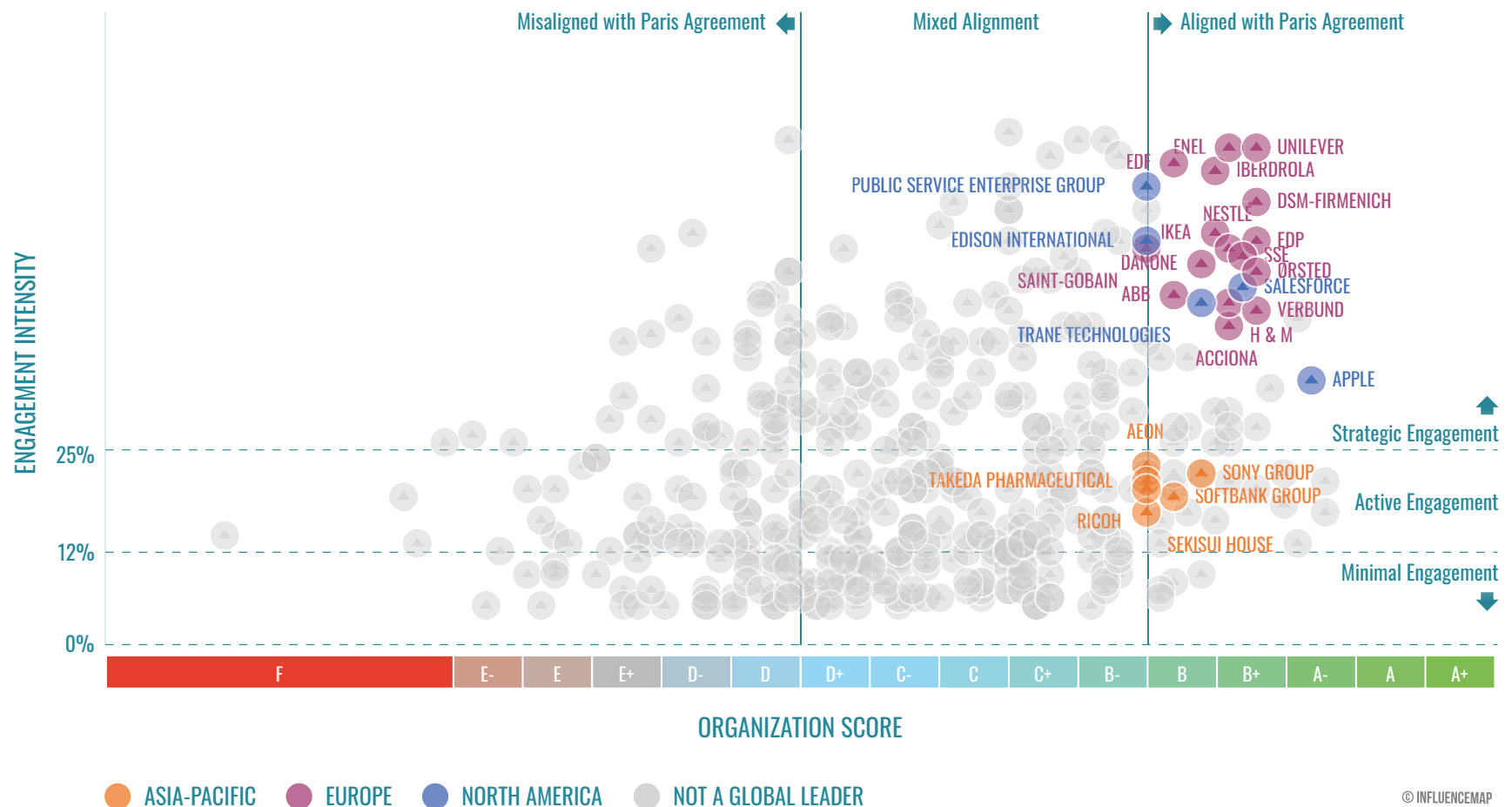
- [Fortescue Metals Group](#) appears to be ramping up its top-line communications and engagement on the Australian energy transition over the last 18 months. The company misses the Global Leaders list due to an insufficient Organization Score of 72%. Notably, it appeared to adopt a mixed position on reform of Australia's Safeguard Mechanism in September 2022 and February 2023 consultation submissions.

In Asia, primarily Japan and Korea, the majority of policy engagement is conducted by industry associations, underscoring the importance of action to address industry association misalignment. In Australia, a highly active fossil fuel sector risks blocking the introduction and finalization of necessary climate policy. While less government climate policy in the Asia Pacific region presents fewer opportunities for corporate engagement, companies can play a role encouraging public policy where it does not yet exist.

Analysis and Implications for Climate Policy

The 27 Global Leaders make up roughly 5% of the entire InfluenceMap database. The graph below plots the climate policy engagement performance of the 27 Global Leaders relative to a random selection of companies globally.

Global Leaders Compared to Global Corporate Landscape



- The number of corporate leaders in all three regions has grown following previous InfluenceMap A-List reports and is subject to change following continuous expansion of InfluenceMap's database and changing policy contexts globally.
- The relatively low ratio of leaders underscores both the difficulty in achieving leadership status and the opportunity offered by increasing climate policy engagement leaders in each region, in turn increasing the potential for governmental climate policy progress.

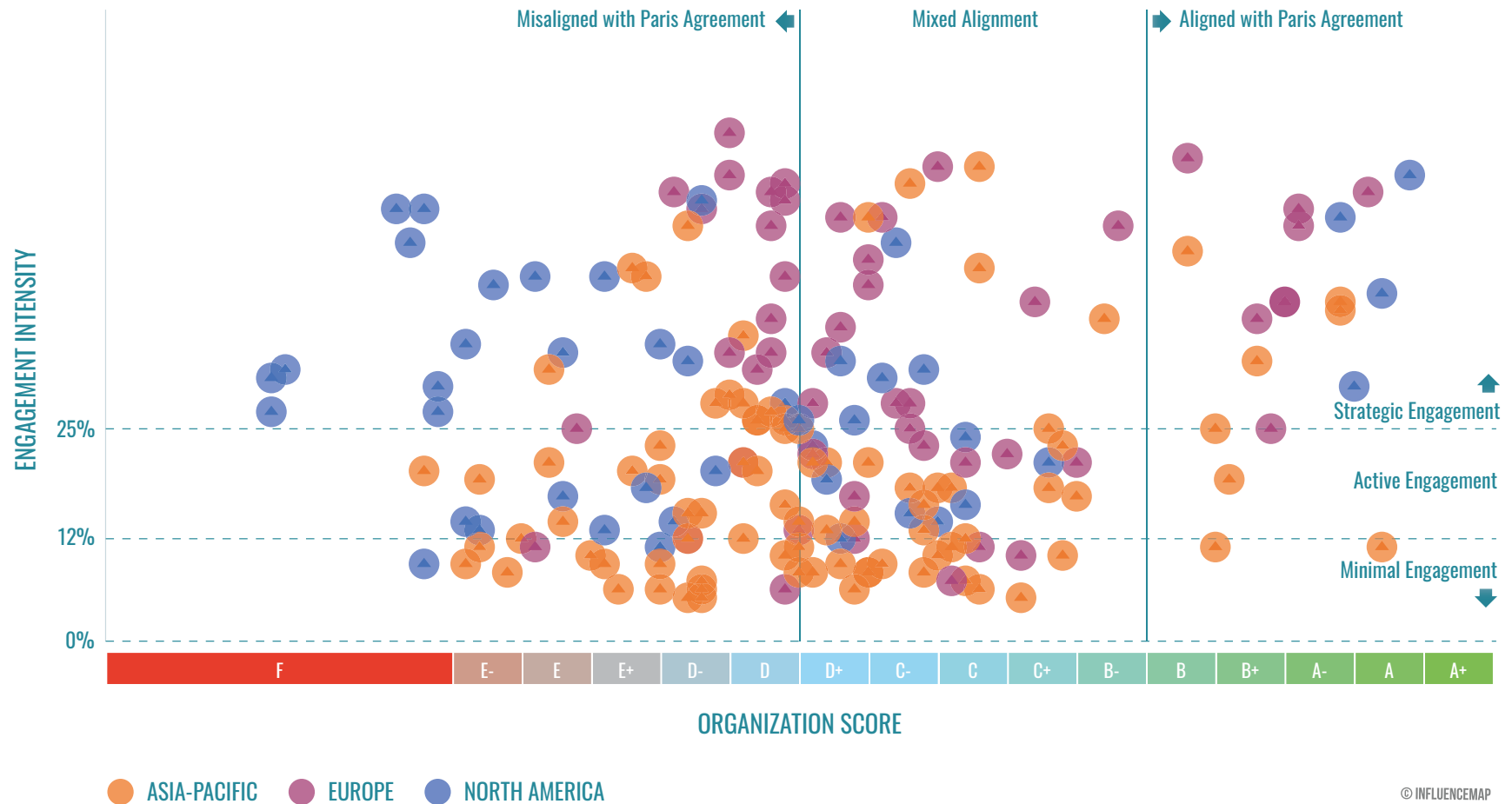
This report focuses on companies in the *Forbes 2,000*, given that larger companies are more likely to have greater influence over public policymaking. Critically, larger companies also have greater potential to counterbalance the influence of industry associations, which in many cases claim to represent large portions of the entire regional economy through their members. While the following four companies are not on the Forbes 2,000, and as such not included in the Global Leaders or Potential Leaders lists of this report, they each display many elements of best practice in climate policy engagement.

- *Ecocem* nearly meets all Leaders criteria, with highly positive positions on EU and U.K. climate policy, but an engagement intensity of only 29% indicating slightly less active engagement on detailed measures.
- *ReNew*, headquartered in India, is actively and positively engaged on energy transition measures such as green hydrogen and solar energy, and has pushed to increase the ambition of the country's 2030 renewable energy targets.
- *Rockwool* and *Danfoss*, both headquartered in Denmark, engage on various policy aspects of the European Green Deal through CEO statements, letters to policymakers, and other advocacy channels.

Of the 27 Global Leaders named in this report, nine are from the Utilities sector; four from Information Technology; three each from Industrials and Retailing; 3 from Consumer Staples; and one each from Chemicals, Telecommunications, Business Services, Healthcare, and Construction Materials.

- IPCC guidance emphasizes the importance of stringent regulatory intervention across the economy. It also emphasizes certain policy pathways as highly likely to achieve the greatest emissions reductions and in the nearest term, such as building electrification and zero-carbon transportation. Sector diversity among Global Leaders in climate policy engagement is critical, as it increases the likelihood of strategic positive engagement on a range of policy areas such as electrification mandates, automotive standards, energy permitting, and even broad stimulus packages such as those recently seen in the U.S.
- Notably, no companies from the transportation sector currently qualify as Global Leaders, though some – such as Maersk – appear on track for leadership. However, this year's Global Leaders includes three industrial companies. Such gaps present room for companies from other sectors to lead in corporate climate policy engagement and to challenge the energy transition-related narratives that are likely to flourish in the lead up to the global climate summit in November.

Performance of Industry Associations Globally



As of September 2023, over 75 companies globally (roughly 15% of InfluenceMap's database) have published audits of their industry association memberships. These are generally companies that perform less well under InfluenceMap assessments and have been encouraged by investors and other initiatives to take steps to address issues such as oppositional indirect influence.

- The figure above plots the performance of all industry associations assessed by InfluenceMap. While some groups advocate positively and actively on climate policy, appearing in the upper right quadrant, there is a far greater number of organizations advocating on behalf of companies with negative positions.
- Global Leaders have adopted and deployed a range of tactics in their advocacy, including addressing the negative influence of their industry associations. Resolving the industry association issue through detailed disclosure followed by clear action to address misalignment make up steps 3 and 4 in InfluenceMap's *Net Zero and the Need for New Leadership* briefing.

- As noted above in this report, Enel's 2023 industry association review is currently the highest ranked under InfluenceMap's *methodology* for assessing companies' audits of their indirect influence. Going forward, however, InfluenceMap will be expanding this methodology in line with *the Global Standard for Responsible Climate Lobbying* to assess corporate reviews of both direct and indirect influence, i.e., corporate reviews of their **complete climate policy engagement**. The expanded and improved guidance for corporate disclosure presents a clear opportunity for leaders to emerge in this space.