SECTION 05

The U.S. Utilities ESG Report Card

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More than ever, investors are factoring Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) metrics in their investment decisions.

Once seen as optional, ESG and sustainability reports have become mainstream for publicly traded companies.

Between 2018 and 2021, the number of organizations supporting climate disclosures under the framework by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) grew five-fold.²²

As of 2021, over 2,600 organization supported TCFD disclosures, including 1,000 financial institutions responsible for \$194 trillion in assets.

Strong ESG reporting practices can encourage investment from climate-conscious investors while also building transparency with customers. Number of OrganizationsSupporting Task Force onClimate-related FinancialDisclosures 2018-20212,616



However, the parameters that make up ESG criteria are often subjective to industries. It's essential to define what these three factors mean for U.S. utilities in the context of decarbonization.

The Three Pillars of ESG for U.S. Utilities



The contribution of a utility to the fight against climate change through benchmarking its greenhouse gas emissions to a stated target, in addition to investment in low-carbon technologies to reduce emissions.



Accounting for, and disclosure of, GHG emissions from supply chains, community offerings, internal initiatives, and the socio-economic impact of not decarbonizing. Consideration for the effects of decarbonization practices on disadvantaged communities.



Regular reporting of the utility's decarbonization progress to shareholders, customers, and the government; disclosure of lobbying expenditures and political contributions.

Source: TCFD Status Report (2021)²²

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What Are the 3 Scopes of GHG Emissions?

There are three scopes of GHG emissions that make up a company's carbon footprint, as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.



from upstream and downstream operations of the company, including emissions from: While the 2022 Utility **Decarbonization Index** provides an in-depth analysis of the 'E' in ESG, we also need to consider the transparency of the utilities in reporting on the other factors.

How do the top 30 utilities compare in ESG reporting?



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