

# ICCT public comments on the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard Public Consultation

July 2025

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is preparing a framework for automakers and auto parts manufacturers to set emissions reduction targets aligned with achieving a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 at the latest. These ICCT public comments are in response to the [SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard V0.0 Public Consultation](#).

Different from other sectors, a large share of the climate impact of the automotive industry lies in the use phase (i.e., operation) of the vehicles. With an average vehicle lifetime of 20 years or more, the vehicles sold in the 2030s will substantially contribute to the emissions of road transport in 2050. In the automotive sector, **assessing companies' commitments towards achieving a net-zero economy by 2050 thus requires focusing on the near-term targets, such as for 2030 and 2035.** The International Transport Forum's science-based decarbonization scenario referred to in the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard is clear: To achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, in Advanced Economies and China, more than 99% of new sales of passenger cars need to be zero-emission vehicles by 2030, and new heavy-duty vehicle sales need to be 100% zero emission by 2035. Details of the required zero-emission vehicle sales shares<sup>1</sup> across Advanced Economies, China, and Emerging Markets and Developing Economies considered in the decarbonation pathway of the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard are presented in Tables 1–3 below.

**The SBTi draft standard does not require companies to set targets compatible with the decarbonization scenarios any earlier than 2050.** However, given that the shift to zero-emission vehicles must occur in the 2030s, companies' contributions to a net-zero world by 2050 can only be meaningfully evaluated by assessing their zero-emission vehicle sales targets for 2030 and 2035. We therefore recommend a mandatory requirement of committing to 2030 and 2035 zero-emission vehicle sales share targets aligned with the science-based decarbonization scenarios.

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<sup>1</sup> In the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard, zero-emission vehicles are referred to as low-emission vehicles.

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Furthermore, the draft SBTi standard encourages setting aspirational zero-emission vehicle sales share and greenhouse gas emissions targets. However, without accountability mechanisms, there remains a substantial risk that these targets may be diluted or quietly dropped if progress proves challenging. **For an assessment of companies' commitment to mitigating climate change, we therefore recommend including an evaluation of the realized year-on-year progress towards meeting these targets along the trajectories established in the draft standard.** We recommend evaluating whether an automotive company is on track to meet the targets for each year after it has committed to the SBTi framework.

Table 1: Zero-emission vehicle sales shares in **Advanced Economies** for achieving a net-zero economy in 2050, as established in the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard

	Two- and three-wheelers	Passenger cars	Light commercial vehicles	Lorries	Road tractors	Buses
2030	69%	100%	70%	40%	40%	49%
2035	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2040	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: Zero-emission vehicle sales shares in **China** for achieving a net-zero economy in 2050, as established in the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard

	Two- and three-wheelers	Passenger cars	Light commercial vehicles	Lorries	Road tractors	Buses
2030	69%	99%	70%	40%	40%	65%
2035	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2040	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 3: Zero-emission vehicle sales shares in **Emerging Markets and Developing Economies** for achieving a net-zero economy in 2050, as established in the SBTi Draft Automotive Sector Net-Zero Standard

	Two- and three-wheelers	Passenger cars	Light commercial vehicles	Lorries	Road tractors	Buses
2030	69%	76%	37%	17%	2%	65%
2035	97%	93%	63%	44%	22%	77%
2040	100%	100%	100%	91%	53%	96%