

Analysing the quality of climate change targets: my experience as a Data Fellowship

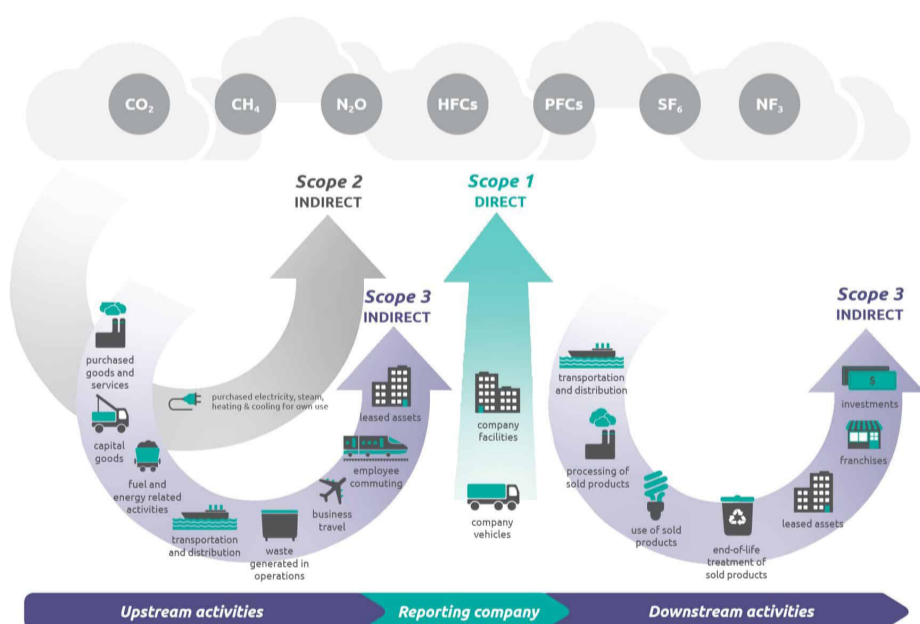
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Overview of the Data Fellowship

My data fellowship was with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) main office based in London; however, I did work online. I had the luck to be part of a project focused on economic and environmental justice, what gave me the opportunity to work and learn with both teams. The research focused on climate targets set by private companies, more particularly we assessed the quality of these targets against Science Based Targets produced by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Therefore, the data fellowship looked if the targets set would mean achieving net-zero by 2050. The case study, and the connection with the economic team was in the investigation of these targets in the private finance sector, analysing their scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets if they had any and concluding to what extent this were aligned with the Paris Agreement and meeting the net-zero by 2050 objective.

Data Analysis

The data analysis involved first exhaustive research with the aim of build our own dataset from the existing information provided by the private companies being analysed. The second step included cleaning and categorizing the data to be able to compare it after with the Science Based Targets of the per centage neces-



Explanation of Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions produced by the GHG Protocol

sary of reduction both below 2°C and 1.5°C as well as depending on the sector. Finally, we produced different charts to show the results of the analysis and drafted some recommendations to enhance the disclosure procedure and the need of detail in the targets.



United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals

Findings

The investigating revealed two main results:

- The targets set by the companies are not ambitious enough to achieve net-zero by 2050, and in most of the sector companies need to still set targets for the three types of scopes emissions and all the activities included in those.
- The disclosure, and development of climate targets needs to be clearer and more transparent, the government should be implementing a method that is compulsory and followed by every company to ensure harmonization.

Key Skills Learnt

There are several key skills that I have learn and reinforced in my Data Fellowship in IPPR. Concerning the factor of being online, this has increased my ability to be even more an independent learner, and to make questions when is necessary and not just to double-check things to many times. For the same reasons of the setting and the heavy proportion of individual research workload, I have been able to continue to work on my organisational skills, having to meet internal deadlines but also ensuring that I was giving myself room to reflect on my work and improve before discussing it with my supervisor.

In what respects to my analytical skills, I have further developed my skills on excel, and I became more confident when producing quantitative analysis. At the same time, being able to produce my own data set from the begging made me learn more about variable choices, how I wanted to measure them, and when the number of sources (companies in this case) was enough to start analysing, so I have learnt more about the research process in a bigger scale, and the methodological choices that this implies.