Climate Sprints

SELF-ASSESSMENT · NOT GATED · USE IT AND KEEP IT

# Is there anyone you can say the honest version to?

Twelve lines about isolation rather than capability. A climate CEO is structurally alone, and the cost of that is paid in decisions, not in feelings.

VERSION 1.0
11 SEPTEMBER 2026
REVIEW 1Q2027

CLIMATESPRINTS.COM
PRACTICE@CLIMATESPRINTS.COM

POWERED BY PURPOSE. DRIVEN BY ACTION.

## How to use it

Every line is written so that **ticking it means the thing is true of you today**, not that you aspire to it. A tick is a gap, not an achievement. Count them at the end.

Answer from what you could evidence this afternoon, not from what you believe is broadly the case. “We know who our buyer is” and “I can name the person, their title, their budget line and the date they must act” are different claims, and only the second one survives contact with an allocator.

Then do it again with someone who has no position in the outcome — a co-investor, an advisor, a spouse. The point of the second person is not their expertise. It is that they are not the one who has to be right.

The reference against each line is the dimension it maps to in our assessment method, published at climatesprints.com/method. Nothing here is proprietary and nothing is held back.

> **This is not an assessment.**
>
> A checklist tells you which instrument you need. It is answered from memory, by one person, in ten minutes, and nothing in it is verified.
>
> An assessment answers a different question — should this position be taken, at what size, against what reserve — across twenty-four scored dimensions, each carrying an evidence grade recording where the evidence came from rather than how good the news was. It takes three weeks and it is commissioned by the fund, not by the company.
>
> Use this to decide what to ask for. Do not use it to decide whether a company is fundable.

## The checklist

THE ROOM YOU ARE IN — EC-7 · governance permeability

- [ ] My board wants confidence, my team wants certainty, and I calibrate what I say for both. EC-7
- [ ] There is nobody in the building to whom the honest version of the week can be said out loud. EC-7
- [ ] The people I discuss the company with are, in one way or another, paid to be reassuring. EC-7

WHAT GOES UNSAID — EC-3 · blind-spot permeability

- [ ] I have made a decision in the last quarter I would not want to describe to a peer in detail. EC-3
- [ ] I have no forum where being wrong is cheap. EC-3
- [ ] The last time I changed my mind on something significant, nobody else was in the room. EC-3

WHO IS AHEAD OF YOU — — peer proximity

- [ ] I have no peer who is three months ahead of me on the same problem. —
- [ ] The advice I get is generic because the people giving it have not run this kind of company. —
- [ ] I learn more from one honest founder conversation than from a month of scheduled advisory. —

WHAT IT IS COSTING — — decision quality

- [ ] I am slower to decide than I was a year ago, and I do not think that is caution. –
- [ ] I have repeated a mistake that someone one stage ahead of me would have named immediately. –
- [ ] I would find it useful to hear how three other CEOs handled the thing in front of me, and I have no way to. –

## What the count means

| | |
|---|---|
| 0–2 | You have a room already. Keep it, and be careful about what would break it. |
| 3–5 | Normal for a first-time CEO with a functioning board. Worth finding two peers deliberately rather than waiting to meet them. |
| 6–9 | **The cohort is the instrument.** Twelve weeks, twelve sessions, three hot seats each so every member gets the room repeatedly, and a closed environment between sessions. Curated for stage overlap and sector spread — enough common ground to be useful, enough difference to be worth the time. |
| 10–12 | This has already cost you something and will cost more. Isolation at this level shows up as deferred decisions and repeated mistakes long before it shows up as a milestone slip, which is why it is almost never the thing that gets diagnosed. |

## What it is not

Not a networking group. Not a course. Not a room where you are sold to by the person running it. Every seat is by application, and we decline applications that would make the room worse.

First cohort 1Q2027. A fund or family office can take a block of seats for its portfolio CEOs, or three or four aligned allocators can co-sponsor a cohort across theirs — which has the additional effect of putting their portfolios in the same room. Individual seats are available by application.

> **If your count is high and you are reading this as a fund.**
>
> Run it past the CEO rather than about them. The value of this list is entirely in who fills it in, and a founder who completes it honestly has told you something no board update will.