

Sustainability Watch – December 2021

Telling Your Sustainability Story, Part Two: Keys to Effective Stakeholder Engagement, Ensuring Reliability, and Dealing with Regulations, Reporting Frameworks, and ESG Rating Agencies
December 9, 2021, 9:00 AM ET (03:00 PM CET)

THE CONFERENCE BOARD
SUSTAINABILITY WATCH



Some of the topics we will be addressing today

- **Engagement:** How do you effectively engage with different stakeholders and enhance two-way communication and engagement?
- **Embracing Balance in Disclosures:** What are some risks associated with *not* disclosing negative information or overstating positive aspects of your sustainability story?
- **Regulation:** How should companies prepare for the likelihood of more disclosure regulation on the horizon?
- **Reporting Frameworks:** How do you choose which reporting framework(s) to use that best meet the needs of the company?
- **Rating Agencies:** How do you prioritize and navigate the proliferation of ESG rating firms?
- **Assurance Services:** What are the pros and cons of obtaining external sustainability assurance?



Today's Speakers



Matthew Goldman
Director, ESG
Amgen



Jeff Gowdy
Director, Consulting &
Business Development
Manager
Sustainserv

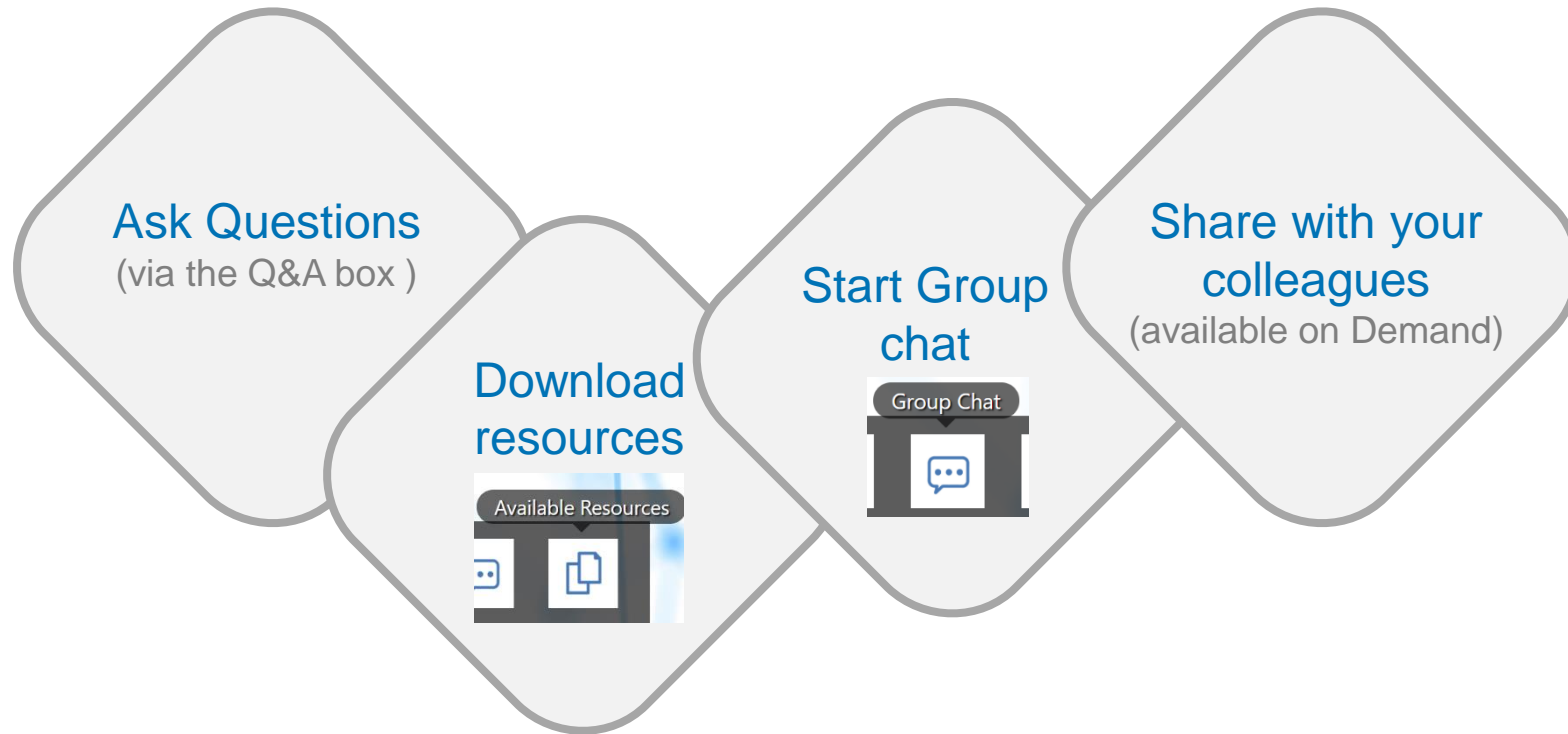


Thomas Singer
Principal Researcher ESG
Center
The Conference Board



Paul Washington
Executive Director,
ESG Center
The Conference Board

Making the most of the webcast



Tell us about your experience to help us improve our future program



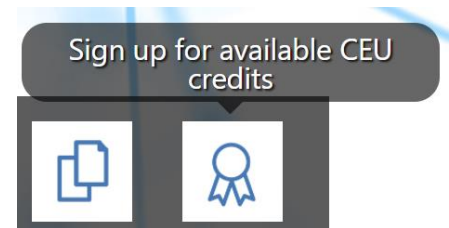
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Discussion



Additional Resources

[Navigating Sustainability Frameworks](#) (publication, December 2021)

This guide is intended to help CEOs and their management teams navigate the sustainability reporting landscape to determine what frameworks best meet the needs of the company.

[Boards and Climate Change: 5 Questions to Ask Management](#) (publication, November 2021)

This essay suggests leading the board discussion *not* with the company's impact on climate, but with climate's impact on the company. That is something every company, regardless of industry, needs to address. As the essay highlights, in addition to the direct impact climate can have on your firm, the transition from fossil fuels to renewables is likely to create a wide range of increased near-term costs.

[Journey to Net Zero: Key Words You Need to Know](#) (chart, November 2021)

A lexicon of essential climate terminology from The Conference Board.

[Organizing for Success in Corporate Sustainability](#) (research report, November 2021)

Organizing for Success in Corporate Sustainability provides valuable benchmarking on how firms in the US and Europe are structuring their management teams to pursue their sustainability strategies. It also offers seven practical insights for how a relatively small sustainability team can drive the integration of sustainability into the business.

[ESG Metrics in Executive Compensation](#) (publication, November 2021)

With over half the S&P 500 now linking CEO compensation to some form of ESG performance, this essay offers six questions that boards should ask before taking the leap and suggests that compensation committees should assess how their plans stack up against three fundamental goals that can get lost in the quest to keep pace with peers: simplicity, fairness, and effectiveness.



Additional Resources

[Telling Your Sustainability Story: Overview](#) (publication, August 2021)

The Conference Board convened a working group of over 300 executives from more than 150 companies who met over the span of 10 months to focus on how companies can tell their sustainability stories authentically, reliably, and effectively to multiple constituencies. This report captures the key insights from the working group sessions as well as the survey results. More detailed guidance can be found in the four accompanying practical guides.

[Sustainability Reporting is Hard – Will It Get Easier in the Future?](#) (publication, August 2021)

In recent years, a host of sustainability initiatives have been launched to “harmonize” various aspects of sustainability reporting. Companies can expect more alignment across the major voluntary reporting frameworks, but no real consolidation of standards. Companies should start preparing, however, for an increased focus on quantitative data and methodological rigor.

[Sustainability Practices 2020](#) (publication, January 2021)

This edition of *Sustainability Practices* summarizes the key findings from sustainability disclosure data on 92 environmental and social practices tracked by Bloomberg for more than 6,000 companies across North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. The analysis reveals some notable increases compared to last year, such as in disclosure of climate-related business risks and water stress exposure. The representation of women on corporate boards has also increased, as has the number of companies linking executive compensation to sustainability metrics.

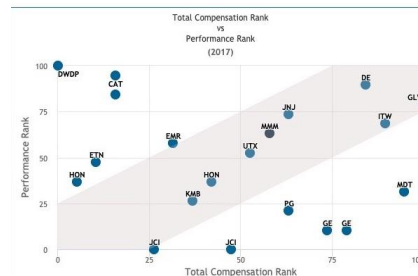
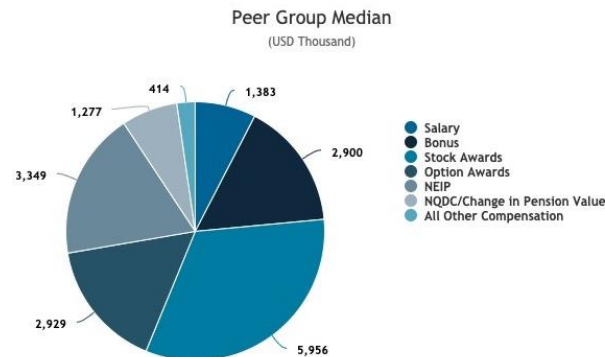


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Environmental Screening Tool

Screening Settings

Screen by Topic Screen By Reporting Standard

Corporate Practice

Subject Sustainability Report... x

Topic [Select All](#) | [Clear All](#)

Metric

- Atmospheric Emissions
- Energy
- Waste & Material Use
- Water
- Environmental Policy & Compliance
- Sustainability Reporting

Data Source

Corporate Profile /

Screening Settings

Screen by Topic Screen By Reporting Standard

[Select All](#) | [Clear All](#)

Corporate Practice

Subject

Topic

Metric

- Use of GRI Guidelines
- Report Verification and Assurance
- United Nations PRI signatory
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals target
- Executive compensation linked to ESG

Use of GRI Gu... x 2 more...



Environmental Screening Tool

Sustainability Reporting					
Company Name (Ticker)	GICS Business Sector	Company Size	Sustainability Reporting		
			Use of GRI Guidelines	United Nations PRI signatory	Executive compensation linked to ESG
3M Company (MMM)	Industrials	\$25-49.9 billion-Annual Revenue	Yes	No	Yes
Caterpillar Inc. (CAT)	Industrials	\$25-49.9 billion-Annual Revenue	No	No	No
Corning Inc (GLW)	Information Technology	\$10-24.9 billion-Annual Revenue	Yes	No	No
Danaher Corporation (DHR)	Health Care	\$10-24.9 billion-Annual Revenue	No	No	No
Deere & Company (DE)	Industrials	\$25-49.9 billion-Annual Revenue	Yes	No	No
Eaton Corporation plc (ETN)	Industrials	\$10-24.9 billion-Annual Revenue	Yes	No	Yes
General Electric Company (GE)	Industrials	\$50 billion and over-Annual Revenue	Yes	No	No
Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW)	Industrials	\$10-24.9 billion-Annual Revenue	No	No	No
Johnson & Johnson (JNJ)	Health Care	\$50 billion and over-Annual Revenue	Yes	No	Yes



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Let's Talk Sustainable Business

A podcast series brought to you by The Conference Board Governance & Sustainability Center, Europe



Let's Talk Sustainable Business podcast series is aimed at people interested in how corporations can drive sustainable development by integrating sustainability into their overall business strategy and managing for positive impact.

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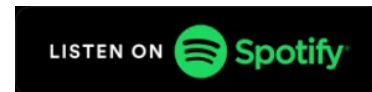


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Hosted by our CEO, **Steve Odland**, this bi-monthly series features in-depth interviews with thought leaders from The Conference Board to provide business executives with data-driven insights to prepare them for what's ahead.

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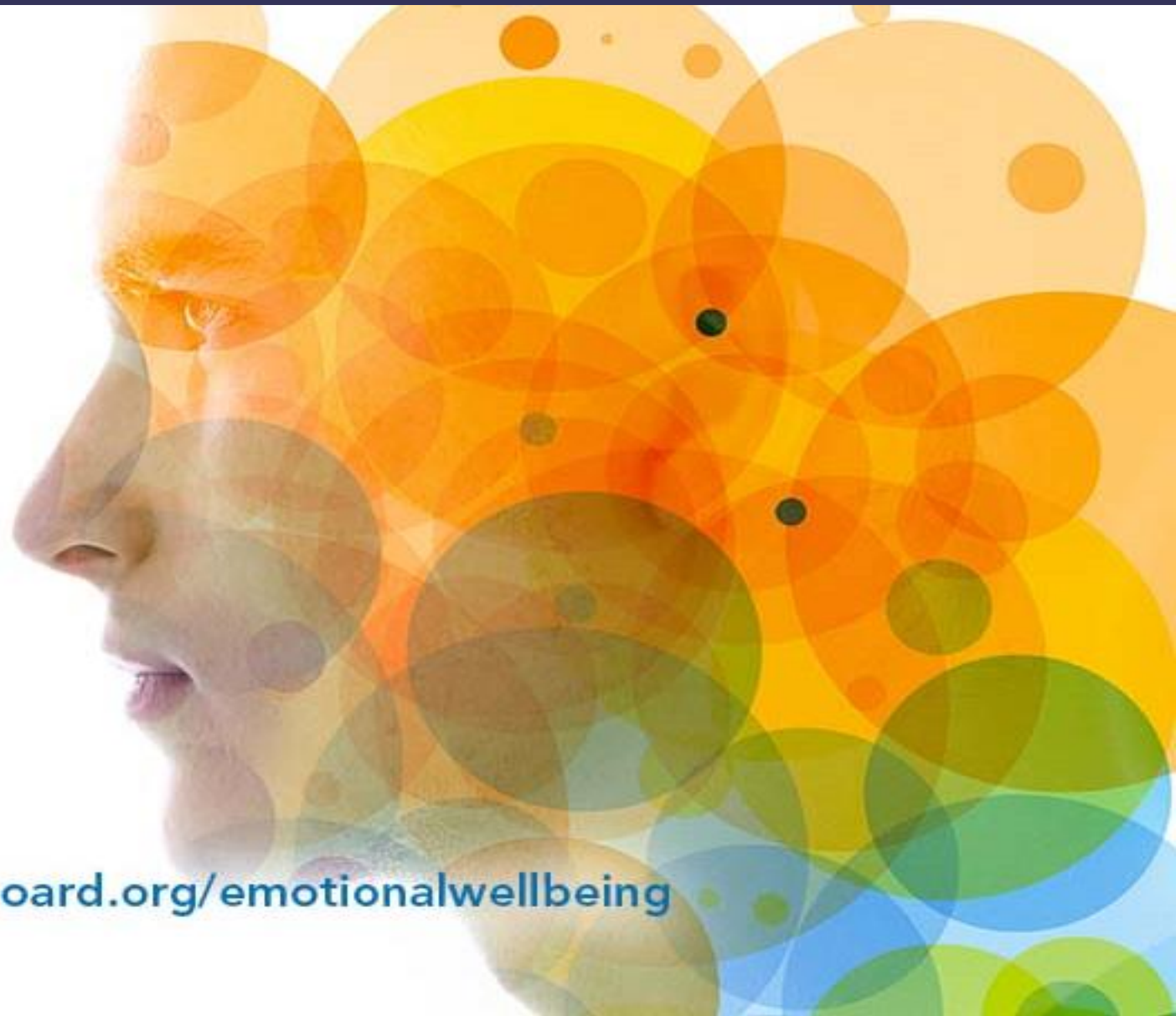


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