ESG Guidance

Pathways to Enabling ESG Strategy Development and Reporting

August 2022

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Origin Green
IRELAND

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Overview

Sustainability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance is now high on the agenda for Origin Green members. This has come to the fore as companies' customers, regulators and financial partners are seeking credible annual ESG disclosure, which will inform their long term engagement with a company.

In the years ahead, ESG reporting will only grow in significance for Origin Green members as regulators introduce new regulation to support the implementation of sustainability policy and as investors select companies based on their ability to deliver continuous sustainability improvements.

However, for many companies, the emerging field of mandatory corporate ESG reporting is a complex topic to integrate within business strategies due to the pace of ESG regulatory advancement and emergence of new reporting frameworks.

To support Origin Green member companies further integrate ESG reporting within their companies, Bord Bia has developed this report to provide a high-level overview of the current ESG reporting landscape. The report aims to summarise the role of ESG reporting and how companies can integrate ESG into their business strategy to align with emerging marketplace and regulatory requirements.

The report is split into four sections:

1 **Summary** of the term ESG and the drivers which have amplified its relevance in the market. In addition to spotlighting the commercial importance of ESG reporting.

2 **An overview** of ESG reporting principles, standards, frameworks and emerging regulatory requirements.

3 **Guidance** on how companies can start to integrate or expand their ESG reporting, while leveraging the existing Origin Green plan development supports.

4 **Additional resources** and links to further ESG information.

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

Summary of the term ESG and the drivers which have amplified its relevance in the market. In addition to spotlighting the commercial importance of ESG reporting.

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.1 What is ESG?

EVOLUTION OF THE DEFINITION

The definition of the term 'ESG' has evolved over the years; sustainability was first defined by Brundtland as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future".[1] The EU replicated this definition by defining sustainability as "meeting present needs, without exploitation of the resources available, to secure the future of those to come".[2] The Triple Bottom Line Theory is a framework which refers to sustainability as the synergy or "sweetspot between society, environment, and economy".[3] More recent literature has argued the concept of 'strong sustainability', which is seen to be "living with an economy that is within our planetary boundary and societal requirements".[4]

While the definition of ESG and sustainability has evolved overtime, it's core mantra is centred on living and working (economic boundary) within our needs (societal boundary) and the resources around us (planetary boundary).

ESG VS SUSTAINABILITY

Is there a difference? Is 'ESG' an investor term and 'Sustainability' a policy term?

Two of the same - ESG and sustainability are two terms that are often used interchangeably because they have the same overall meaning, objectives and goal. The term 'sustainability' is often used by regulators, employees, and customers, which is a broader term that relates to long-term business strategy development and implementation. The term 'ESG' is considered more specific and measurable as it provides three specific areas of focus – Environment, Society and Governance. In recent years, investors have played a big role in the increased use of the term ESG as it provides specific areas for categorised data collection and information on potentially financially material environmental, social and governance topics.

ESG = Environment + Society + Governance = **Sustainability**

1 Brundtland, G. H. (1987) Our Common Future

2 EU (2019) 'Sustainable Development'. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eussd/index.htm

3 Onat, N. C., Kucukvar, M. and Tatari, O. (2014) 'Integrating triple bottom line input–output analysis into life cycle sustainability assessment framework: the case for US buildings', The International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment, 19(8), pp. 1488 - 1505.

4 Schröder, P., Bengtsson, M., Cohen, M., Dewick, P., Hofstetter, J. and Sarkis, J. (2019) 'Degrowth within – Aligning circular economy and strong sustainability narratives', Resources, Conservation and Recycling, 146, pp. 190 - 191.

1. The ‘Why’ and ‘What’ of ESG

1.1 What is ESG?

ESG BROKEN DOWN BY CATEGORY

The below chart provides an overview of what topics you would typically expect per ESG topic area. These categories enable businesses to showcase their management approaches for sustainability related topics and areas – commonly referred to as non-financial reporting topics or disclosures.

ENVIRONMENTAL	SOCIAL	GOVERNANCE
How do you reduce the negative impact and increase the positive impact of your business on the environment?	How do you manage your wider societal impacts on stakeholders inside and outside your organisation, including communities, supply chain, and other institutions?	What are your internal structures, controls and procedures to ensure accurate and transparent monitoring and reporting?
• Climate change • Greenhouse gas emissions • Energy efficiency • Resource management • Water • Waste • Biodiversity	• Equality, diversity and inclusion • Health and safety • Human rights and ethics • Employee engagement • Community relations • Supply chain management • Data protection and privacy • Product safety and liability	• Board diversity • Skills and experience • Regulatory compliance • Risk management • Succession planning • Management structure and compensation

Figure 1: ESG summary

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.1 What is ESG? continued

Please see the below example for governance considerations when reporting on ESG and sustainability.

Governance is critical to enable the successful implementation of ESG into a business. The following governance processes should be implemented to support with the integration of ESG into a business strategy:	
1. **Define**	Define board, committee, and subcommittee structure; define their responsibilities and terms of reference. Determine frequency of committees or executives reporting to the board to assess and manage climate-related risks and opportunities, and wider ESG responsibilities.
2. **Summarise**	Summarise the ESG experience and credentials of the board members, and include details of upskilling commitments.
3. **Introduce**	Introduce ESG related compensation incentives for the board and management; provide descriptions of the criteria for the incentive compensation and the connection to specific ESG performance metrics.
4. **Separate**	Separate committees that report to the board of directors for climate and ESG matters with clear descriptions of their roles and responsibilities. Committees should include risk, finance, audit and operational functions.
Adopted from the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures	

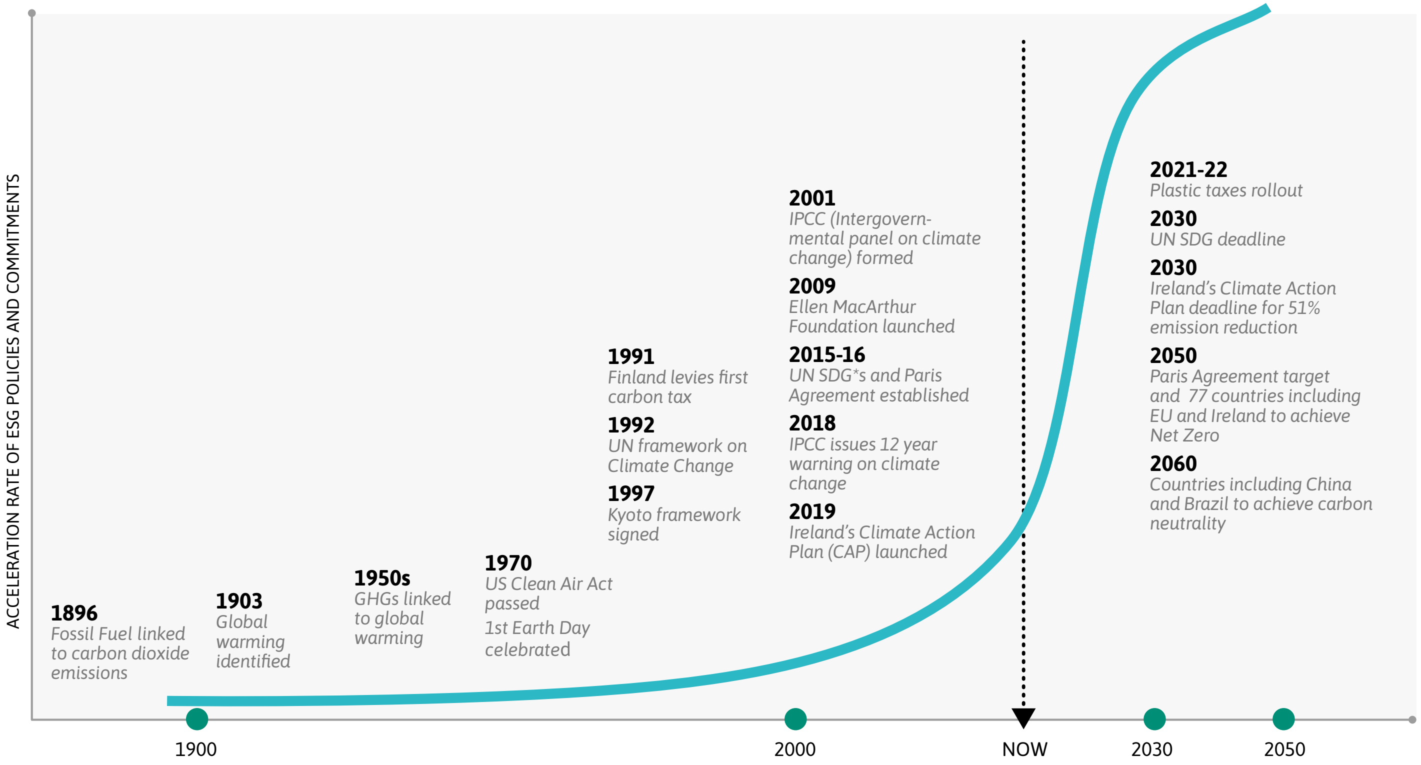
Figure 2: Example of ESG governance integration and considerations

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.2 ESG reporting drivers

THE GLOBAL FOCUS ON ESG HAS BEEN ACCELERATING FOR DECADES

Over the last century there has been an increased focus on ESG. This increase has been driven by national and global bodies in conjunction with private industry setting ambitious policy and target commitments.



Graph 1: The global acceleration of ESG and sustainability through the century

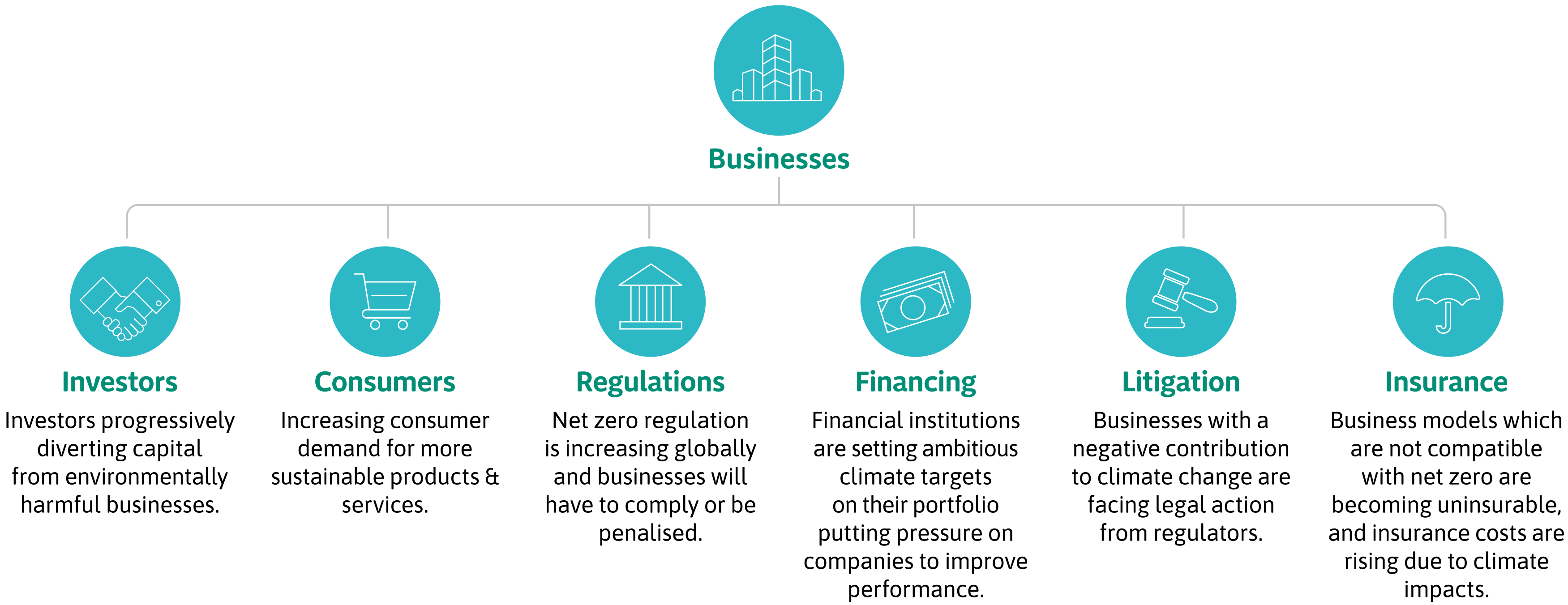
*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals see section 2

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.2 ESG reporting drivers continued

THERE ARE SEVERAL PRIMARY DRIVERS LINKED TO THIS ACCELERATION RATE OF ESG ADOPTION

These drivers are putting businesses under pressure to disclose ESG data and information specific to their business operations and supply chains. Internationally, there is growing expectations from a variety of stakeholders - from board members to investors, regulators, NGOs and governments - for ESG information to be as reliable and consistent as financial information.



1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.2 ESG reporting drivers continued

SOME FIGURES PER DRIVER:

- **74% of institutional investors** now more likely to "divest" based on poor environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.[5]
- **73% of global consumers believe brands have a responsibility** to make a positive change in the world, with 80% believing brands must be transparent about their environmental impacts in the production of their goods and services.[6]
- **84% of consumers say sustainability is important** when making purchase decisions.[7]
- **89% of investors** surveyed said they would like to see reporting of ESG performance measures against a set of globally consistent standards become a mandatory requirement.[6]
- **90% of investors** surveyed attach greater importance to companies' ESG performance when it comes to their investment strategy and decision-making.[6]
- In 2021, more than **50% of the global stock exchanges** published ESG reporting guidance compared to 15% in 2015.[7]

These increasing pressure points have resulted in the evolution of the ESG agenda.

1.3 ESG commercial importance

What we do now determines the future we face. Like any business strategy, ESG integration protects your business and strengthens your business resilience. While ESG reporting is focused on global sustainability progress, it is invaluable to the future performance of your business.

For example, integrating ESG considerations into investment and development decisions can support security of supply, return of investment and future longevity:

- **Machinery** – if you require an equipment upgrade, should you choose fossil fuel-based machinery at a lower cost or should you consider renewable energy-based solutions which are possibly more costly but provide greater return of investment and security of supply in the future?
- **Infrastructure** – your site requires renovations, have extreme weather conditions been considered in the plans? How many days would you need to close operations to manage a potential flood due to increasing climate-related storm events? What would the financial impacts of repair and/or production loss equate to? Is this captured in your risk register as a potential physical climate related risk?
- **Suppliers** – do you have a contract with a supplier who is potentially exposed to potential human rights challenges, extreme weather events, water shortages or other? How much of your production is reliant on this material? Would your company be exposed if this supply was disrupted due to ESG related issues?

5 Source: EY (2021), EY Institutional Investor Survey 2021
6 Source: EY (2021), Make sustainability accessible to the consumer | EY - Global
7 The Financial Times (2021) Exchanges sign up to boost climate funding and disclosure | Financial Times (ft.com)

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.3 ESG commercial importance continued

Businesses who better understand and integrate elements of ESG reporting into their business typically have:

- Increased **strategic leverage** in decision making
- Increased **climate-related risk and opportunity** management
- Deepened **engagement with investors**
- An **informed sustainability function** which is embedded into the overall governance structure
- Better understanding and **engagement with stakeholders** on ESG factors
- **Competitive advantage** in the market
- Individuals with **accountability to report and improve** ESG disclosures
- An **embedded finance function who considers ESG criteria** when assessing financial and value implications
- **Future preparedness** for rising regulatory requirements and expectations

1. The 'Why' and 'What' of ESG

1.3 ESG commercial importance continued

Case study examples of how ESG reporting creates value and commercial importance.

Company A - has ESG included in their risk register. **Company B** - does not have ESG included in their risk register.

CASE STUDY 1

ESG risk considerations protect your business

The Boards of company A and B are planning a merger with another company. Company A considers the potential ESG implications as per the risk register, Company B does not.

Company A identifies a potential ESG linked challenge with the merger (e.g. merging entity is exposed to high fines if they do not decarbonise by 2025). Company A has two options, A) to integrate a protection clause in the contract to protect against this and B) not to merge. Their finance function stress tests the scenario and advises not to continue the merger. Company B goes ahead with the merger and is faced with extreme debt in 2025 forcing them to close part of their business.

CASE STUDY 2

ESG reporting increases your access to capital

Company A discloses detailed ESG KPIs annually in their annual reports. Their ESG reporting includes, ESG KPIs, metrics, management approaches, governance integration, risk mitigation and financial considerations. Company B does not publicly report ESG although they have it integrated into aspects of their business.

An investor is considering Company A and Company B, they choose Company A due to their detailed ESG reporting and future considerations around ESG. Similar results could be expected from financial institutions approving loans, governments approving subsidies and consumers selecting providers.

CASE STUDY 3

Increase capacity and efficiency

Company A engages with all stakeholders regularly on ESG KPIs. Company B has ESG KPIs but does not regularly engage with stakeholders on their purpose, outputs and monitoring. Stakeholders for both companies include, employees, suppliers and local communities.

Employees at Company A feel part of the ESG agenda and progress, and Company A have observed increased productivity as a result. Suppliers at Company A are aware of their commitment and focus to ESG and are constantly looking for improvement within their own products to ensure continued partnership. This engagement is driving capacity building and efficiencies. Local communities around Company A are keen to work for Company A and support their business because they feel a part of Company A's commitment and progress towards sustainability.

2. ESG Reporting Landscape

An overview of ESG reporting principles, standards, frameworks and emerging regulatory requirements.

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2. ESG reporting landscape

2.1 Reporting principles

Reporting requirements for ESG and sustainability related topics are growing at pace. The voluntary reporting landscape we have experienced up to this point, is no more. Mandatory requirements for ESG performance management and reporting are now in place, and the scope will extend to more and more businesses operating in Ireland, the EU, and globally.

Although reporting requirements vary significantly depending on the regulation, the general minimum requirements for non-financial or ESG disclosures that companies should report on include*:

- Governance and management of material ESG topics.
- ESG strategy integration into the business strategy, its relevance to the wider company objectives, and connection to financial performance.
- ESG risk identification, management, and mitigation for current and future state operations.
- Performance reporting on ESG topics, and ambitious targets, with associated roadmaps to decarbonisation.

Companies are encouraged to integrate non-financial information with financial information. Stand-alone reporting will no longer be allowed under an upcoming EU regulation *(see section 2.3)*.

2.2 ESG reporting standards and frameworks

There are many organisations working in the ESG reporting space; those building standards and frameworks, those using data to rank and rate companies, and those supporting organisations to build their approach and practices. The landscape includes intergovernmental initiatives, investor-led coalitions, commercial organisations and civil society. This landscape is crowded and can often be confusing to interpret. The following tables provide a summary of the current landscape:*

*An outline of each example organisation referenced can be found in the Glossary.

STANDARDS, FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNING PRINCIPLES RELATING TO ESG REPORTING DISCLOSURES

Who: Developed by globally recognised independent ESG reporting organisations, often linked to an international organisation (e.g. United Nations, World Economic Forum).

Where: Publicly available and voluntary to adopt (except TCFD which was mandated by the UK government in 2022, see next section for details).

Position in ESG reporting landscape: Leaders - these organisations are the most influential in terms of regulatory considerations and formalised non-financial reporting approaches.

Example Organisations: SASB, UN Global Compact, GRI, IR, PRI, TCFD, UN SDGs, WEF IBC.

Should my company report to these? See Figure 8 *(page 25)* for more detail.

Figure 3: Leading ESG reporting frameworks

According to guidelines* on non-financial reporting, disclosed information should be:

- Reliable, verifiable and objective
- Balanced, clear and understandable
- Provided on a timely basis
- Specific and complete
- Represent relevant information
- Comparable with sectors and industries
- Consistent over time

* Adopted from the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

2. ESG reporting landscape

2.2 ESG reporting standards and frameworks continued

ESG rating agencies and index providers

Rating Agencies

Who: Investor led organisations.

Where: A combination of publicly availably scores and members only reports. Rating criteria sometimes disclosed but not always.

Position in ESG reporting landscape: Passive – they rely on publicly disclosed ESG information by listed companies or direct company submission. They are built off the previous organisation's standards, frameworks and governing principles.

Example Organisations: Corporate Knights, Sustainalytics, Bloomberg, ISS EESG, Refnitiv, MSCI, Thomson Reuters, Vigeo Eiris, S&P Global Trucost

Should my company report to these? It is not possible to report to the majority of these, however if your company is listed it is worthwhile becoming familiar with the framework they adopt and integrating it in reporting practises to support future ratings.

__Figure 4: ESG rating agencies__, these are not ESG reporting frameworks but informed by them

Institutions which support and encourage ESG reporting and disclosures

Reporting Support

Who: Organisations, networks and coalitions.

Where: A combination of publicly available information or sector specific membership requirements.

Position in ESG reporting landscape: While these sites support ESG reporting they do not provide bespoke frameworks for ESG reporting. They support companies looking to adopt frameworks listed in Figure 3.

Example Organisations: WBSCD, ShareAction, Ceres, A4S, III, CSRHUB, CFA Institute, GIIN

Should my company report to these? These are not reporting frameworks but rather support sites to help companies and investors integrate ESG considerations, some incur membership fees.

__Figure 5: ESG reporting supporting institutions__, these are not ESG reporting frameworks

Voluntary ESG rating and disclosure frameworks – *informed by the frameworks of figure 3, companies can self-submit their ESG process to these organisations for a rating*

Self-Submission

Who: Investor led organisations.

Where: A combination of publicly available and members only reports. Rating criteria sometimes disclosed but not always.

Position in ESG reporting landscape: Adopted from frameworks in Figure 3 however, investors look to these regularly as they are compiled through self-submission and not passive aggregation.

Example Organisations: CDP, JUST Capital, Climate Action 100+, ROBECOSAM

Should my company report to these? Voluntary to adopt but should be considered where resourcing allows and where stakeholders expect it. For example: CDP is one of the largest international, non-profit organisations that runs a global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions. It scores progress against ESG disclosures to provide insights for investors.
CDP disclosures have been developed based off the primary frameworks and standards.

__Figure 6: ESG self-submission rating institutions,__ these are not ESG reporting frameworks

2. ESG reporting landscape

The table below summarises the voluntary standards, frameworks and governing principles relating to ESG reporting disclosures listed in Figure 3. These frameworks are recognised for leading non-financial reporting recommendations and approaches. Although integrating these frameworks can be resource intensive, they help with the development of a robust process for ESG related KPI development and performance management.

FRAMEWORK	PURPOSE & OVERVIEW	APPLICABILITY	PRIMARY AUDIENCE	DISCLOSURES	ESG FOCUS
GRI Click link here	*Based in the Netherlands, it aims to enable all organisations, regardless of size, sector and location, to report on their ESG impacts on the economy, the environment and society to multiple stakeholder audiences through a universal set of standards. To keep the GRI Standards relevant and up to date, the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) sets out a new work program every three years.*	All sectors	All stakeholders – suitable to passive aggregation	Universal	All
SASB Click link here	*Based in the USA, it focuses on industry-specific reporting standards and on financially material issues. Enables companies to identify, manage and communicate financially material ESG and sustainability information to investors, and addresses ESG impacts on the organisation. The board includes up to 21 directors & 7 board committees, the Membership & Advisory bodies (SASB Alliance, Investor Advisory Group, Standards Advisory Group) whose primary role is the governance of the organisation (fiduciary duty) and funding to maintain the SASB standards and their relevance.*	All sectors	All stakeholders – suitable to passive aggregation	Universal	All
IR – Integrated Reporting Click link here	*Based in the UK, it is a global not-for-profit organisation, which provides frameworks and tools to measure, monitor and communicate the value an organisation creates through its business activities and its impacts, and explains the linkages between financial performance, sustainability strategy and the value generated. It adopts the International Framework (IF) which explains the concepts of integrated reporting. The IF is written primarily in the context of private sector, for-profit companies of any size, but is also applied by public sector and not-for-profit organisations. The IF was developed in 2013 and revised in 2021, following extensive consultation and testing by report preparers and users in all regions of the world.*	All sectors	All stakeholder	Universal	All
WEF IBC Click link here and here	*A global initiative, led by the World Economic Forum, to define a set of universal ESG metrics and disclosures that encourages consistent reporting by companies across industry sectors and countries. The World Economic Forum International Business Council (WEF IBC) is an example framework that is not mandated but is considered the leading framework for societal value generation and reporting. Not a new standard but seeks to elevate core ESG metrics based on existing, widely adopted standards and frameworks. It has been developed by leading reporting bodies and is aligned to leading standards and seeks to drive long-term sustainable value creation for businesses while also driving positive outcomes.*	All sectors	All stakeholders	Universal	All

Table continues on page 17

2. ESG reporting landscape

FRAMEWORK	PURPOSE & OVERVIEW	APPLICABILITY	PRIMARY AUDIENCE	DISCLOSURES	ESG FOCUS
United Nations Global Compact Click link here	*Aims to drive business awareness and action to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. It comprises Ten Principles, drawn from the Declarations of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. Governed by the UNGC Board (Secretary General, Business Representatives), Global Compact Office (Executive Director), Global Network Council (GCO Chiefs, Regional Network Council reps – regional GCO, LN reps), local networks work to maintain and monitor these standards.*	All sectors	All stakeholders	Universal	Society & Governance
Sustainable Development Goals Click link here	*The SDGs are a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political, social and economic challenges that the world faces. There are 17 SDGs with 169 targets that could become specific and measurable, for the use of companies, consumers and governments, aimed to be achieved by 2030. The United Nations General Assembly provide oversight and is overseen by the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly. An 'Advisory Group', provides the UNSDG Chair with advice and guidance on managing the operational dimensions of the UNSDG.*	All sectors	All stakeholder – particularly local communities and governments	Universal	All
ISSB Click link here	*The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) is a governing body establishing a consolidated reporting framework which consolidates the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) and the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF). The ISSB aims to deliver a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability-related disclosure standards in the coming year.*	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	All

Table 1: Summary of voluntary standards, frameworks and governing principles (as at end of April 2022)

2. ESG reporting landscape

2.3 ESG policy developments and mandated reporting

The mandatory ESG reporting space is growing rapidly and will continue to become more rigorous for companies, as ongoing compliance with regulatory requirements increase. Outlined below is a summary of some of the major regulatory developments in place, or emerging, in the short term.

In particular, we highlight the **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD) and the **EU Taxonomy**, which along with the investor centric Sustainability Finance Disclosures Regulation (SFRD) form part of the European Green Deal action plan.

Policy:

The Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD)

High-Level Overview:

The Non-Financial Reporting Directive (Directive 2014/95/EU, the 'NFRD' and the corresponding guideline 2017/C 215/01) was an amendment to the Accounting Directive (Directive 2013/34/EU). (to be replaced by CSRD)

Scope:

The NFRD requires applicable companies to include a non-financial statement as part of their annual public reporting. The NFRD covers several sustainability issues (environment, social and employee issues, human rights, anti-bribery and corruption, board diversity) and with respect to those issues it requires companies to disclose information about their business model, policies, outcomes, risk management, and non-financial key performance indicators (KPIs). Disclosure is based on 'double materiality,' which encompasses both how sustainability issues affect the company and how the company affects society and the environment.

Applicable Companies:

EU rules on non-financial reporting apply to large public-interest companies with more than 500 employees, including:

- listed companies
- banks
- insurance companies
- other companies designated by national authorities as public-interest entities.

For further information: The Non-Financial Reporting Directive

2. ESG reporting landscape

2.3 ESG policy developments and mandated reporting continued

Policy:
Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

High-Level Overview:
The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) is a directive legislating sustainability reporting, and is an expansion of the NFRD. The purpose is to make corporate reporting of sustainability information more consistent and therefore easier to compare by financial firms, investors, and the general public. The Directive will quadruple the number of companies which will have to comply with the amended and revised Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD), from currently around 11,700 to nearly 50,000. This means, in addition to listed companies, banks, and insurance companies, the reporting requirements will be extended to additional categories of businesses, namely large private companies and listed Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), with the exception of listed micro-enterprises.

Scope:
- *Companies are required to provide information about their sustainability strategy, their ESG targets, the role of the board and management in driving sustainability performance, and the principal adverse impacts connected to the company and its value chain, intangibles, and how they have identified the information they report.*
- *Companies need to disclose how information reported was identified using the double materiality concept – i.e. how sustainability matters affect the company and the impact the company has on people and the environment.*
- *Sustainability reporting must be included in the published group accounts and is subject to digital tagging (xhtml format). Management and supervisory boards will bear explicit responsibility for sustainability.*
- *All of these disclosures will be subject to limited level assurance at a minimum, by the statutory auditor, and over six years transition to reasonable level assurance.*

Applicable Companies:
Extension of the scope of NFRD to all large companies (the entity should meet two of the following three criteria: >250 employees, >€40m turnover, >€20m total assets), all companies listed on EU regulated markets (except listed micro companies), and insurance undertakings and credit institutions regardless of their legal form.

The timeline for compliance is staggered to include;

- 1st January 2024 for undertakings already subject to the NFRD.
- 1st January 2025 for large undertakings not currently subject to the NFRD.
- 1st January 2026 for listed SMEs, as well as for small and non-complex credit institutions and for captive insurance undertakings.

For further information: Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

2. ESG reporting landscape

2.3 ESG policy developments and mandated reporting continued

Policy:
EU Taxonomy

High-Level Overview:
The Taxonomy establishes a European classification system for sustainable economic activities. As a first step, it has set a common language that provides a nomenclature for economic activities based on their contribution to six environmental objectives. A social taxonomy is currently in consultation phase.

The application of the Taxonomy will be progressive over 3 fiscal years; Non-financial statements published as of:

- 1st January 2022 must include the proportion of turnover, Capex, Opex eligible to the Taxonomy for the first two climate objectives.
- 1st January 2023 must include the proportion of turnover, Capex, Opex eligible and aligned to the Taxonomy for all six climate objectives.
- 1st January 2024 explicit external verification obligation, in line with CSRD.

Scope:
The Taxonomy Regulation lays out six EU environmental objectives:

- *Climate change mitigation (CCM)*
- *Climate change adaption (CCA)*
- *Sustainable use of water and marine*
- *Healthy ecosystems*
- *Circular economy*
- *Pollution prevention*

It also sets out four conditions that an economic activity has to meet to be recognised as Taxonomy aligned:

- *making a substantial contribution to at least one environmental objective;*
- *doing no significant harm to any other environmental objective;*
- *complying with minimum social safeguards; and*
- *complying with the technical screening criteria.*

This technical screening criteria are developed in delegated acts (EO 1-2, 3-6) for each economic activity.

Applicable Companies:
The EU taxonomy is an amendment of the NFRD, hence applicable to companies subject to this Directive and the CSRD in time. Specifically, *"This regulation applies to undertakings which are subject to the obligation to publish a non-financial statement or a consolidated non-financial statement pursuant to Article 19a or Article 29a of Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council" (Regulation 2020/852 – "Taxonomy regulation" – Article 1)*

It is also applicable to:

- Financial market participants or issuers offering financial products in the EU.
- EU and Member States when setting public measures, standards or labels for green financial products or green bonds.

Independent of the applicability, banks and investors and in-scope companies will increasingly require taxonomy relevant information from companies and suppliers in order to fulfil their own reporting obligations.

For further information, please review FAQ: What is the EU taxonomy and how will it work in practice?

2. ESG reporting landscape

2.3 ESG policy developments and mandated reporting continued

Policy:

Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

High-Level Overview:

Established to promote more effective climate-related disclosures; focused on financial impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities of an organisation.

Note: The Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures are also in development with consultation currently in progress and final release scheduled for September 2023.

Scope:

The TCFD recommendations on climate-related financial disclosures are widely adoptable and applicable to organisations across sectors and jurisdictions. They are designed to solicit decision-useful, forward-looking information that can be included in mainstream financial filings. The recommendations are structured around four thematic areas that represent core elements of how organisations operate with regards climate risk and opportunity: governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets.

Applicable Companies:

Mandatory disclosure will be implemented for many of the UK's largest traded companies, as well as private companies with over 500 employees and £500 million in turnover from April 2022.

For further information: Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

Policy:

Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

High-Level Overview:

On 23 February 2022, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence. The proposal aims to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour throughout global value chains.

Scope:

Companies will be required to identify and, where necessary, prevent, end or mitigate adverse impacts of their activities on human rights, such as child labour and exploitation of workers, and on the environment, for example pollution and biodiversity loss. The new EU rules will advance the green transition and protect human rights in Europe and beyond.

Applicable Companies:

EU companies:

- **Group 1**: all EU limited liability companies of substantial size and economic power (with 500+ employees and €150 million+ in net turnover worldwide).
- **Group 2**: Other limited liability companies operating in defined high impact sectors, which do not meet both Group 1 thresholds, but have more than 250 employees and a net turnover of €40 million worldwide and more. For these companies, rules will start to apply 2 years later than for group 1.

Non-EU companies active in the EU with turnover threshold aligned with Group 1 and 2, generated in the EU.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are not directly in the scope of this proposal.[10]

For further information: Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

2. ESG reporting landscape

SNAPSHOT SUMMARY OF CURRENT POLICIES:*

	CSRD	EU TAXONOMY	TCFD	SEC
Country of application	EU	EU	UK	US
Current status of standards	Pre-consultation	Part Final	Final	Consultation
Type	Mandatory	Mandatory	Voluntary	Mandatory
Primary audience[8]	Multi-stakeholder	Multi-stakeholder	Investor	Investor
Materiality[9]	Societal	Societal	Enterprise	Enterprise
Disclosure location	Annual report	Annual report	Annual report	Mixed[10]
Effective date[11]	Fiscal Year 2023	1st January 2023	N/A	Fiscal Year 2023
Assurance[12]	Mandatory	Mandatory	N/A	Mandatory
Governance, strategy, risk narrative	Required	N/A	Required	Required
Scenario analysis	Required	N/A	Required	Conditional
GHG Scope 1, 2	Required	N/A	Required	Required
GHG Scope 3	Required	N/A	Conditional	Conditional
2°C, or lower, alignment	Required	N/A	Recommended	Not required
Industry-specific disclosure	Required	Required	Recommended	Not required

* As at April 2022. Reporting requirements are evolving annually so latest guideline review is always recommended. Companies should review in detail as applicability clauses may vary depending on company, size, structure and ownership.

8 Audience refers to the primary intended users of the sustainability information. Investor refers to investor, lender or other creditors. Multi-stakeholder refers to investors, lenders, other creditors as well as employees, customers, communities, civil society, government and more.

9 Materiality is defined as enterprise or societal. Enterprise materiality suggests that companies report on how sustainability issues impact their business. Societal materiality suggests that companies report on both how sustainability issues impact their business and their businesses' impact on people and the environment.

10 European Commission press release Feb 2022 - Corporate sustainability due diligence (europa.eu)

11 Effective date refers to the first possible reporting period under the proposed rules. Note that with the SEC proposal, CSRD and EU Taxonomy, the requirements would be phased-in based on company size.

12 Effective date refers to the first possible reporting period under the proposed rules. Note that with the SEC proposal, CSRD and EU Taxonomy, the requirements would be phased-in based on company size.

3. ESG within my Company

Guidance on how companies can start to integrate or expand their ESG reporting, while leveraging the existing Origin Green plan development supports.

3. ESG within my Company

3.1 How do I begin ESG reporting?

The below table provides a summary of four steps to help you get started on ESG reporting in your company.

STEP	ACTION
1 **Explore and map the regulatory requirements**	• Review and assess the current and planned regulations that apply to your business, making sure to also consider those that may be applicable to your supply chain. For example, the upcoming CSRD, or current TCFD requirements for UK subsidiaries subject to UK regulations. • Map the current and potential regulation considerations and the standards relevant for you and your supply chain.
2 **Identify material topics and set boundaries for reporting**	• Identify the ESG topic areas most material to your business. • Compare the topic areas identified to your regulatory map (from previous step). • Establish your organisational boundary with the support of these topics and regulatory requirements. • Assess existing ESG frameworks and ESG reporting disclosures which support your regulatory requirements and your material areas.
3 **Develop a sustainability/ ESG strategy that is integrated with the business strategy**	• Using the previous actions, develop an ESG strategy centred on the areas' most material to your business that are within your organisational boundary and reporting requirements. • Utilise your board, finance, operations, risk, HR and sustainability functions to define KPIs and ambitious targets aligned with the wider business strategy. • Determine which required disclosures are already accounted for in reporting procedures, and which require calculation and a dedicated management approach to performance management and reporting. • Review, assess and document the process adopted for each disclosure. • Appoint ESG disclosure leads who will take accountability and lead progress in the area for wider business strategy development.
4 **Formalise, implement and monitor**	• Develop a governance structure with responsibilities for ESG strategy implementation. • Implement data management systems/processes to capture ESG performance information and track progress against targets. • Develop and communicate an ESG/integrated report that meets regulatory requirements, is aligned with relevant reporting frameworks/standards, and is demonstrably credible, accurate and transparent (which can often be achieved through assurance). See section 2 reporting principles for considerations. • Ensure a robust governance structure is established to support each disclosure. • Communicate and engage as many stakeholders as possible in your progress and plans.

3. ESG within my Company

3.2 Origin Green Supports to Meet ESG Reporting Requirements

ORIGIN GREEN PROGRAMME

The Origin Green programme is designed with ESG in mind and is a valuable support to businesses looking to start and integrate ESG and ESG reporting into their business.

PROGRAMME INFORMATION:

Participating companies are categorized into membership tiers depending on their annual revenue or turnover *(see Figure 8)*; the tiers have corresponding numbers of sustainability targets required, with tier 1 companies requiring eight targets, down to tier 5 companies who require four targets. Each sustainability target is assessed and scored according to the table below *(see Figure 8)*, with grades ranging from "Fail" (0 credits) to "Exemplary" (3 credits). Once the targets are assessed, the total credits awarded are accumulated and compared to the minimum credit requirement associated with the company's membership tier. Targets are aimed to address specific categories and sub-categories. Depending on the tier in which the company sits, certain sub-categories have to be addressed and passing the targets is mandatory for verification. The before-mentioned categories and sub-categories are shown below:

- **Raw Material Sourcing** - Raw Materials & Suppliers, Packaging
- **Manufacturing Process** - Emissions, Water, Waste, Energy
- **Social Sustainability** - Product Health & Nutrition, Employee Wellbeing, Community Engagement, Diversity & Inclusion
- **Additional Targets** - Biodiversity and Approved Sector Specific Target

SUSTAINABILITY TARGET PERFORMANCE	CREDITS AWARDED	TARGET GRADING
Target not attempted (no legitimate effort made to achieve target with no viable evidence of progress).	0	Fail
Target not achieved with a poor attempt made and little evidence of progress.	1	Unsatisfactory
Target may or may not have been achieved but a reasonable and clear effort has been made with clear supporting evidence.	2	Satisfactory/ Pass
Target achieved with evidence the company has surpassed expectations.	3	Exemplary

Figure 7: Origin Green programme target grading

Membership Tiers

Tier	Revenue/turnover	Minimum Targets Required	Minimum Sustainability Credits Required
Tier 1	> €250m	8	16
Tier 2	> €50m-€250m	7	14
Tier 3	> €10m-€50m	6	12
Tier 4	> €1m-€10m	5	10
Tier 5	> €100k-€1m	4	8

Figure 8: Origin Green programme member tiers and required targets by turnover

3. ESG within my Company

3.2 Origin Green Supports to Meet ESG Reporting Requirements continued

This programme asks participants to complete an Origin Green development plan template, set multi annual targets using the categories and sub-categories listed above; and to report on these targets annually. These annual target submissions are then quality checked and verified by a third-party. Therefore, the Origin Green programme supports members with their ESG reporting and strategy developments because:

- The template requires an accountability chain which supports governance and transparency expectations – annual submissions and sustainability charter to be signed by Chief Executive Officer/ Managing Director.
- Companies must complete a materiality assessment when developing a new Origin Green plan to ensure most material topics to the business and stakeholders are captured.
- Material topic areas have tables for target setting and annual data recording.
- The material category areas are aligned to ESG reporting areas.
- Annual submissions are reviewed by a third party to ensure accuracy and transparency.

Further information on Origin Green Member reporting requirements can be found at **www.origingreen.ie/members-area**.

HOW DOES THE ORIGIN GREEN PROGRAMME ALIGN TO THE FOUR STEPS TO ESG REPORTING?

STEP	ORIGIN GREEN PROGRAMME SUPPORT
1 **Explore and map the regulatory requirements**	Companies can use their Origin Green programme template and annual targets to support the mapping process between regulatory requirements and suitable frameworks.
2 **Identify material topics and set boundaries for reporting**	Companies can use the company overview section of the Origin Green programme template to help inform this step.
3 **Develop a sustainability/ ESG strategy that is integrated with the business strategy**	Companies can build on their existing data collection processes for their annual target reports to Origin Green. New companies to the Origin Green programme, can use the template and target areas to help inform this integration step.
4 **Formalise, implement and monitor**	Companies can use the Origin Green programme template and annual reporting requirements as a method for implementation and monitoring ESG reporting KPIs.

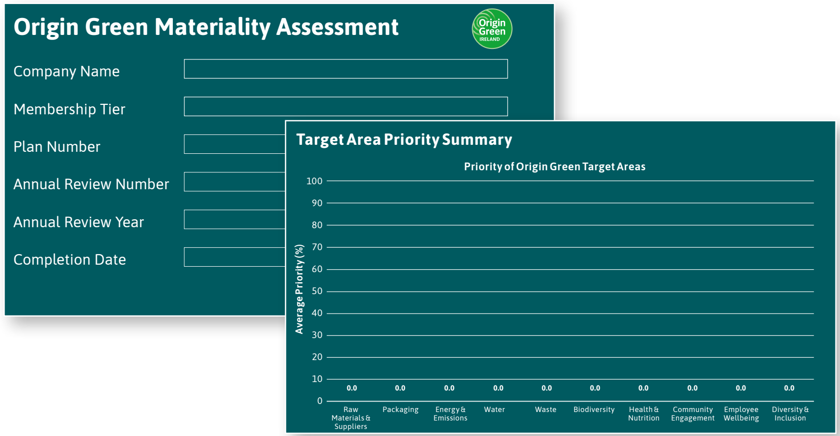
Outside of the dedicated Origin Green plan development and annual progress report supports, the Origin Green programme also offers a range of supports which can be utilised to support ESG reporting requirements and considerations. These resources will be discussed in the remaining sections of this report.

3. ESG within my Company

3.2 Origin Green Supports to Meet ESG Reporting Requirements continued

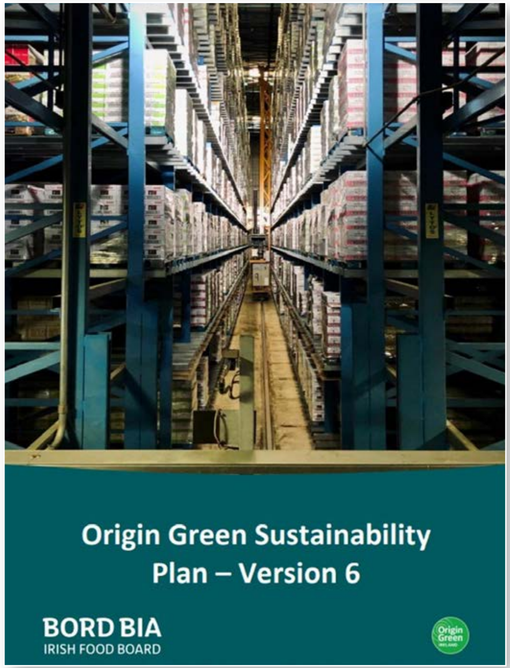
DETERMINING THE ESG TOPICS AREAS MOST MATERIAL TO YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS

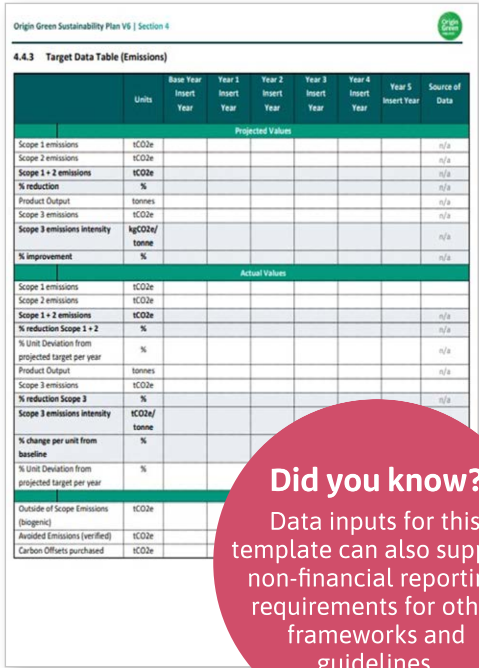
Origin Green has developed a bespoke Materiality Assessment Tool available to members which supports the identification of material topics. The tool is a great starting point for any sustainability strategy development plans or for any existing sustainability strategies as it enables companies to determine the most material impacts of their companies for them and their stakeholders. This insight enables focus area identification and strategy development. Companies can set specific targets (KPIs) for the areas identified as most material. These material topics can inform the Origin Green programme template and ESG reporting focus areas.



ESG DATA AVAILABILITY AND TRACKING

The Origin Green programme template helps companies to determine what areas they have access to data. It also helps companies to identify process owners or to determine a clear data collection process for ESG related information. This template acts as an annual reporting tool and can help inform the boundaries and scope of many member companies' ESG strategies.





Origin Green Sustainability Plan V6 | Section 4

4.4.3 Target Data Table (Emissions)

	Units	Base Year Insert Year	Year 1 Insert Year	Year 2 Insert Year	Year 3 Insert Year	Year 4 Insert Year	Year 5 Insert Year	Source of Data
Projected Values								
Scope 1 emissions	tCO2e							n/a
Scope 2 emissions	tCO2e							n/a
Scope 1 + 2 emissions	**tCO2e**							n/a
% reduction	**%**							n/a
Product Output	tonnes							n/a
Scope 3 emissions	tCO2e							n/a
Scope 3 emissions intensity	**kgCO2e/ tonne**							n/a
% improvement	**%**							n/a
Actual Values								
Scope 1 emissions	tCO2e							
Scope 2 emissions	tCO2e							
Scope 1 + 2 emissions	**tCO2e**							n/a
% reduction Scope 1 + 2	**%**							n/a
% Unit Deviation from projected target per year	%							n/a
Product Output	tonnes							n/a
Scope 3 emissions	tCO2e							
% reduction Scope 3	**%**							n/a
Scope 3 emissions intensity	**tCO2e/ tonne**							
% change per unit from baseline	**%**							
% Unit Deviation from projected target per year	%							
Outside of Scope Emissions (biogenic)	tCO2e							
Avoided Emissions (verified)	tCO2e							
Carbon Offsets purchased	tCO2e							

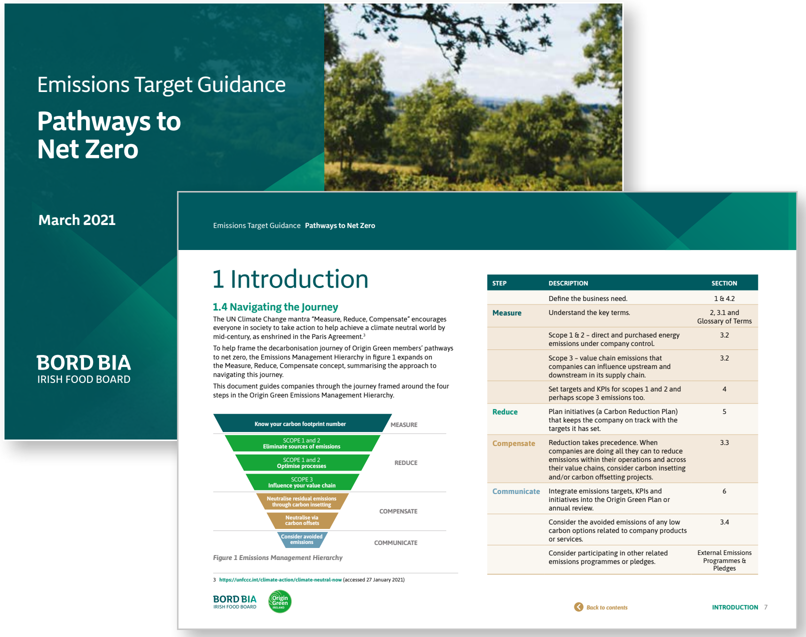
Did you know?
Data inputs for this template can also support non-financial reporting requirements for other frameworks and guidelines.

3. ESG within my Company

3.2 Origin Green Supports to Meet ESG Reporting Requirements continued

ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES FOR ESG REPORTING

Origin Green also offers extensive and detailed guidance documents which support the ESG reporting principles. Example 'Pathways to Net Zero'.



Emissions Target Guidance

Pathways to Net Zero

March 2021

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Emissions Target Guidance Pathways to Net Zero

1 Introduction

1.4 Navigating the Journey

The UN Climate Change mantra "Measure, Reduce, Compensate" encourages everyone in society to take action to help achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement.[3]

To help frame the decarbonisation journey of Origin Green members' pathways to net zero, the Emissions Management Hierarchy in figure 1 expands on the Measure, Reduce, Compensate concept, summarising the approach to navigating this journey.

This document guides companies through the journey framed around the four steps in the Origin Green Emissions Management Hierarchy.

Figure 1 Emissions Management Hierarchy

3 https://unfccc.int/climate-action/climate-neutral-now (accessed 27 January 2021)

STEP	DESCRIPTION	SECTION
	Define the business need.	1 & 4.2
Measure	Understand the key terms.	2, 3.1 and Glossary of Terms
	Scope 1 & 2 – direct and purchased energy emissions under company control.	3.2
	Scope 3 – value chain emissions that companies can influence upstream and downstream in its supply chain.	3.2
	Set targets and KPIs for scopes 1 and 2 and perhaps scope 3 emissions too.	4
Reduce	Plan initiatives (a Carbon Reduction Plan) that keeps the company on track with the targets it has set.	5
Compensate	Reduction takes precedence. When companies are doing all they can to reduce emissions within their operations and across their value chains, consider carbon insetting and/or carbon offsetting projects.	3.3
Communicate	Integrate emissions targets, KPIs and initiatives into the Origin Green Plan or annual review.	6
	Consider the avoided emissions of any low carbon options related to company products or services.	3.4
	Consider participating in other related emissions programmes or pledges.	External Emissions Programmes & Pledges

Back to contents INTRODUCTION 7

ADDITIONAL ORIGIN GREEN AND BORD BIA PRODUCED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ESG REPORTING & CONSIDERATIONS

Origin Green have a range of Target Guidance documents and webinars available to support ESG and sustainability integration:

- Biodiversity targets: Pathways to Nature Restoration and Resilience
- Diversity and inclusion targets: Pathways to Developing a D&I Strategy
- Emission targets:
  - Pathways to Net Zero
  - Science Based Target Webinar Series and Guidance
- Packaging targets: Pathways to the Circular Economy
- Water targets: Pathways to Water Conservation
- Webinars/ Workshops: Origin Green members also have access to free sustainability themed target workshops, webinars relating to the Origin Green sustainability plan template and review process, and staff engagement sessions.

Bord Bia also encourages member companies to avail of the sustainability related grants and supports offered by Enterprise Ireland, SEAI and other organisations.

4. Additional Resources and Supports

Links to further ESG information.

4. Additional Resources and Supports

4.1 Origin Green resource and materials overview

Below you will find ESG relevant information and resources via the Board Bia website:

SECTORS

- Irish Horticulture Industry - Bord Bia | Irish Food Board
- Meat Industry - Bord Bia | Irish Food Board
- Dairy Sector Profile | Bord Bia | Irish Food Board
- Fish & Seafood Market Ireland | Bord Bia
- Alcohol Sector Profile | Bord Bia | Irish Food Board
- Irish Agriculture, Food and Drink | Bord Bia

INSIGHTS

- Global Sustainability Insights (bordbia.ie)
- Global Food Sustainability Outlook 2021
- Global Insights & Implications (bordbia.ie)

PRIORITY AREAS

- Environment & Planet (bordbia.ie)
- Circular Economy (bordbia.ie)
- Regenerative Agriculture (bordbia.ie)
- Water Quality (bordbia.ie)
- Biodiversity (bordbia.ie)
- Carbon Footprint (bordbia.ie)
- Natural Food and Drink (bordbia.ie)
- Grass Fed (bordbia.ie)
- Natural (bordbia.ie)
- Organic (bordbia.ie)
- Plant & Cell Based (bordbia.ie)
- Local & Waste (bordbia.ie)
- Local & Low Food Miles (bordbia.ie)
- Food Waste (bordbia.ie)
- Sustainable Packaging (bordbia.ie)
- Quality & Traceability (bordbia.ie)
- Food Safety & Quality (bordbia.ie)
- Food Security (bordbia.ie)
- Data & Traceability (bordbia.ie)
- Social & Ethical (bordbia.ie)
- Employee Wellbeing (bordbia.ie)
- Sustainable Livelihoods (bordbia.ie)
- Human Health & Nutrition (bordbia.ie)
- Animal Health & Welfare (bordbia.ie)

MARKETS

- Ireland (bordbia.ie)
- UK (bordbia.ie)
- France (bordbia.ie)
- Germany (bordbia.ie)
- Netherlands (bordbia.ie)
- Italy (bordbia.ie)
- Sweden (bordbia.ie)
- Poland (bordbia.ie)
- UAE (bordbia.ie)
- China (bordbia.ie)
- Japan (bordbia.ie)
- South Korea (bordbia.ie)
- USA (bordbia.ie)

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Category Management (bordbia.ie)
- Small Business (bordbia.ie)
- Publications (bordbia.ie)
- Market Insights (bordbia.ie)
- Risk Assessment Report Readiness Radar (bordbia.ie)

4. Additional Resources and Supports

4.2 Further ESG reporting resources

Tackling climate change and incorporating ESG and sustainability into your company profile and overall business strategy can put additional requirements on existing resources. The below are some additional networks of support*:

LOCAL SUPPORT:

The CSRHub is the world's largest Corporate Social Responsibility ratings and information database. The Irish CSR Network is for businesses and organisations across Ireland active in CSR who want be part of a growing network to share and drive best practice CSR. Network members receive regular updates, invitations to outreach events, CSR Forum events and the annual CEO/Leaders breakfast. If you wish to share your CSR story, learn from your peers and become part of the CSR community please contact **csrhub@dbei.gov.ie**.

GLOBAL SUPPORT NETWORKS:

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is the premier global, CEO-led community of over 200 of the world's leading sustainable businesses working collectively to accelerate the system transformations needed for a net-zero, nature positive, and more equitable future. Members of this network receive access to a global network, events, CEO guides, education resources and perspectives from some of the leading sectors of ESG.

The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) believe the financial and accounting systems underpin our economy and do not adequately reflect the dependency of our economic success on the health and stability of our communities and the natural environment. They work with Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), finance teams, accounting communities, investors, capital markets, governments, regulators, policy makers, businesses, schools and academia; to inspire action and drive a fundamental shift towards resilient business models and a sustainable economy.

Ceres is a non-profit organisation aimed at transforming the economy to build a just and sustainable future for people and the planet. They coordinate stakeholder dialogue with Ceres network members and our global partners; deliver science-based research and innovative tools that inspire best practices; co-lead global initiatives that drive collective action and economy-wide solutions; mobilise advocacy campaigns to advance strong state, federal and global policy and regulatory actions; and leverage the power of the media and digital communications to promote bold sustainability leadership.

*some of which are subject to membership fees and charges

4. Additional Resources and Supports

4.3 Glossary

TERMS:

Adaptation - A change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

Adaptive capacity - Describes the ability of a sector to design or implement effective adaptation measures, using information on possible future climate change and extreme weather to moderate potential damage, take advantage of opportunities or to cope with the consequences.

Double Materiality - The ESG reporting approach which requires organisations to report on how sustainability issues affect the company and how the company impacts society and the environment.

COP26 - The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC), also known as the Conference of the Parties (COP), is the 26th summit. It was held in the city of Glasgow from 1st to 12th November 2021 under the presidency of the United Kingdom and in partnership with Italy. The COP26 summit brought parties together to accelerate actions towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Ecosystem Services - The benefits to society from resources and processes provided by ecosystems can be described as ecosystem services. These can include pollination and disease control, providing food and fuel, regulating the flow of water through land to both prevent flooding and filter clean drinking water and the aesthetic and amenity value of the countryside.

ESG - Environmental, Social, and Governance refers to the three central factors in measuring the sustainability and societal impact of an investment in a company or business. These criteria help to better determine the future financial performance of companies.

EU - European Union (EU), is a unique economic and political union between 27 European countries that has created a huge single market (also known as the 'internal market'). In 2020, the United Kingdom left the EU.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - International body of climate change scientists. The role of the IPCC is to assess the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change (www.ipcc.ch).

Mitigation - Describes action to reduce the likelihood of an event occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g. emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

Model - Is a representation of how a system works and can be used to understand how the system will respond to inputs and other changes.

Resilience - Describes the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic ways of functioning, and a capacity to adapt to stress and change.

Risk - Combines the chance that an event will occur with how large its impact could be, in social, economic or environmental terms.
For example: the costs of damage, number of people affected or areas of land affected by a specific climate effect.

4. Additional Resources and Supports

4.3 Glossary continued

TERMS:

Risk Assessment - An analysis of risks and their impacts to provide information for decision making. Often, risk assessment will consider a particular impacted party, like a building or population. The process usually includes identifying hazards which could have an impact; and assessing the likelihoods and severities of impacts.

Scenario - A plausible description of a possible future state of the world. These use specific assumptions on how aspects of the world might change e.g. economies, social trends, changes in technology, environmental changes, etc., based upon the best understanding available.

The Paris Agreement - The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. The agreement's language was negotiated by representatives of 196 state parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris, France, and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015. As of March 2021, 191 members of the UNFCCC are parties to the agreement.

ABBREVIATIONS

CDSB:	Climate Disclosure Standards Board
COP26:	2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference
CSRD:	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
EFRAG:	European Financial Reporting Advisory Group
ESG:	Environmental, social and corporate governance
FSB:	Financial Stability Board
GRI:	Global Reporting Initiative
NFRD:	EU's Non-Financial Reporting Directive
PRI:	Principles for Responsible Investment
SASB:	Sustainability Accounting Standards Board
ISSB:	International Sustainability Standards Board
SEC:	US Securities and Exchange Commission
TCFD:	Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
UNGPs:	UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
WBCSD:	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WEF IBC:	World Economic Forum International Business Council

4. Additional Resources and Supports

A4S
The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) was established by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2004. A4S aims to inspire action by finance leaders to drive a fundamental shift towards resilient business models and a sustainable economy. **For more information:** A4S

Ceres
Ceres is a non-profit organisation aimed at transforming the economy to build a just and sustainable future for people and the planet. It works with the most influential capital market leaders to solve the world's greatest sustainability challenges. Through its powerful networks and global collaborations of investors, companies and non-profits, Ceres drives action and inspire equitable market-based and policy solutions.
For more information: Ceres | Sustainability is the bottom line

CFA Institute
The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute is a global, not-for-profit organisation that provides a CFA Program to professionals. This program tests the fundamentals of investment tools, valuing assets, portfolio management, and wealth planning, which is typically completed by those with backgrounds in finance, accounting, economics, or business. In March 2021, the CFA Institute launched its first global certificate in ESG investing.
For more information: CFA Institute

Climate Action 100+
Climate Action 100+ is an investor initiative to ensure the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take necessary action on climate change. It is delivered by five investor networks, namely the Asia Investor Group on Climate Change, Ceres, Investor Group on Climate Change, The Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, and the Principles for Responsible Investment.
For more information: Climate Action 100+

Corporate Knights
Corporate Knights Inc. includes the sustainable business magazine Corporate Knights and a research division that produces rankings and financial product ratings based on corporate sustainability performance. Founded in 2002 by Toby A. A. Heaps and Paul Fengler, its magazine is distributed quarterly as an insert in the Globe and Mail and Washington Post, in the US.
For more information: Corporate Knights | The Voice for Clean Capitalism

CSRHub
The CSRHub is the world's largest Corporate Social Responsibility ratings and information database. It provides consensus ratings of company ESG performance as a lever to improve corporate sustainability. Its transparent data platform provides access to the corporate ESG performance metrics of 18,000 companies from 136 industries in 132 countries.
For more information: Search Sustainability Ratings | CSR Ratings (csrhub.com)

GIIN
The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to increasing the scale and effectiveness of impact investing.
For more information: The GIIN

Impact Investing Institute
The Impact Investing Institute is an independent institute which aims to accelerate the growth and improve the effectiveness of the impact investing market in the UK and globally.
For more information: Impact Investing Institute

4. Additional Resources and Supports

Just Capital
JUST Capital is an American, independent research non-profit organisation that aims to mobilise the power and resources of the private sector to create a more just marketplace that better reflects the values and priorities of the American people.
For more information: JUST Capital - Ranking America's Most Just Companies

REFINITIV
Refinitiv is a global provider of financial market data and infrastructure, founded in 2018. It is a subsidiary of London Stock Exchange Group after a $27 billion dollar sale from previous owners Blackstone Group LP which held a 55% stake and Thomson Reuters which owned 45%. The company has an annual turnover of $6billion with more than 40,000 client companies in 190 countries.
For more information: Financial Technology, Data, and Expertise | Refinitiv

S&P Global
S&P Global Inc. is an American publicly-traded corporation headquartered in New York City. Its primary areas of business are financial information and analytics. The corporation delivers data, research, credit ratings, benchmarks and ESG solutions for governments, companies and individuals.
For more information: Accelerating Progress | S&P Global

ShareAction
ShareAction is a registered charity that promotes responsible investment. It aims to improve corporate behaviour on environmental, social and governance issues.
For more information: Home - ShareAction

Trucost ESG analysis
Trucost is a leader in carbon and environmental data and risk analysis. It assesses risks relating to climate change, natural resource constraints, and broader environmental, social, and governance factors.
For more information: Trucost

UNPRI
Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is a United Nations (UN) supported international network of investors working together to implement its six aspirational principles, often referenced as "the Principles". Its goal is to understand the implications of sustainability for investors and support signatories to facilitate incorporating these ESG issues into their investment decision-making and ownership practices.
For more information: PRI | Home

Vigeo Eiris
Vigeo Eiris is a rating and research agency, which evaluates organisations' integration of social, environmental and governance factors into their strategies, operations and management. It focuses on promoting economic performance, responsible investment and sustainable value creation. **For more information**: Vigeo Eiris Home - V.E

BCSD
The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a global, CEO-led organisation of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. WBCSD helps to make its member companies more successful and sustainable by focusing on the maximum positive impact for shareholders, the environment and societies.
For more information: World Business Council For Sustainable Development (WBCSD)