# Amazon shareholders again reject all proposals on climate, AI and workplace transparency



During Amazon’s recent annual shareholder meeting, investors overwhelmingly rejected all eight external proposals designed to enhance transparency around the company's environmental impact and governance structure. This marks a continuation of a trend seen over the years, where shareholder resolutions aimed at promoting climate action, responsible AI development, and workplace accountability have been consistently dismissed. The result reflects a broader narrative in corporate governance, where companies often position themselves against external scrutiny, particularly in areas linked to sustainability and social responsibility.

Among the proposals presented this year were calls for enhanced reporting on Amazon’s carbon emissions, an assessment of the climate impact of its data centres, and greater transparency regarding its use of packaging materials, especially concerning plastic. Amazon maintained that its existing measures and disclosures are adequate, asserting ongoing efforts to mitigate its environmental footprint. However, critics argue that these claims fall short, especially against a backdrop of heightened expectations for corporate accountability regarding climate change. In previous years, similar proposals had garnered a greater share of shareholder support, with a climate resolution from 2024 receiving 15.2% backing, indicating a potential increase in shareholder concern over these issues.

Two additional proposals targeting artificial intelligence were also voted down. One aimed to evaluate the board's structure for the responsible development of AI, while the other sought a report on data usage surrounding these technologies. Amazon reiterated its commitment to leading in responsible AI practices, positioning itself as a frontrunner in this increasingly crucial field. CEO Andy Jassy elaborated on the company’s substantial investments in AI technology, highlighting the strategic significance of these advancements amidst rising competition in the tech sector. This focus on AI development contrasts with calls for more robust governance and accountability frameworks, illustrating the tension between innovation and oversight.

While the rejection of these proposals can be seen as a setback for advocates of greater corporate responsibility, it also highlights ongoing debates within investor communities about the responsibilities of large corporations. Historically, Amazon has faced numerous criticisms regarding working conditions and environmental sustainability. Proposals seeking reports on advertising neutrality and warehouse working environments, which have been contentious topics in the past, were similarly dismissed. The company’s stance, as articulated during the meeting, was that it continues to operate with transparency and maintains a separation of governance roles between CEO Andy Jassy and founder Jeff Bezos, though not codified as a mandatory policy measure.

The recent shareholder meeting also addressed broader economic concerns, particularly the impact of tariffs on sales—comments made by Jassy suggested minimal effects thus far. Thus, while Amazon's shares experienced a slight decline following the meeting, the company continues to rally support from its board and executive leadership, securing approval for reappointments and adjustments in executive compensation packages as part of its strategy to enhance market position.

Given the increasing legislative pressure for corporate accountability in both the U.S. and Europe, as evidenced by recent developments requiring value-chain disclosures, Amazon's continued resistance to such proposals may come under renewed scrutiny. The contrasting views between corporate leadership and shareholder expectations set the stage for ongoing discussions about the direction of large multinational corporations in a world increasingly focused on sustainability and corporate governance.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://eu.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2025/05/21/amazon-shareholders-annual-meeting/83774806007/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/amazon-investors-again-reject-all-shareholder-proposals-2025-05-21/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.greencentury.com/statement-climate-proposal-wins-15-2-of-votes-at-amazon-annual-meeting/), [[5]](https://www.geekwire.com/2024/amazon-shareholders-reject-all-14-proposals-on-issues-related-to-climate-ai-working-conditions/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/technology/amazon-ceo-sets-out-ai-investment-mission-annual-shareholder-letter-2025-04-10/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/amazon-investors-again-reject-all-shareholder-proposals-2025-05-21/), [[5]](https://www.geekwire.com/2024/amazon-shareholders-reject-all-14-proposals-on-issues-related-to-climate-ai-working-conditions/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://eu.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2025/05/21/amazon-shareholders-annual-meeting/83774806007/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/amazon-investors-again-reject-all-shareholder-proposals-2025-05-21/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/technology/amazon-ceo-sets-out-ai-investment-mission-annual-shareholder-letter-2025-04-10/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2025/05/21/amazon-shareholders-annual-meeting/83774806007/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/amazon-investors-again-reject-all-shareholder-proposals-2025-05-21/> - At Amazon's 2025 annual meeting, shareholders rejected all eight external proposals, including three targeting the company's environmental impact, such as enhanced reporting on carbon emissions, data center climate effects, and packaging material disclosures. Amazon defended its current environmental disclosures and ongoing efforts to reduce its footprint. Two resolutions related to artificial intelligence development and responsible data use were also voted down, with Amazon asserting its leadership in responsible AI. Other proposals included a request to mandate separation of the CEO and board chair roles—currently held separately by Andy Jassy and Jeff Bezos but not enforced by policy—and suggested reports on advertising neutrality and warehouse working conditions. All were dismissed. CEO Andy Jassy noted that Trump-era tariffs had not affected sales significantly and there was little change in average selling prices. Final vote counts will be disclosed in a future securities filing. Amazon shares dropped slightly by less than 1%, closing at $203.20.
3. <https://www.greencentury.com/statement-climate-proposal-wins-15-2-of-votes-at-amazon-annual-meeting/> - In May 2024, a climate proposal filed by Green Century and Amalgamated Bank, with shareholder representative As You Sow, received 15.2% of Amazon shareholders' support, asking the company to disclose its full value-chain climate emissions, including emissions from all products sold on its e-commerce platform. Amazon blocked a similar proposal in 2023. Circumstances have changed this year, with the European Union (EU) and California passing laws mandating similar value-chain disclosures. Leslie Samuelrich, President of Green Century Funds, emphasized the economic risk of climate change and urged Amazon to respond to shareholders' interest in disclosing its full contribution to the climate crisis. Currently, Amazon only discloses emissions from the sale of its private-label products, which account for less than 1% of the products sold on its site.
4. <https://time.com/7261857/us-companies-keep-dei-initiatives-list-trump-diversity-order-crackdown/> - Despite the Trump Administration’s efforts to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, several major companies remain committed to their DEI initiatives. Companies such as Apple, Ben & Jerry’s, Costco, Delta Air Lines, Francesca’s, JPMorgan Chase, Lush, Microsoft, and Patagonia continue to uphold DEI policies, citing their importance to business success, employee satisfaction, and social responsibility. Apple recently saw shareholders overwhelmingly reject a proposal to abolish its DEI programs. Ben & Jerry’s maintains its social activism, and Delta insists that DEI is crucial for talent acquisition. Other companies, like Microsoft, argue that a diverse workforce is key to innovation while Patagonia emphasizes its commitment to justice and equity. These companies believe that moving away from DEI would be detrimental to their operations and public image.
5. <https://www.geekwire.com/2024/amazon-shareholders-reject-all-14-proposals-on-issues-related-to-climate-ai-working-conditions/> - In 2024, Amazon shareholders voted down all 14 independent resolutions presented at the company’s annual meeting, including a climate change push supported by more than 7,600 employees. The resolutions addressed issues such as climate change, worker rights, racial and gender pay gaps, corporate governance, facial recognition technology, working conditions, and artificial intelligence. Detailed results were typically released a few days after the meeting. Amazon's 12-member board, which was re-elected as part of the meeting, had recommended that shareholders vote against all 14 outside proposals. One proposal requested that Amazon create an additional board committee to address human rights risks associated with the development and deployment of AI systems. Other proposals focused on the company’s climate impact, requesting that Amazon disclose “Scope 3” greenhouse gas emissions and report how it could reduce its plastics footprint. Nine of the 14 proposals were repeat proposals that failed in prior years. Some of the proposals “contain assertions that we believe are incorrect or that reflect fundamental lack of understanding of how our business operates,” Amazon said in a proxy statement. The annual meeting, which previously drew protesters to Seattle’s Fremont neighborhood, has been held virtually since the onset of the pandemic. During the Q&A portion of the meeting, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy answered questions submitted by shareholders. Selected questions focused on topics including warehouse injuries; the future of Alexa; generative AI; government regulation; Amazon’s advertising business; dividends; and more. Here are a few excerpts from Jassy’s answers, edited for brevity and clarity.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/amazon-ceo-sets-out-ai-investment-mission-annual-shareholder-letter-2025-04-10/> - In his annual shareholder letter, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy emphasized the company's significant investment in artificial intelligence (AI), arguing that such spending is vital to remain competitive and fulfill its customer-focused mission. Jassy outlined the necessity of substantial capital allocation for AI chips and data centers, underlining the strategic importance of generative AI tools, including chatbots and a reimagined Alexa voice assistant, now featuring technology from startup Anthropic in which Amazon has invested approximately $8 billion. This AI infusion, branded as Alexa+, aligns with industry-wide trends, echoed by Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai's justification of massive AI-related expenditures at a recent Google Cloud event. Despite current market volatility and a 13% dip in Amazon shares this year, Jassy did not address broader economic concerns such as U.S. import tariffs. Amazon also released its annual proxy statement revealing Jassy's $40.1 million compensation in 2024, a rise from $29.2 million due to share price gains. The company is urging shareholders to vote against eight proposals related to sustainability, AI data usage, and warehouse conditions. Additionally, Amazon has removed references to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) from its proxy report, replacing them with language around 'inclusive experiences.'
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/may/25/amazon-shareholder-proposal-worker-health-safety> - In May 2022, Amazon shareholders rejected 15 resolutions brought forward by investors aiming to influence the company’s environmental impact and treatment of workers. The resolutions included calls for the company to report on worker health and safety and the treatment of its warehouse workers, and a review of Amazon’s use of plastic and changes to the company’s process for board nominations. Amazon’s board had recommended that its shareholders vote against all resolutions, arguing in its proxy statement that it has already acted to address the underlying concerns of many of the proposals. Historically, shareholders have voted with the board’s recommendations. Jeff Bezos, the company’s executive chairman, controls 12.7% of the overall vote. While the resolutions are non-binding, companies often take some form of action if they receive the backing of 30% to 40% of votes. While the activist resolutions were shut down, investors approved executive compensation, board members, and a stock split.