

ESG Acronyms

AFOLU – Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use: A key sector in greenhouse gas inventories involving emissions and removals related to human influence on land use and emissions in agriculture.

<https://dgap.org/en/research/glossary/climate-foreign-policy/agriculture-forestry-and-other-land-uses-afolu>

BECCS – Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage: Technology combining bioenergy production with capturing and storing CO₂ to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases.

<https://www.iea.org/energy-system/carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage/bioenergy-with-carbon-capture-and-storage>

BREEAM – Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method: A widely used sustainability assessment method for buildings, measuring environmental performance across categories like energy, materials, and health.

<https://www.breeam.com/>

BRS Conventions – Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions: International treaties governing hazardous waste, chemicals, and persistent organic pollutants to protect health and environment.

<https://www.brsmeas.org/Home/tabid/10038/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

CCER – China Certified Emission Reduction: A Chinese carbon credit issued under its voluntary or compliance carbon market schemes.

<https://carboncredits.com/china-revives-its-carbon-credit-market-price-swings-future-outlook/>

CCF – Corporate Carbon Footprint: A corporates activities that contributes to direct and indirect carbon emissions.

<https://sgs-institut-fresenius.de/en/sustainability-solutions/environmental-and-climate-protection/corporate-carbon-footprint-ccf>

CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage: Technology to capture CO₂ emissions, transport, and store it underground to reduce atmospheric emissions.

<https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/>

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project: A global non-profit that runs a disclosure system for companies to measure and manage environmental impacts.

<https://www.cdp.net/en>

CDM – Clean Development Mechanism: A flexibility mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol allowing industrialised countries to invest in emission-reduction projects in developing countries and receive Certified Emission Reductions (CERs).

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/>

CDSB – Climate Disclosure Standards Board: Provides a framework for reporting environmental information in mainstream financial reports. In 2022 the CDSB was consolidated into the IFRS Foundation to support the work of the newly established International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)

<https://www.cdsb.net/>

CEFLEX – Circular Economy for Flexible Packaging: Industry initiative to improve circularity of flexible packaging materials.

<https://ceflex.eu/>

CER – Certified Emission Reduction: Carbon credits issued under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

<https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/UNCertification>

CIEL – Center for International Environmental Law: Legal advocacy group working on climate, environmental justice, and corporate accountability.

<https://www.ciel.org/>

CLP – Classification, Labelling and Packaging: EU regulation to ensure chemical products are safely labeled for health and environmental protection.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/chemicals/classification-labelling-and-packaging-chemicals_en

CMM – Coal Mine Methane: Methane gas captured from coal mining operations, which can be utilised as an energy source. <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/coal-mine-methane-cmm>

CNG – Compressed Natural Gas: A cleaner fossil fuel alternative used in transportation, relevant to corporate sustainability transition plans.

<https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/how-do-natural-gas-cars-work>

CO₂e – Carbon Dioxide Equivalent: A standard unit used to express the global warming potential (GWP) of all greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of CO₂ that would have the same warming effect.

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Carbon_dioxide_equivalent

ESG Acronyms

CORSIA – Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation: ICAO-led global carbon offset program for aviation emissions.

<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/default.aspx>

CSA – Corporate Sustainability Assessment: An evaluation of a company's ESG performance through a comprehensive sustainability assessment, often used for benchmark comparisons and inclusion in indices like the DJSI.

<https://www.spglobal.com/esg/csa/>

CSDDD – Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: EU directive that encourages companies to assess responsible and ethical corporate behaviour across their supply chain.

https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/sustainability-due-diligence-responsible-business/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence_en

CSRD – Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive: EU directive enhancing ESG reporting requirements for companies.

<https://plana.earth/policy/corporate-sustainability-reporting-directive-csrd>

CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility: A voluntary business practice where companies take responsibility for their social, environmental, and economic impacts, often through philanthropy, community engagement, and ethical operations.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/corp-social-responsibility.asp>

DBL – Double Bottom Line An accounting framework measuring both financial performance and social/environmental impact.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2017/02/10/why-you-should-work-to-improve-your-employees-double-bottom-line/>

DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A set of practices that promote fair treatment, equal access, and a welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds in workplaces and communities.

<https://oxford-review.com/what-is-dei-the-oxford-review-guide-to-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>

DGNB – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen (German Sustainable Building Council): A German organisation that promotes sustainable and high-performance buildings through its certification system, focusing on environmental, economic, and sociocultural quality.

<https://www.dgnb.de/en/>

DJSI – Dow Jones Sustainability Index: A family of benchmarks evaluating the sustainability performance of thousands of companies based on ESG criteria.

<https://www.spglobal.com/esg/csa/>

DMA – Double Materiality Assessment: a mandatory CSRD initiative for companies to evaluate their ESG factors from an inside-out (company's impact on others), and outside-in perspective (other factors impacting the company).

<https://www.pwc.com/mt/en/publications/sustainability/understanding-the-csrd-double-materiality-assessment-process.html>

DPP – Digital Product Passport: An upcoming EU framework under the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) to enhance product traceability and sustainability data across supply chains. <https://data.europa.eu/en/news-events/news/eus-digital-product-passport-advancing-transparency-and-sustainability>

EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment: Process to evaluate the environmental consequences of projects before decisions are made.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/environmental-assessments/environmental-impact-assessment_en

EITE – Energy Intensive Trade Exposed: Sectors that release large amounts of GHG emissions during national or international trade activities subject to international competition.

<https://cer.gov.au/schemes/renewable-energy-target/renewable-energy-target-liability-and-exemptions/exemption-certificates/eligible-emissions-intensive-trade-exposed-activities>

EPD – Environmental Product Declaration: A voluntary, third-party verified document that transparently discloses the environmental impacts of a product over its life cycle, based on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)

<https://www.environdec.com/home>

EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility: A policy approach that makes producers responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products—especially take-back, recycling, and final disposal—to reduce environmental impacts.

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/extended-producer-responsibility.htm>

ESG Acronyms

ERU – Emission Reduction Unit: A carbon credit generated through Joint Implementation projects under the Kyoto Protocol that is applicable on emissions reduction projects.

<https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol/mechanisms/joint-implementation>

ESG – Environmental, Social, and Governance: Principle framework used by stakeholders and companies to evaluate corporate sustainability and ethical dealings with all stakeholders involved.

<https://plana.earth/glossary/environment-social-governance-esg>

ESRS – European Sustainability Reporting Standards: EU reporting standards subject to companies that comply with CSRD.

https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-adopts-european-sustainability-reporting-standards-2023-07-31_en

EUDR – EU Deforestation Regulation: Certain raw materials like palm oil, coffee, cocoa, etc can only come into the market if they are free from deforestation and forest damage.

<https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/wald/waelder-weltweit/entwaldungsfreie-Lieferketten-eu-vo.html>

EU ETS – European Union Emissions Trading Scheme: The EU’s carbon market to cap and trade emissions permits.

https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/eu-emissions-trading-system-eu-ets/about-eu-ets_en

EV – Electric Vehicle: A vehicle powered by electricity, producing zero or lower tailpipe emissions.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-an-ev>

FSC – Forest Stewardship Council: Certification system for sustainable forest management tackling deforestation, climate change impacts and biodiversity challenges.

<https://fsc.org/>

GHG – Greenhouse Gas: Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, driving climate change like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), also synthetic gases like hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride.

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>

GMI – Global Methane Initiative: ‘an international public-private partnership that works with government agencies around the world to facilitate project development in five key methane-producing sectors: agricultural operations, coal mines, municipal solid waste, oil and gas systems, and wastewater.’

https://unece.org/DAM/energy/images/CMM/CMM_CE/BPG_2017.pdf

GRI – Global Reporting Initiative: International standards for sustainability reporting.

<https://www.globalreporting.org/>

GSIA – Global Sustainable Investment Alliance: Network of sustainable investment organisations.

<http://www.gsi-alliance.org/>

GSSB – Global Sustainability Standards Board: Oversees the development of GRI sustainability standards.

<https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/global-sustainability-standards-board/>

GWP – Global Warming Potential: Metric to compare impact of greenhouse gases relative to CO₂.

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Global-warming_potential_\(GWP\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Global-warming_potential_(GWP))

ILO – International Labour Organisation: Organisation promoting social justice and human and labor rights internationally.

<https://www.ilo.org/about-ilo>

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: UN body assessing climate change science to aid policymakers.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/>

ISSB – International Sustainability Standards Board: ISSB now part of IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards)

<https://www.ifrs.org/groups/international-sustainability-standards-board/>

ISO – International Organisation for Standardisation: Develops international standards including for sustainability (e.g., ISO 14001 environmental management systems).

<https://www.iso.org/>

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design: widely recognised green building rating system in the world.

<https://www.usgbc.org/leed>

ESG Acronyms

LCA – Life Cycle Assessment: Method to assess environmental impacts across the lifecycle of a product or service.
<https://www.lifecycleinitiative.org/>

LNG – Liquefied Natural Gas: Natural gas cooled to a liquid state so that it can be transported to areas where natural gas pipelines do not reach.
<https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/natural-gas/liquefied-natural-gas.php>

LULUCF – Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry: Sector representing emissions and removals from land management.
<https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/land-use--land-use-change-and-forestry-lulucf>

MSCI ESG – MSCI Environmental, Social, and Governance Ratings: Tool for assessing ESG risk in companies.
<https://www.msci.com/our-solutions/esg-investing/esg-ratings>

NAP – National Adaptation Plan: Country-level framework for climate adaptation and resilience.
<https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution: Country climate action plans under Paris Agreement to reduce national emissions.
<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>

NGFS – Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System: Central banks group on sharing best practices regarding climate risk management.
<https://www.ngfs.net/>

NRDC – Natural Resources Defense Council: Environmental advocacy and activist organisation established to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and encourage better systems for healthy communities.
<https://www.nrdc.org/>

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: Develops policies and standards to help countries address environmental and sustainability challenges.
<https://www.oecd.org/en.html>

OH&S – Occupational Health and Safety management system – ISO45001: Standard for organisations to manage risks and develop frameworks for workplace safety.
<https://www.iso.org/iso-45001-occupational-health-and-safety.html>

PCF – Product Carbon Footprint: Lifecycle measure of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions from a product or service during the product life cycle.
<https://sgs-institut-fresenius.de/nachhaltigkeit/umwelt-und-klimaschutz/product-carbon-footprint-pcf>

PCAF – Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials: Framework for measuring financed emissions by financial institutions.
<https://carbonaccountingfinancials.com/>

PEF – Product Environmental Footprint: EU method to measure environmental performance of products and reduce impacts through the supply chain of products.
https://green-forum.ec.europa.eu/environmental-footprint-methods/pef-method_en

PPA – Power Purchase Agreement: Individually negotiated long term contracts supporting green energy or renewable energy procurement for sustainability targets.
<https://www.pwc.de/en/energy-sector/renewable-energy/power-purchase-agreements-ppa.html>

PRI – Principles for Responsible Investment: UN initiative promoting ESG integration in investing for responsible investing.
<https://www.unpri.org/>

PVC – Polyvinyl Chloride: plastic polymer with sustainability concerns due to high contamination during its lifecycle and is least recyclable.
<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/pvc-the-poison-plastic/>

RBA – Responsible Business Alliance: Industry coalition dedicated to responsible business practices in the global supply chain.
<https://www.responsiblebusiness.org/>

RMU – Removal Unit: A Kyoto Protocol carbon credit generated emissions stored or avoided through LULUCF activities, such as reforestation.
<https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol/mechanisms/emissions-trading>

RSB – Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials: International initiative for ensuring the sustainable transition to a bio-based and circular economy.
<https://rsb.org/>

ESG Acronyms

RSPO – Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil: Certification scheme ensuring sustainable palm oil production.
<https://rspo.org/>

RTFO – Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation: UK government regulation promoting the use of renewable fuels in transport.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewable-transport-fuels-obligation-rtfo-orders>

SASB – Sustainability Accounting Standards Board: Develops industry-specific standards for reporting on financially material sustainability information. Now part of IFRS.
<https://www.sasb.org/>

SBTi – Science Based Targets initiative: Supports companies in setting science-based emissions reduction targets in line with climate science.
<https://sciencebasedtargets.org/>

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals: 17 global goals set by the UN to achieve a better and more sustainable future by 2030.
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

SDSN – Sustainable Development Solutions Network: Part of UN Secretary-General that collaborates with the universities, think tanks, and scientists to identify and develop global and local solutions for action on the world's most critical sustainable development challenges.
<https://www.unsdsn.org/zero-carbon-action-plan>

SFDR – Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation: EU regulation requiring financial market participants to disclose how they integrate ESG risks and opportunities.
https://finance.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-finance/disclosures/sustainability-related-disclosure-financial-services-sector_en

SLCP – Social & Labor Convergence Program: Provides tools to measure working conditions along the supply chain.
<https://www.sgs.com/en/services/social-and-labor-convergence-program-slcp>

SRI – Socially Responsible Investing: Investment strategy that considers environmental and social factors.
<https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/esg/socially-responsible-investment-sri/>

TCFD – Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures: Provides a framework for companies to disclose climate-related risks and opportunities. Now absorbed by IFRS.
<https://www.ifrs.org/sustainability/tcfid/>

TSC – The Sustainability Consortium: A global organisation focused on improving the sustainability of consumer goods industry through sustainability science, supply chain collaboration and innovation.
<https://www.sustainabilityconsortium.org/>

TNFD – Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures: Develops a framework for organisations to report and act on nature-related risks.
<https://tnfd.global/>

TSCA – Toxic Substances Control Act: U.S. law regulating the production, importation, use, and disposal of new or already existing chemicals to protect human health and the environment.
<https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-toxic-substances-control-act>

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme: Coordinates the UN’s environmental activities and assists countries in implementing environmentally sound policies.
<https://www.unep.org/>

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: The main international treaty governing global responses to climate change.
<https://unfccc.int/>

UNFSS – United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards: addresses the sustainable development value of voluntary sustainability standards and collaboration among agencies.
<https://unfss.org/home/about-unfss/>

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council: Nonprofit promoting sustainability in building design, construction, and operation, best known for its LEED certification.
<https://www.usgbc.org/>

UHI – Urban Heat Island: A climate phenomenon where urban areas experience higher temperatures than rural surroundings due to human activity—considered in city ESG planning.
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltthemen/boden/rp-projekte/urban-climate-change-adaptation>

ESG Acronyms

VCM – Voluntary Carbon Market: A marketplace allowing companies and individuals to purchase carbon offsets on a voluntary basis to reduce their net carbon footprint.

<https://carboncredits.com/what-is-the-voluntary-carbon-market/>

VCS – Verified Carbon Standard: One of the world’s leading voluntary greenhouse gas programs for carbon offset certification, managed by Verra.

<https://verra.org/project/vcs-program/>

VCU – Verified Carbon Unit: A carbon offset credit issued under the Verified Carbon Standard.

<https://verra.org/project/vcs-program/>

VOC – Volatile Organic Compounds: Harmful air pollutants commonly regulated due to their health and environmental impact; relevant in product compliance and reporting.

<https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/volatile-organic-compounds-impact-indoor-air-quality>

VSS – Voluntary Sustainability Standards: Sustainability Standards or requirements that producers and their partners along the supply chain may be required to meet.

<https://unfss.org/home/about-unfss/>

https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctab2023d3_en.pdf

WBCSD – World Business Council for Sustainable Development: A global organisation of over 240 leading businesses working to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world.

<https://www.wbcsd.org/>

WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (e-Waste): EU directive aiming to reduce e-waste and promote environmentally sound disposal and recycling.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-weee_en

WFTO – The World Fair Trade Organisation: Verifier of corporates who have sustainable and ethical business practices and adhere to their 10 Fair Trade principles.

<https://wfto.com/about-wfto/our-movement/>

WRI – World Resources Institute: A global research organisation focused on environmental and sustainability led economic development.

<https://www.wri.org/>

WRAP – Waste and Resources Action Programme: A UK-based NGO that works with governments, businesses, and communities all over the world to improve resource efficiency, circular living, and reduce waste.

<https://wrap.org.uk/>

ZEV – Zero-Emission Vehicle: Vehicles that emit no tailpipe pollutants, often used as a benchmark in ESG transport policies and sustainable fleet transitions.

<https://zevtc.org/>

ZWTL – Zero Waste to Landfill: A sustainability goal and certification that ensures all waste produced by an organisation is reused, recycled, or composted, not landfilled.

<https://en.eurocert.group/certifications/zero-waste>

ZCAP – Zero Carbon Action Plan: A strategic framework designed to help nations and companies achieve net-zero emissions through actionable and science-based steps.

<https://www.unsdsn.org/resources/americas-zero-carbon-action-plan/>