

2023 Response

1	Disclose the insurer's governance around climate-related risks and opportunities.	
	In disclosing the insurer's governance around climate-related risks and opportunities insurers should consider including the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and include any publicly stated goals on climate-related risks and opportunities. 	Independent Life Insurance Company is committed to being environmentally conscious and strives to minimize its environmental impact while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Although the company does not have a formal plan to alter emissions in its operations, we actively monitor our environmental footprint. As an annuity company, our emissions are minimal and consistent with those of a typical office-only facility. Therefore, we have not issued any public statements about changing our operations to address climate-related risks and opportunities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe where climate-related disclosure is handled within the insurer's structure, e.g., at a group level, entity level, or a combination. If handled at the group level, describe what activities are undertaken at the company level. 	We are currently not implementing any public climate related disclosure.
	A. Describe the board and/or committee responsible for the oversight of climate-related risks and opportunities.	N/A
	In describing the position on the board and/or committee responsible for the oversight of managing the climate-related financial risks, insurers should consider including the following:	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the position on the board and/or committee responsible for the oversight of managing the climate-related financial risks. 	Climate change risks are reviewed by our Board of Directors and Risk Management Committee at least annually as a part of our annual risk assessment that is conducted by the ERM team.
	B. Describe management's role in assessing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities.	Climate change risks are included in our overall risk management program. These topics, if determined to be critical, are considered during our quarterly risk meetings, which identifies keys risks within each of our business areas.
	Does the insurer have publicly stated goals on climate-related risks and opportunities (Y/N)?	No
	Does your board have a member, members, a committee or committees responsible for the oversight of managing the climate-related financial risk (Y/N)?	No
	Does management have a role in assessing climate-related risks and opportunities (Y/N)?	Yes
	Does management have a role in managing climate-related risks and opportunities (Y/N)?	Yes
2	Disclose the actual and potential impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities on the insurer's businesses, strategy, and financial planning where such information is material.	As an annuity company, we are not directly exposed to the impacts of climate change in the same way that a property and casualty insurer might be. However, we acknowledge the potential for both sudden and prolonged climate-related events that could negatively affect business operations and long-term mortality trends. In response, we have developed risk protocols that include safety measures for personnel and business continuity procedures to ensure we can maintain operations in the event of a climate-related disaster. To date, the company has not been significantly impacted by climate change, and we do not foresee it having a material effect on our business.
	In disclosing the actual and potential impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities on the insurer's businesses, strategy and financial planning, insurers should consider including the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the steps the insurer has taken to engage key constituencies on the topic of climate risk and resiliency. 	We have not taken steps to engage with stakeholders regarding the perceived effects of climate change on our lines of business or potential changes in behavior to limit exposure. The company has not found conclusive data suggesting that our business lines (annuities) will be impacted by climate change in a way that deviates from our normal business trends.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the insurer's plan to assess, reduce, or mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions in its operations or organizations 	We continually monitor our impact on the environment and we actively take steps to minimize any negative impacts, whenever possible. As an annuity company, our greenhouse gas emissions are minimal.
	A. Describe the climate-related risks and opportunities the insurer has identified over the short, medium, and long term.	
	In describing the climate-related risks and opportunities the insurer has identified over the short, medium, and longer term, insurers should consider including the following:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define short, medium, and long-term, if different than 1-5years as short term, 5-10years as medium term, and 10-30 years as long term. 	Climate change does not have a significant short-term direct impact on our annuity operations. Our customer base is widely diversified and not concentrated in specific geographic areas that might be affected by climate change. As a result, climate change is unlikely to directly impact our products or services, and we do not consider our company to be exposed to significant physical risks due to our ability to telecommute and work remotely. In the long term, we will continue to monitor climate-related risks such as changes in mortality due to natural disasters and temperature fluctuations. We expect these effects to be reflected in both company and industry data and studies
	B. Describe the impact of climate-related risks and opportunities on the insurer's business, strategy, and financial planning.	
	In describing the impact of climate-related risks and opportunities on the insurer's business, strategy, and financial planning, insurers should consider including the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss if and how the insurer provides products or services to support the transition to a low carbon economy or helps customers adapt to climate-related risk. 	We strive to improve our impacts on the environment through emphasis on electronic applications and paperless operations, reducing paper, mailing services, and energy usage and other initiatives, which are on-going.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss if and how the insurer makes investments to support the transition to a low carbon economy. 	Our investment guidelines are designed to diversify the company's holdings, and we also consider climate change in the overall management of our investment portfolios. We prefer to reduce investments in high-polluting energy sectors, both for long-term economic reasons and due to their potential environmental impacts. Any new investments are carefully reviewed to ensure we understand the portfolio's business activities, environmental impacts, and long-term sustainability efforts.
	C. Describe the resilience of the insurer's strategy, taking into consideration different climate-related scenarios, including a 2 degree Celsius or lower scenario.	We do not feel that this type of scenario will have a significant impact on the products we offer (annuities), but may have impacts on the economy in general, which may impact investments, interest rates, etc., therefore we continue to monitor changes and the impact (if any) to our business.
	Has the insurer taken steps to engage key constituencies on the topic of climate risk and resiliency? (Y/N)	Yes
	Does the insurer provide products or services to support the transition to a low carbon economy or help customers adapt to climate risk? (Y/N)	No
	Does the insurer make investments to support the transition to a low carbon economy? (Y/N)	Yes
	Does the insurer have a plan to assess, reduce or mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions in its operations or organizations? (Y/N)	Yes
3	Disclose how the insurer identifies, assesses, and manages climate-related risks.	
	In disclosing how the insurer identifies, assesses, and manages climate-related risks, insurers should consider including the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the insurer considers the impact of climate related risks on its underwriting portfolio, and how the company is managing its underwriting exposure with respect to physical, transition and liability risk. 	N/A for our line of business.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe any steps the insurer has taken to encourage policyholders to manage their potential physical and transition climate related risks, if applicable. 	We encourage policyholders and agents to go paperless to help reduce the amount of paper we print and mail.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the insurer has considered the impact of climate-related risks on its investment portfolio, including what investment classes have been considered. 	We do not have a formal climate policy in place regarding our investment portfolio, but we factor a macro view of energy consumption and climate trends into our investment decisions.
	A. Describe the insurers' processes for identifying and assessing climate-related risks.	The Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) team conducts annual risk interviews and assessments to identify new, changing, and emerging risks across the organization. While no specific climate-related risks have surfaced at this time, climate change and its associated risks are discussed during these annual reviews in the broader context of potential severe market or workplace disruptions, such as natural disasters, man-made disasters, market liquidity issues, or credit crises. We are prepared to maintain day-to-day business operations through our business continuity and disaster recovery preparedness efforts.
	In describing the insurers' processes for identifying and assessing climate-related risks, insurers should consider including the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss whether the process includes an assessment of financial implications and how frequently the process is completed. 	To the extent climate change affects economic scenarios, we run a variety of interest rate scenarios which would incorporate those effects.
	B. Describe the insurer's processes for managing climate-related risks.	We have not implemented any specific management efforts or policies to identify specific climate change-related risks as climate change has not been identified as a material risk to our business operations.
	C. Describe how processes for identifying, assessing, and managing climate-related risks are integrated into the insurer's overall risk management.	
	In describing how processes for identifying, assessing, and managing climate-related risks are integrated into the insurer's overall risk management, insurers should consider including the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss whether climate-related risks are addressed through the insurer's general enterprise-risk management process or a separate process and how frequently the process is completed. 	During our annual risk assessments the ERM team works with all the business areas to identify new and emerging risks including climate change risk that may impact our business operations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the climate scenarios utilized by the insurer to analyze its underwriting risks, including which risk factors the scenarios consider, what types of scenarios are used, and what timeframes are considered. 	Any potential impact that climate change would have on the mortality of the Company's policyholders would be a secondary effect and would be long-term in nature. As such, climate change risks would be implicitly considered along with changes in a number of other factors in the Company's normal pricing and underwriting processes as new trends develop.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the climate scenarios utilized by the insurer to analyze risks on its investments, including which risk factors are utilized, what types of scenarios are used, and what timeframes are considered. 	N/A

Does the insurer have a process for identifying climate-related risks? (Y/N)	Yes
If yes, are climate-related risks addressed through the insurer's general enterprise-risk management process? (Y/N)	Yes
Does the insurer have a process for assessing climate-related risks? (Y/N)	Yes
If yes, does the process include an assessment of financial implications? (Y/N)	Yes
Does the insurer have a process for managing climate-related risks? (Y/N)	No
Has the insurer considered the impact of climate-related risks on its underwriting portfolio? (Y/N/Not Applicable)	No
Has the insurer taken steps to encourage policyholders to manage their potential climate-related risks? (Y/N)	Yes
Has the insurer considered the impact of climate-related risks on its investment portfolio? (Y/N)	Yes
Has the insurer utilized climate scenarios to analyze their underwriting risk? (Y/N)	No
Has the insurer utilized climate scenarios to analyze their investment risk? (Y/N)	No

Disclose the metrics and targets used to assess and manage relevant collateralized risks and opportunities where such information is material.	The Company has not explicitly incorporated risks associated with climate change into financial or any other modeling, as it has not become a factor that impacts our business.
In disclosing the metrics and targets used to assess and manage relevant collateralized risks and opportunities where such information is material, insurers should consider including the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how the insurer uses catastrophe modeling to manage the climate-related risks to your business. Please specify for which climate-related risks the insurer uses catastrophe models to assess, if any. 	N/A
A. Disclose the metrics used by the insurer to assess climate-related risks and opportunities in line with its strategy and risk management process.	N/A
In disclosing the metrics used by the insurer to assess climate-related risks and opportunities in line with its strategy and risk management process, insurers should consider including the following:	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In describing the metrics used by the insurer to assess and monitor climate risks, consider the amount of exposure to business lines, sectors, and geographies vulnerable to climate-related physical risks [answer in absolute amounts and percentages if possible], alignment with climate scenarios, [1 in 100 years probable maximum loss, Climate VaR, carbon intensity], and the amount of financed or underwritten carbon emissions. 	N/A
B. Disclose Scope 1, Scope 2, and if appropriate, Scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the related risks.	We do not have any Scope 1 or Scope 3 GHG emissions to report or monitor. Our Scope 2 GHG emissions are minimal, as we lease most of our office space. We have implemented measures to recycle waste, save energy, and use products that help reduce emissions. Our offices have updated climate control systems, and we conserve energy by adjusting thermostat settings based on employees' schedules and using motion sensors for lighting. We encourage the use of video and telephone conferencing to minimize travel. All computers are set to "sleep mode" after 15 minutes of inactivity, and outdated electronic equipment is recycled and replaced with more efficient models. Additionally, we use a cloud-based system, which reduces the number of servers needed, thereby decreasing the required cooling systems, energy sources, and parts that would eventually need recycling after a server refresh.
C. Describe the targets used by the insurer to manage climate-related risks and opportunities and performance against targets.	N/A

Does the insurer use catastrophe modeling to manage your climate-related risks? (Y/N)	No
Does the insurer use metrics to assess and monitor climate-related risks? (Y/N)	No
Does the insurer have targets to manage climate-related risks and opportunities? (Y/N)	No
Does the insurer have targets to manage climate-related performance? (Y/N)	No