

Understanding ESG: How to harness the power of sustainability

The part that environmental, social and governance (ESG) plays in today's global economy cannot be overstated — as stakeholder expectations and regulatory demands rise, companies face increasing demands to fundamentally conduct business more responsibly. To help reduce environmental impacts, enhance social outcomes and foster better governance structures, businesses should first integrate ESG strategies into their operations.

Whether your company has emerging, maturing or leading ESG management capabilities, navigating solo through the world of ESG strategies, including

establishing goals, managing voluntary disclosure targets and meeting compliance requirements, can be daunting. When it's time to establish an ESG program, measure production and performance, drive improvements, report progress or verify key performance indicators (KPIs), UL Solutions ESG Management services can provide the end-to-end guidance, services and tools needed to help you succeed.

Recent surveys highlight the challenges organizations face around changing ESG rules and regulations, undefined industry operational roles, a lack of disclosure transparency and more.





of banks and financial institutions have yet to define who has primary accountability for identifying and addressing climate risks within their operations.

(Bain and Company Survey, May 2023)



of asset managers say ESG is a high priority for their companies, but 64% were concerned about a lack of transparency and corporate disclosure on firms' ESG activities.

(Index Industry Association survey, Qontigo Blog, July 2021)



According to the Index Industry Association (IIA) survey, 56% of respondents said they are finding it difficult to comply with constantly evolving ESG rules.

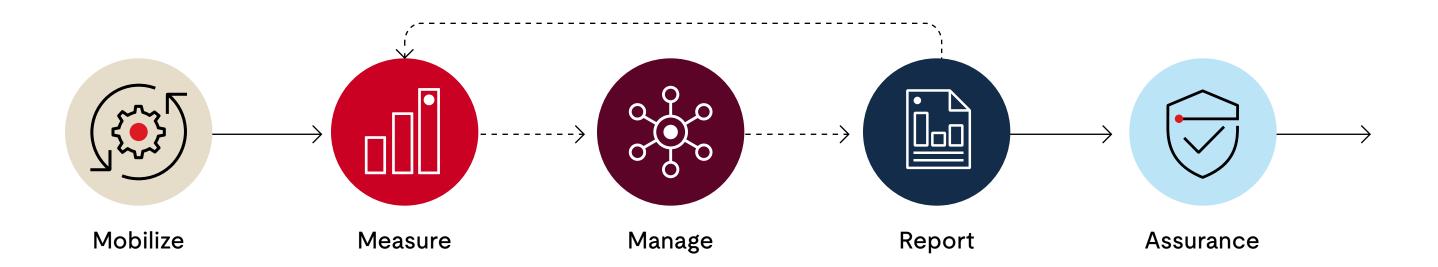
(Qontigo Blog, July 2021)



of business respondents agree that companies with commitments to ESG policies will outlast competitors without such commitments.

(Consumer Intelligence Series ESG survey, PwC, April 2021)

The 5 pillars to ESG success



The UL Solutions ESG Management program offers companies a pragmatic, standards-driven approach to ESG challenges spanning five pillars — mobilize, measure, manage, report and assurance. Companies looking to accelerate their ESG performance may benefit from the program's comprehensive suite of in-house advisory, software and verification services and guidance from seasoned domain experts.

Whether you're still establishing an ESG footing or accelerating strategy execution, companies worldwide turn to our ESG Management program for its comprehensive guidance, pragmatic tools and trusted independent verification.



Mobilize

Establishing or reinforcing an ESG program and identifying the critical issues within your organization is vital. Mobilize forces across your company through expert-led capabilities, including ESG training, materiality assessments and management system gap analysis.

Taking the first steps

Modlo is the logistics real estate operating platform for GLP Capital Partners (GCP). Its most significant step toward establishing an ESG program has been **streamlining its data**. Pete Kane, GCP's chief financial officer, said "UL Solutions helps us navigate the data collection process. They provide us with the resources to be able to do this, including LEED certifications, ENERGY STAR® reporting and compliance."

Start by:



- Taking inventory ESG requests from internal and external stakeholders
- Establishing roles and responsibilities for progress
- Building in sufficient time to establish foundations





Measure

Methodology, workflow, technology — implementing robust systems for measuring performance is critical to acquiring actionable insights. Streamlined data collection, automated tolerance checks, intensity measures and extrapolations help improve reporting quality both internally and externally. Combine our award-winning ESG reporting and data management software with our carbon and ESG domain experts to demonstrate progress with quantifiable metrics.

Transforming data into more than numbers

"UL Solutions has been a valuable partner as we continue on our ESG journey," said Leann Mester, Physicians Realty Trust (NYSE: DOC) director of corporate marketing and communications. "Their skills in compiling and interpreting data, aligning objectives with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and recommending best practices for reporting have helped us identify aspirational goals for the future. Our collaborative efforts with UL Solutions have helped DOC reach new heights throughout our environmental initiatives."

Expert tips



- Start small by using existing data
- Establish pragmatic methods for collecting and reporting additional data
- Build knowledge of reporting standards and guidance





Manage

Metrics shift, policies change, and ambitions evolve over time. Achieving long-term strategic goals requires companies to refine key performance indicators and assess progress to drive continuous improvement. Our enhanced data management capabilities save you time and resources and help drive compliance with evolving reporting requirements and industry standards.

Benefiting from expert strategies

Nordea, a leading Nordic bank, needed dynamic tools that could be modified to fit their ESG challenges. "Due to the complexity of our portfolio, there was a need for combining various ways of working with ESG analysis," said Sheida Palmlind, ESG analyst at Nordea. "We are working with UL Solutions to include new functions, when possible, to get the most out of the platform."

Drive best practices by



- Establishing good management systems
- Learning from peers to identify best practices
- Setting goals aligned with the science of good performance





Report

Incorporating quantitative and qualitative data into annual reports and disclosures, such as CDP, builds trust and demonstrates transparency. And for mandatory reporting to comply with CSRD, SFDR and SECR, amongst others, achieving data completeness and KPIs relevance is essential.

With a dedicated, in-house content team and 20+ years of ESG and sustainability software heritage, we can help you produce high-quality reports for external and internal stakeholders. Our ESG advisors can review your disclosures to help identify improvements, communicate results and assist in reporting to CDP, GRI, GRESB, SEC and other leading frameworks.

Accelerating and streamlining the process

"By pulling data directly from the UL 360 platform, the API streamlines the process of completing CDP questionnaires. It eliminates the need for manual data collection and entry, saving valuable time and resources. This increased efficiency allows us to focus more on analyzing and interpreting the data rather than spending excessive effort on data management."

– Jo Forson, group risk manager at Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Limited, 2023 CDP API pilot participant

Discover how to



- Adhere to prevailing reporting standards (GRI, ISSB, ESRS)
- Align ESG reporting cycle with financial reporting cycle
- Secure sponsorship for reporting at executive level



CSRD

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive



GRI

Global Reporting Initiative



ISSB (SASB)

International Sustainability Standards Board



Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions



SEC*

The Securities and Exchange Commission



SFDR

Sustainable Finance
Disclosure Regulation



TCFD

Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures

*Pending final rules approval



Assurance

As ESG factors become critical considerations for investors, customers and other stakeholders, reporting credibility and accuracy also becomes increasingly important. With that top of mind, many companies are asking for — or in many cases, requiring — independent verification of their ESG data.

UL Solutions' independent, third-party verification services can instill confidence in your ESG and greenhouse gas (GHG) data while also satisfying the demand for external verification. Plus, the UL Verification Mark is a globally recognized symbol that helps bolster transparency and build stakeholder trust.

Showcasing sustainability proficiency

Independent verification of your GHG and ESG data can help improve your reputation. In a November 2022 sustainability survey, Nicole Corbett, vice president of Global Thought Leadership at NielsenIQ stated that "77% of respondents would stop buying from a company that was found guilty of greenwashing."

Expert's steps to success



- Engage pre-assurance to secure capacity and build time to resolve identified issues
- Catalog all documentation and decisions related to data
- View verification as a learning opportunity for driving continuous improvement



Why UL Solutions?

UL Solutions ESG Management Services offers an innovative, triple-faceted approach to ESG. Our 20+ years of expertise in ESG measurement, pragmatic processes and standards application can empower your business to navigate sustainability challenges more confidently. Select from a wide range of services to develop an ESG management program that meets your company's needs, including access to:

- ☐ Top-rated UL 360 software for ESG data, reporting and supply chain management
- ☐ Third-party verification of carbon emissions statements and ESG data
- Streamlined CDP data transfer
- Advanced carbon data management, including Scope 3 emissions
- ☑ ESG Advisory services for materiality assessments and science-based targets
- Reporting regulations and compliance gap analysis review

Partnering with our domain teams offers invaluable opportunities and collaborative innovation through expert ESG and sustainability services, pioneering safety solutions, broad global impact, cutting-edge research and more.















Sustainability goals, satisfied

After working with UL Solutions, GPA Global expanded its carbon footprint program to include 10 manufacturing sites across China. "By empowering our team with the tools, resources and expertise to elevate our ESG initiatives, we helped internalize the benefits of sustainable practices as a routine part of our business model," said Nick Hurd, chief sustainability officer at GPA Global. "UL Solutions helped us take our sustainability efforts to the next level through the strategic implementation of our carbon footprint measurement and other ESG initiatives."

ESG Management Software and Services

Wherever you are on your sustainability journey, get support for your ESG program with the cutting-edge software and services offered by our ESG Management team. Discover improved transparency, data management, ESG performance, sustainability success and more.



Mobilize

- ESG and carbon training
- ESG double materiality assessment
- ESG materiality assessment
- ESG system readiness
- Independent third-party opinion on sustainability-linked bonds
- · Scope 3 carbon screening
- Scope 3 materiality and methodology
- Sustainable procurement gap analysis
- Carbon measurement and management workshop
- ESG workshop



Measure

- Development of Scope 3 baseline
- ENERGY STAR® account management, data collection, ordinance benchmarking, and certification
- ESG and sustainability reporting software (UL 360)
- ESG methods and KPIs
- Financed emissions measurement
- Scope 3 materiality and methodology
- Scope 1 and 2 carbon reporting
- Supplier carbon data enablement



Manage

- ESG performance benchmark
- ESG and sustainability reporting software (UL 360)
- Science-based target readiness assessment and target development
- Sustainability policies development



Report

- CDP services
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) services
- ESG and sustainability reporting software (UL 360)
- GRESB readiness assessment and disclosure enhancement
- SEC climate disclosure rule alignment
- Sustainable Finance
 Disclosure Regulation
 (SFDR) alignment
- Task Force on Climaterelated Financial Disclosures (TCFD) assessment



Assurance*

- Enterprise Verification of Greenhouse Gas Statements to ISO 14064-3
- ESG pre-verification



When you're ready to accelerate your ESG journey, our domain experts are here to lend a trusted hand.

Let's navigate the complexities together — contact us today at **UL.com/esgmanagement**





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