

Walmart (WMT:US) - Climate Transition Analysis

Questions for investors and lenders to ask management

Recommended Questions

Q.1 Question: Will the company implement stricter procurement policies to deal with its rising upstream Scope 3 emissions?

Background: Despite adjusting for emissions accounting methodology changes the absolute increase in upstream Scope 3 emissions was still 29% from 2019 to 2021 (p. 5 & 6 of the report).

Target: Reveal the impact of Project Gigaton on Walmart's emissions.

Q.2 Question: Will Walmart reveal the impact and relative representation of Project Gigaton in its Scope 3 changes?

Background: Walmart should be applauded for pledging to reduce or avoid 1 billion tCO₂e by 2030 ('Project Gigaton'). However, this target, linked to curbing the company's Scope 3 GHG emissions, doesn't require suppliers to only report on emissions related to their Walmart business. Consequently, actions taken and reported through Project Gigaton cannot be used to measure Walmart's Scope 3 emissions, nor assess its mitigation. This dynamic adds to Planet Tracker's concern regarding "avoided emissions" use. (p. 8-9).

Target: Reveal the impact of Project Gigaton on Walmart's emissions.

Q.3 Question: Will the company enhance its transparency regarding sustainability-linked compensation?

Background: Walmart's Proxy Statement lacks specifics regarding sustainability-linked compensation, but indications of monetary incentives linked to sustainability targets are present in its 2022 CDP Climate response. Thus, a more granular disclosure will aid in determining whether the sustainability metrics have a meaningful weighting in the executive compensation packages (p. 16).

Target: Clearly state the link between sustainability metrics and executive compensation

Report Key Takeaways

- From 2019 to 2021 Walmart experienced a significant rise in Scope 3 upstream emissions (29%) which led to a notable increase of 21% in its total GHG footprint.
- while Walmart engages extensively with suppliers through diverse strategies, there are still gaps in its sustainability-linked compensation and quantified climate transition financial impacts.
- Despite admirable efforts in mitigating operating emissions, Walmart's transition strategy appears to fall short in addressing Scope 3 emissions effectively, and without consistent Scope 3 mitigation the company risks overshooting its 2°C alignment towards a business-as-usual pathway by 2030.

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