

ARCHITECT™ DIAGNOSTIC SERIES

The CRO's Board Defensibility Checklist for AI & Climate Risk

If a supervisor, conformity assessor, or investor asked for your governance evidence tomorrow, would you be ready to hand it over? This checklist walks the same six ARCHITECT™ pillars used in Walsh SRA's Governance Maturity Assessments, applied side by side to climate and sustainability risk and AI risk.



Accountability

● CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Named executive owner assigned for climate/sustainability risk oversight
- ☐ Escalation routes documented across the Three Lines of Defense

● AI GOVERNANCE

- ☐ Named executive and board-level owner assigned for each AI system in production
- ☐ Escalation routes documented across the Three Lines of Defense



Risk Integration

● CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Embedded in the principal risk taxonomy and risk appetite statement
- ☐ Formal approval gates and lifecycle tracking in place

● AI GOVERNANCE

- ☐ Embedded in the same risk taxonomy and ERM framework, not a separate technology committee
- ☐ Formal approval gates and lifecycle tracking in place



Capital Exposure

● CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Climate-driven financial exposure is quantified, not just described qualitatively
- ☐ Feeds into capital planning and stress testing where material

● AI GOVERNANCE

- ☐ AI failure modes translated into financial effect: credit loss, conduct risk, litigation, penalty
- ☐ Feeds into capital planning and stress testing where material



Horizon Scanning

● CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Tracks emerging developments: CSRD, ECB climate guidance, EIOPA requirements
- ☐ Findings routed to the relevant risk committee, not just archived

● AI GOVERNANCE

- ☐ Tracks emerging developments: EU AI Act, FSB guidance, new model capabilities
- ☐ Findings routed to the relevant risk committee, not just archived



Information & Reporting

● CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Board reporting includes real challenge evidence, not narrative updates alone
- ☐ Reporting is decision-useful enough to be challenged in the room

● AI GOVERNANCE

- ☐ Board reporting includes a live system inventory and risk classifications
- ☐ Reporting is decision-useful enough to be challenged in the room



Transparency & Defensibility

● CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Evidence would hold up under CSRD assurance or investor due diligence
- ☐ Documentation producible on short notice, not reconstructed after the fact

● AI GOVERNANCE

- ☐ Decision traceability and human-oversight records would hold up under an EU AI Act conformity review
- ☐ Documentation producible on short notice, not reconstructed after the fact

IF THE BOXES STAYED EMPTY

That's the gap a supervisor finds first.

The ARCHITECT™ Governance Maturity Assessment turns this checklist into a scored, prioritized diagnostic, covering climate, AI, or both, in two to three weeks.

[Book a Governance Maturity Assessment](#)