

Convened by Ceres and the Tellus Institute, co-founders of the Global Reporting Initiative, the Global Initiative for Sustainability Ratings (GISR) is a part of a value chain of initiatives aimed at making capital and other markets agents of, rather than impediments to, achieving the Post Rio+20 sustainability agenda. Through a multi-stakeholder platform, GISR will develop a global standard for measuring corporate sustainability performance that will be a public good, accessible to all users at no cost.

Presently over 100 sustainability raters administer hundreds of questionnaires to thousands of companies worldwide. A single large company may receive 100 or more questionnaires annually; all seeking often duplicative information tailored to the needs of the rater. This proliferation often confounds companies, adds to survey fatigue, and leads to pervasive inconsistency and divergence in ratings outcomes. Not surprisingly, a single company in the same year may be rated a sustainability leader by some and a laggard by others, leaving investors, NGOs, consumers and companies themselves frustrated and disillusioned with the entire exercise.

GISR and our Supporting Stakeholders have come together to address this challenge. Our goal is to usher in a new era of ratings that enables and encourages capital and other markets to identify and reward true sustainability excellence.



Global Initiative
for Sustainability Ratings

Join the Supporting Stakeholder Program

Supporting Stakeholder Benefits

The Supporting Stakeholder program is designed to raise the bar of excellence in ratings and enhance the quality and comparability of material sustainability information needed to move markets toward more sustainable outcomes. Our goal over the next 18 months is to build a global network of Supporting Stakeholders to support the development of a world-class sustainability ratings standard that is recognized for its excellence, integrity and dynamism. Supporting Stakeholders will be prominently recognized as a distinguished group of partners that will benefit from:

- 🔗 Early access to GISR reports, newsletters and publication
- 🔗 Complementary invitation to the launch of the GISR Standard in Q1 2013
- 🔗 Organization's weblink featured on the GISR website
- 🔗 Prominent acknowledgement in GISR publications
- 🔗 Special invitation to stakeholder briefings
- 🔗 Invitations to webinars tailored to supporting stakeholders
- 🔗 Invitation to participate in the GISR sponsored, invitation-only, 'Sustainability Ratings Forum'

"The GISR standard will drive a race to the top and, in turn, enrich and accelerate business' contribution to the global sustainable development agenda."

Allen White, Tellus Institute



"GISR is developing a global standard to steer capital – financial, human, social and natural – toward sustainability leaders and away from the laggards."

Mindy Lubber,
Ceres & INCR



Sponsors



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Strategic Sponsor



Sign up at www.ratesustainability.org/make-a-donation/

For additional information or assistance on the Supporting Stakeholder program, or to request an invoice or wiring instructions, please contact Mark Tulay by email (mark.tulay@ratesustainability.org)

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GISR

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The Ratings Forum is tentatively scheduled for June 2013 in Boston. The event will convene rating agencies, corporations, investment managers, and pension funds and thought leaders to discuss critical issues, concerns and innovations in performance assessment and ratings. The Forum will be complemented by a public event aimed at awareness-building and innovation in next generation of ratings.

Additional Program Benefits:

-  Provide input into the development – and receive early access – to GISR’s Users Guide to Sustainability Ratings. The Guide and database will equip investors and companies with an objective, impartial description of sustainability metrics, methodology, indicators and coverage characteristics for ratings.
-  Online access to the GISR Registry for Sustainability Ratings that includes the metrics and methodology used in ratings.
-  Engagement in a Pilot program to develop a data commons for sustainability ratings. GISR will work to develop this Common Application to help companies address survey fatigue by rationalizing and automating the information pipeline.

“GISR represents an opportunity to accelerate work to harmonize ESG ratings and broaden participation among companies and financial institutions.”

Curtis Ravenel, Bloomberg



“We welcome the opportunity to be a part of the GISR coalition to help bring coherence, transparency and coordination to sustainability ratings.”

Amy O’Brien, TIAA-CREF



“GISR’s collaborative approach to develop a rigorous sustainability rating standard makes theirs the highest leverage effort on the horizon.”

Bob Willard, Author, *The New Sustainability Advantage*; formerly IBM, Manager, Management Development



RATINGS TODAY	RATINGS IN 2014
Hundreds of ESG survey requests with significant redundancies in information requested	One Common Survey for core indicators and supplements for additional industry-specific information + Ratings Registry
Lack of ratings transparency in methodologies creates uncertainty in how survey information is applied	Users Guide to Sustainability Ratings brings transparency, utility and value to ratings
Lack of focus on materiality leads to information & indicator overload	GISR’s ratings standard will drive convergence toward material indicators
Capital markets are not utilizing or integrating ESG information	Training programs and Data Commons accelerate uptake and integration

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