Sustainability in the equity story







SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EQUITY STORY

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What is an equity story?

Companies are expected to tell an authentic equity story to investors that succinctly articulates value proposition, performance, and strategy, consistent with market and financial disclosures.

It serves as a fundamental reference for investors, providing "a combination of all the compelling reasons why investors should buy your stock" and "should position the issuer as an attractive investment".1

A typical equity story may contain the following substantial company and market aspects.²

- → Market and industry development
- → Company development
- → Future potential
- → Market position and competitive environment
- → Services, products and competitive advantages
- → Industry, cost and technology leadership
- → Customer structure
- → Patents and licences
- → Profit outlooks
- \rightarrow Management qualities
- \rightarrow International connections and integration



¹Euronext <u>https://www.corporateservices.euronext.com/blog/equity-story</u>

Purpose of the guide

In light of investor interest and the crucial role of sustainability in corporate performance and strategy, this guide supports companies in the process of integrating material sustainability factors into their equity stories, outlining key concepts, examples from company communications and questions for reflection, on the following themes.

- → Purpose
- → Business model
- → Strategic focus & ambition
- → Market positioning
- → Product/service offering
- → Capabilities & assets
- → Revenue & growth
- → Innovation and R&D
- → Capital allocation
- → Societal context
- → Operating practice & culture

It intends to help companies develop investor relations communications, as sustainable business transformation, supported by the Corporate Performance and Accountability System (CPAS), is being integrated into investor relations strategy, messaging and activities.

The guide does not provide comprehensive mapping to current or emerging reporting standards and requirements or criteria associated with fixed income engagements and products.



Integration categories, questions and company examples

Purpose

What it entails

The company refers to sustainability as (part of) the reason that it exists or as (part of) its primary objective

Questions to reflect on:

- → Does our business have a social, environmental or economic purpose (beyond our purpose of delivering financial returns to shareholders)?
- → Have we articulated this? If not, how might we do so?
- How do we assist people, organizations, society to address key challenges?
- → How can we succinctly communicate our "Why?"

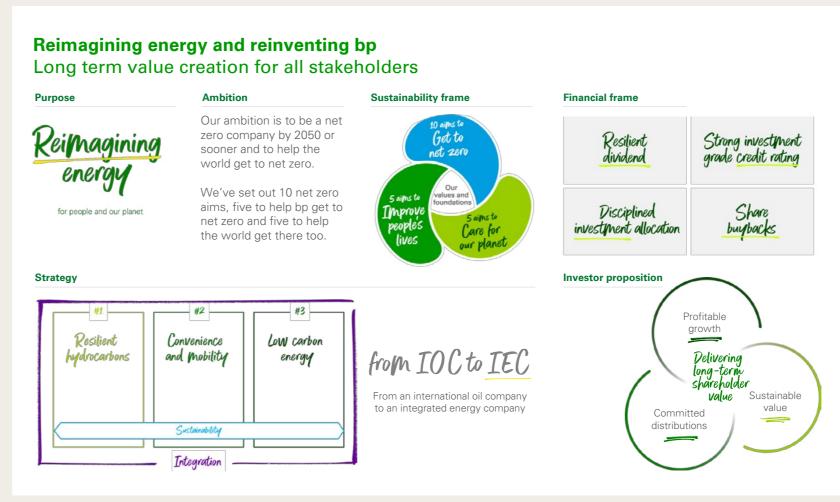
Company examples



As a health technology company, it is our purpose to improve people's health and well-being through meaningful innovation

Source: Philips IR webpage





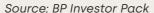




ABB Purpose

We enable a more sustainable and resource-efficient future with our technology leadership in electrification and automation

Source: ABB IR webpage

Business model

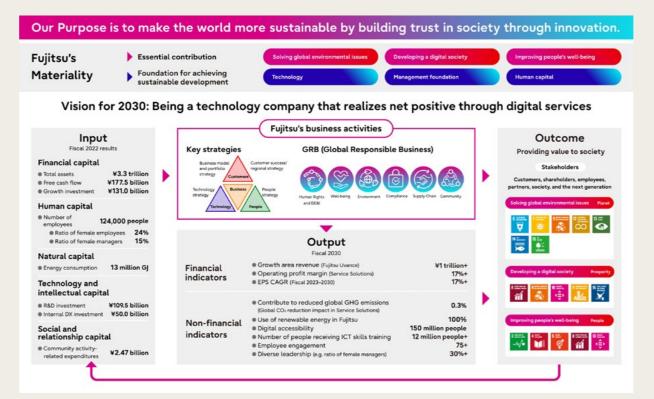
What it entails

The company includes sustainability clearly in the description of the way that it creates, delivers and captures value

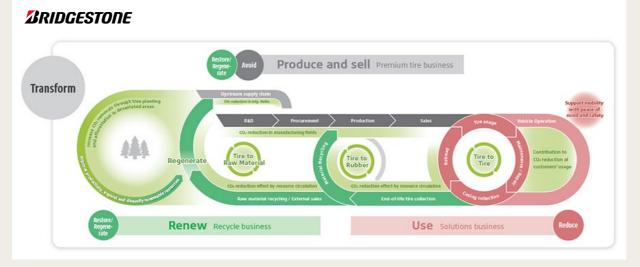
Questions to reflect on:

- → Have we articulated a clear model for the way we create revenues and value to the business?
- → (How) does sustainability affect the different aspects of this? (consider links to ISSB S1 29 (b))

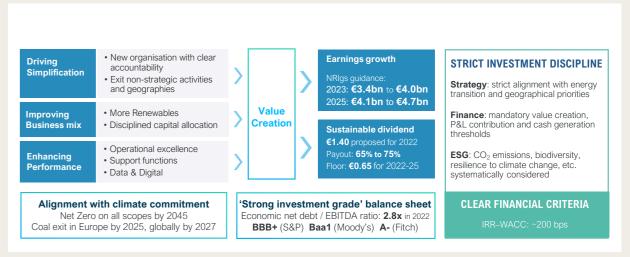
Company examples



Source: Fujitsu Integrated Report



Source: Bridgestone Sustainability Business Framework



Source: Engie Investor Relations Fact Sheet



Source: TOMRA Investor Presentation

Strategic focus and ambition

What it entails

The company highlights sustainability as the reason for or a factor behind its decision to focus its activities on particular market segments, 'verticals' or levels within chosen value chains

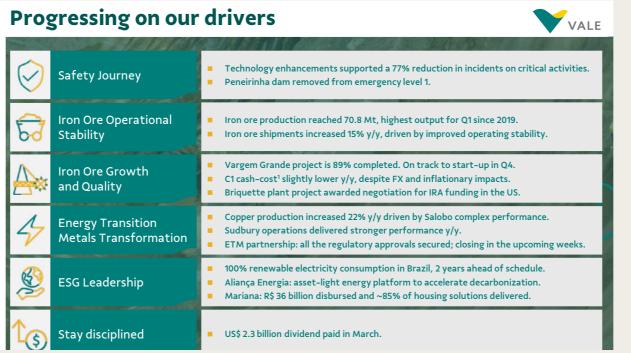
Questions to reflect on:

- → (How) have sustainability factors influenced our decision over which 'verticals' to prioritize?
- → How is sustainability integrated in our core business strategy? (consider links to ISSB S1 29 (c))
- How can we describe and provide evidence of that integration?

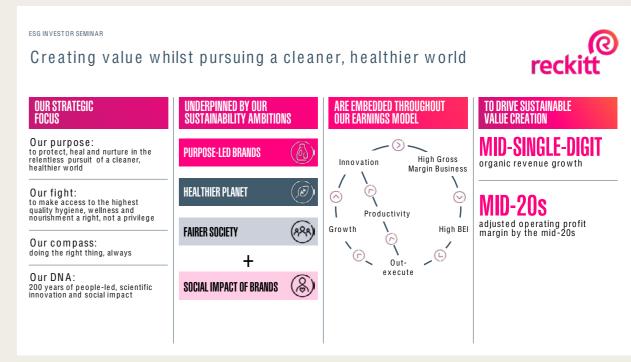
Company examples



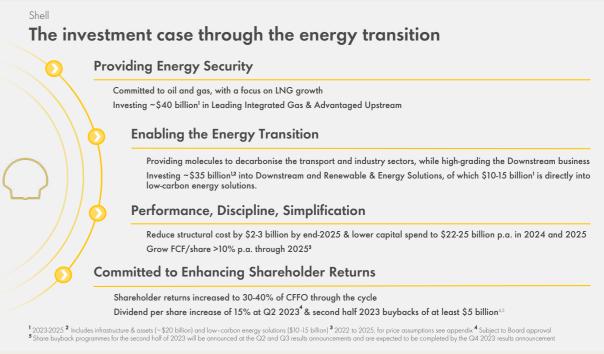
Source: AB InBev Sustainability Webcast



Source: Vale Investor Presentation



Source: Reckitt ESG Investor Seminar



Source: Shell Investor Relations Slide Deck

Market positioning (industry trends)

What it entails

The company highlights how sustainability trends (e.g. consumer preference) influence market or the sectoral dynamics that it is exposed to

Questions to reflect on:

- → How are sustainability factors affecting value chains and markets relevant to our company?
- → Are new products, services and markets being created?
- → What's the market size and potential?

Company examples



Urbanization

The world's cities are continuing to grow and there is also an increasing need to modernize existing buildings. We want to help our customers in making cities smart, sustainable, and better places to live.

There are 4 billion people living in urban areas today and 200,000 people are moving to urban areas every day. By 2050, around 7 billion people are expected to move to urban areas.



Sustainability

Climate change is the biggest challenge of our lifetime. There is also increasing interest in health and well-being and growing expectations around human rights and diversity and inclusion.

We want to be the leader in sustainability not only in our own industry, but also



Technology

Advancements in technology are rapidly changing our lives.

We can harness technology to resolve many of the challenges brought by rapid urbanization and climate change. We can also bring new solutions and value to our customers and smarter ways of working to our employees.

2020 2023E 2025

HOLCIM



We want to grow at Sack Kraft to take advantage of the opportunity to replace plastic while meeting the increasing demands of conscious consumers



Why grow? Sack market is US\$ 7Bn with 32Bn units This market is expected to grow 2-3% Global trends positively impact the Sack Kraft has created value for CMPC with an

> Opportunity to lever on Iguaçú to grow in LatAm & other markets (forest+pulp+paper+sacks

Integrated business with a stable EBITDA Mg



Source: KONE Equity Story



2023E 2025 2030

Source: Holcim Decarbonization Day Presentation

Develop new standards

building norms

ELECTRIC. Resolutely optimized for electric drivetrains. Aim of matching range and contribution margins with ICEs. **DIGITAL.** Completely novel and immersive user experience with a new quality of human-car-connection. **CIRCULAR.** Further enhanced use of innovative materials and processes to reduce the carbon footprint.¹

Source: BMW Investor Relations Presentation

Source: CMPC Investor Day Presentation

Lead engagement & advocacy to evolve

Product and service offering

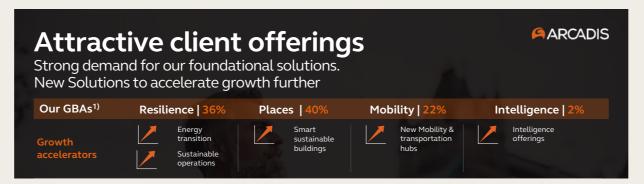
What it entails

The company refers to products and services that it provides that contribute to sustainable outcomes (and is ready to prove the authenticity of the claim, given the potential legal and regulatory risks)

Questions to reflect on:

- → Which of the product categories / services that we offer enable sustainable transitions?
- → How is our product mix expected to shift towards more sustainable product categories?
- → How is sustainability embedded in the evolution of our product/service offering?
- → How can we best describe our portfolio and the sustainable transitions that it is exposed to?

Company examples



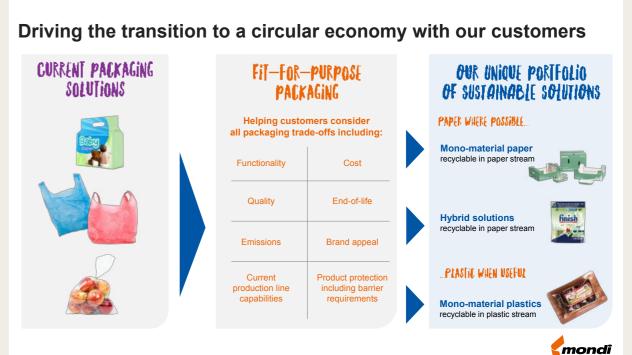
Source: Arcadis Capital Markets Day



Source: Holcim Capital Markets Day



Source: Petronas Integrated Report



Source: Mondi Result Presentation



Source: dsm-firmenich Capital Markets Day

Capabilities & assets

What it entails

The company highlights how it has or plans to develop capabilities or assets that enable it to position and respond to sustainability factors and their impact on industry trends

Questions to reflect on:

- → What assets (physical, technological, human, brand, etc.) does our company have (or plan to develop) that will enhance our resilience and enable us to respond profitably to sustainability trends?
- How can we implement resources so we can provide solutions for addressing key sustainability challenges and opportunities?
- → How can we describe what we have and do well to support sustainable business transformation?

Company examples



Source: Kering ESG Presentation

The most profitable major also investing the most for the future

System A: today's energies

Maintain oil production, with optionality

- → Low cost, low emission resilient portfolio capturing upside from high energy prices
- → Profitability assessed at 50 \$/b, 100 \$/t CO₂ Capex + Opex < 20 \$/boe or breakeven < 30 \$/b Emissions intensity lower than portfolio average of 19 kg CO₂e/boe
- Driving downstream businesses towards upstream integration

Integrated LNG growth driving profits and transition

- Leveraging our unique and global integrated LNG
 position
- → 1et US LNG exporter and 1et Europe regas position
- → LNG phasing out coal for power generation: strongest short-term decarbonization lever
- → Aiming for zero methane emissions

TotalEnergies 35-40% cash payout through the cycles ROE > 13%

System B: tomorrow's energies

Integrated power: profitably building the pillar of the future energy system

- → Drive value from integration (ROACE >10%): low-cost
- renewable & flexible production, storage, trading, supply

 Strong balance sheet essential to capture value from
- volatility in electricity markets through merchant exposure

 → Leveraging global footprint, project management and
- To Francisch and de served duide by 2020
- → Top 5 renewable producer worldwide by 2030

Low-carbon molecules: positioning in high value and attractive markets

- → Become a leader in SAF
- → Targeting 20 TWh/y biogas production by 2030
- → Developing clean H₂ for our refineries
- → Developing CCS business: > 10 MtCO₂e by 2030

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Ayala leverages various relationships and resources to achieve its medium- to long-term ambitions and deliver value to its stakeholders.



Financi

- → Strong financial position
- → Diversified business portfolio
- → Affordable and reliable access to capital



Intellectu

- ightarrow Long and rich corporate history
- → Deep expertise of the
- Philippine economy
- → Corporate culture of innovation and lifelong learning



Human

- → Best-in-class local and global talent
- → Diverse workforce with multi-disciplinary backgrounds



Social and Relationship

- → Relationships with partners, investors, communities, academe and other institutions
- → Strong, recognizable and trusted brand



Source: Ayala Integrated Report

4. Our forest assets create a solid and valuable foundation for our business

Stora Enso is one of the largest global private forest owners, our forests are strategically important to us.

Our forest holding is a scarce real asset and a guarantee of a solid balance sheet as well as a driver of shareholder value. It is also an important raw material which provides us with competitive wood supply, giving us tactical flexibility, synergies, and value. Our forests both initiate our integrated value chain and our sustainability credentials throughout the whole product line.

We create value with best-in-class forestry and biodiversity management. Our innovation in precision forestry and biotechnology supports both increased yield and a sustainable forest.



Revenue & growth

What it entails

The company refers to the ways in which sustainability expands existing or opens new revenue growth opportunities

Questions to reflect on:

- → (How) do we earn revenue from sustainability-driven solutions and value chains?
- → How do sustainability opportunities effect my financial performance and cash flow? (consider links to ISSB S1 29 (d))
- → What proportion of my revenue is aligned with green and greening criteria? (consider links to taxonomy criteria)
- → What's the sales growth potential of key parts of my business addressing sustainability imperatives?

Company examples

A powerful growth platform

Decarbonization: An outstanding year for Local Decarbonizing Energy

Revenues up 19.9%⁽¹⁾ to €12 260M and EBITDA up 35.3%⁽¹⁾ to €1 497M

District Heating networks growth boosted by new decarbonizing local energy services

- → Energy costs are passed through into tariffs with lag effect into 2024
- → New high efficiency biomass cogeneration in Germany
- → Starting of operations in Tashkent (Ouzbekistan)
- → New flexibility services in electricity (support to the grid)

Increased demand for Energy Efficiency Services to Buildings and Industries New contracts in Italy (PPP)

Continued strong performance expected in 2024

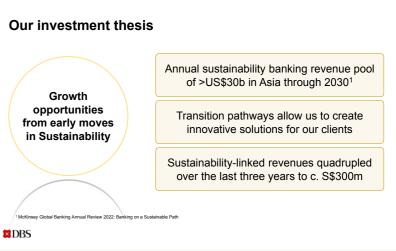
(1) at constant scope and forex

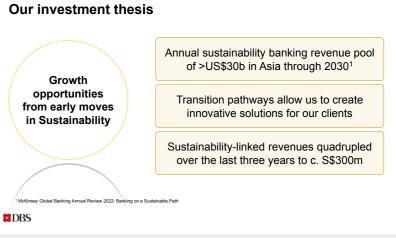
Source: Veolia Results Presentation





Source: Procter & Gamble Investor Presentation





Source: DBS Investor Day



Source: Holcim Decarbonization Day Presentation

DELIVERING ON OUR LONG-TERM EARNINGS GROWTH LEVERS



Near-Term Growth Investments

Growth Investments in 2024

- Producing higher-value elastomers and ethylene copolymers in Tarragona
- Expanded PG capacity in Thailand by 80KTA for food, personal care and pharma applications
- Continued downstream silicones growth in liquid silicone rubber and adhesives
- In flight through mid-decade, including:
- Enhancing feedstock flexibility and PE/functional polymers incremental growth
- Additional alkoxylates capacity

*\$2B of EBITDA by mid-decade chieved ~\$0.8B/yr between 2021-2023

Fort Saskatchewan Path2Zero World's First Cracker and Derivatives

Complex with Net Zero Emissions Recent and Upcoming Key Milestones:

- All long lead time equipment has been secured
- Majority of ethane supply secured from diversified sources with long-term agreements
- Construction activity continued in 2Q24
- Site development, fire and cooling lines, and fibe o Piling program started in Apr'24 – well underway
- to support cracker foundations schedule
- Major foundations construction to begin in 3Q24 to support cracker furnaces

~\$1B of EBITDA by 2030

Transform the Waste Commercialize 3MM mta of circular and

renewable solutions Partnerships & Targeted Investments YTD:

- Partnered with SCG Chemicals to transform 200KTA of plastic waste in Asia Pacific by 2030
- Announced supply agreement with Freepoint Eco-Systems for 65KTA of circular pyrolysis oil beginning in ~2026
- Signed agreement to acquire Circulus, a U.S.based PE recycler, with a capacity of 50KTA
- Expect to commercialize circular products using offtake from both the Valoregen and Mura recycling facilities in the 2H24

>\$0.5B of EBITDA by ~2030

On Track to Deliver >\$3B/yr of Earnings Growth at Mid-Cycle Levels by 2030

Innovation and R&D

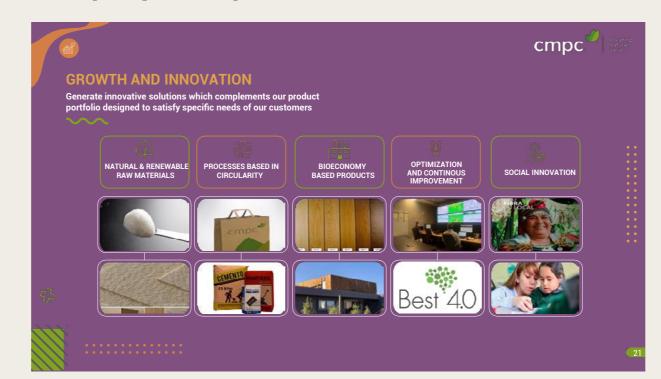
What it entails

The company describes how sustainability factors (and anticipation of demand that will respond to these) are directing its innovation, research and development

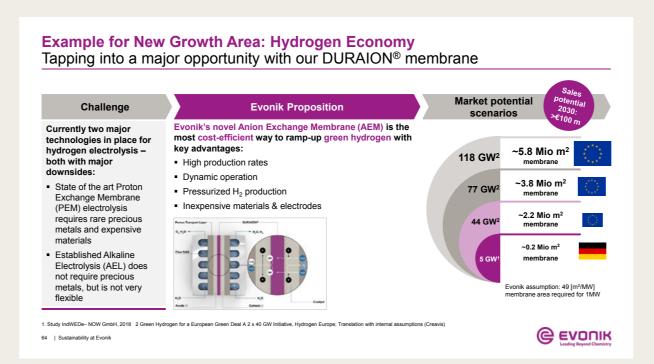
Questions to reflect on:

- → (How) are sustainability considerations directing the company's approach to innovation?
- → What proportion of the company's R&D budget is directed towards delivering sustainable outcomes?
- → How is the role of sustainability integrated within the company's R&D practices?

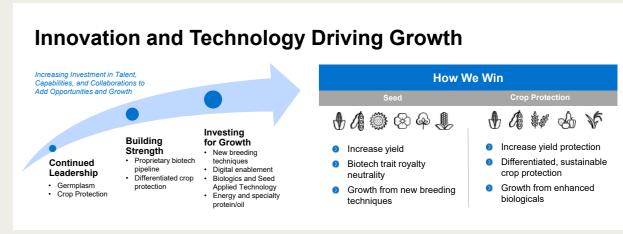
Company examples



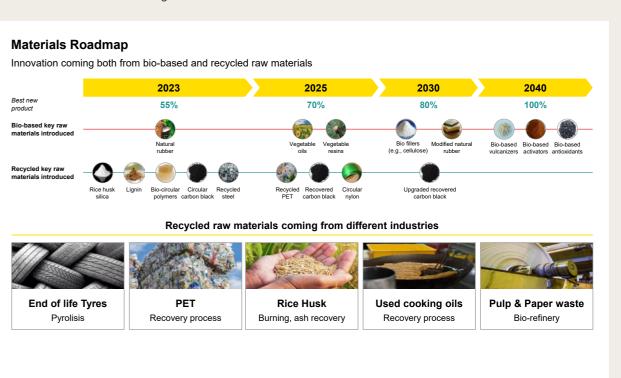
Source: CMPC Corporate Presentation



Source: Evonik Company Presentation



Source: Corteva Investor Day Presentation



Source: Pirelli Results Presentation

Capital allocation

What it entails

The company refers to its intention / ability to direct capital investment towards sustainability-related outcomes aligned with its strategic focus

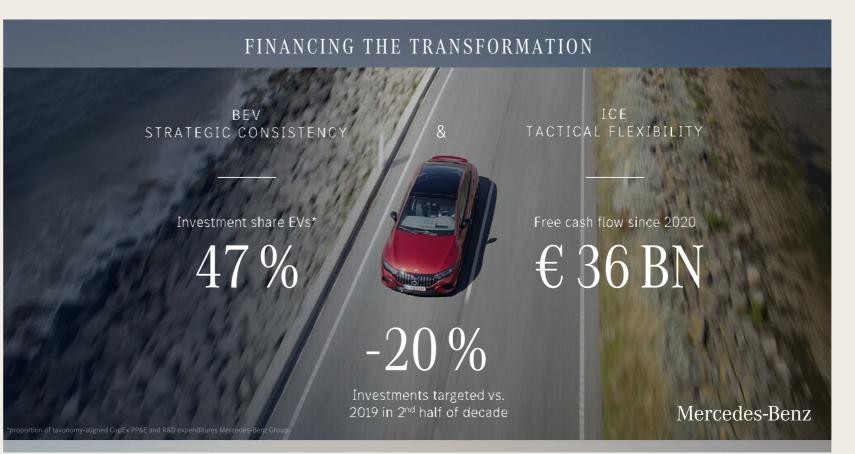
Questions to reflect on:

- How do we consider sustainability factors in our capital allocation process?
- → Why should this give confidence to equity investors that we are a reliable and effective allocator of (their) capital?
- → How does sustainability feature in our CapEx, OpEx plans? (consider links with ISSB S1 35 (c))
- → What and how much visibility can we provide on future resource allocation?

Company examples



Source: Sabanci Investor Presentation



Source: Mercedes-Benz Group Capital Market Presentation



Source: CLP's Climate Vision 2050



Source: PMI Investor Presentation



Source: TotalEnergies Strategy, Sustainability & Climate



Source: SABIC Investor Day Presentation

Societal context (response to)

What it entails

The company refers to wider social and environmental trends (including 'megatrends') as context for its strategic focus

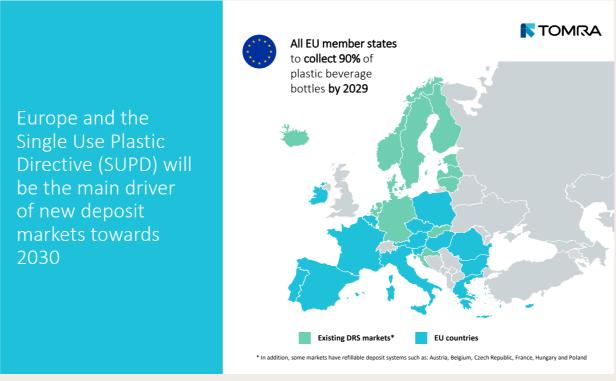
Questions to reflect on:

- → How are social, environmental or economic trends affecting the society within which we operate?
- → How (financially)-exposed are we, or could we be to these trends?
- → What processes do we have in place so we can benefit from / respond to trends?
- → What key statistics and data can we communicate to help make the case for our role and priorities?

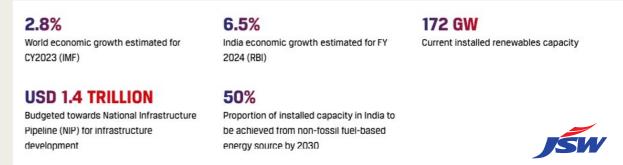
Company examples



Source: Schneider Electric Investor Relations Presentation



Source: TOMRA Capital Markets Day



Source: JSW Energy Integrated Annual Report

Sustainability accelerates growth, enables margin expansions, and opens new business opportunities



Drivers Opportunities for substitution

Megatrends

- Digitalisation

- √ Novel end use customers √ New product ecosystems

Source: Stora Enso Capital Markets Day



Source: Accelleron Capital Markets Day

Operating practices & culture

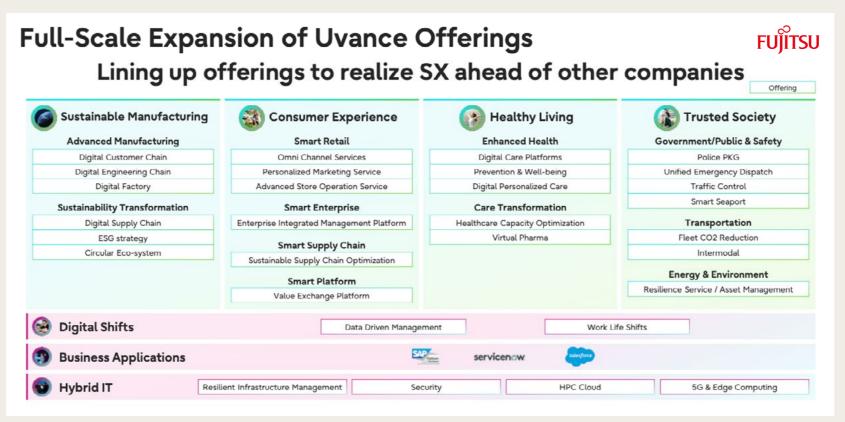
What it entails

The company describes how embedding sustainability into its operating practices and/or culture contributes to the investment case

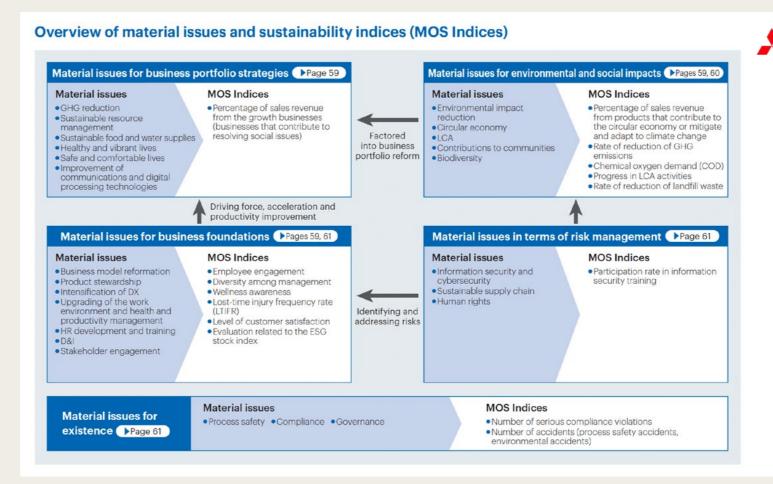
Questions to reflect on:

- → (How) do our internal sustainability-orientated practices enhance our business effectiveness? (e.g. through improved operating efficiency, client retention, regulatory relationships etc.)
- How is sustainability embedded in performance management and our ways of working?
- → What examples can we provide of this integration?

Company examples



Source: Fujitsu IR Day





Source: AIB Investor and Analyst Update

Why invest in Yara



We believe Yara is a highly attractive long-term investment. Here's why:

Attractive opportunities

Resource and environment challenges require strong agricultural productivity improvements. We are broadening our core as a leading food solutions company with significant value creation potential. We are also enabling the hydrogen economy through Yara Clean Ammonia, where we use our leading position in ammonia trade and shipping to create a clean energy future in shipping and food production.

Focused strategy

We are an industry leader in our field. Our products, solutions and knowledge address global food security and climate change challenges, generating business opportunities for Yara. We provide climate-smart routes for optimizing resource inputs while maximizing the quantity and quality of our customers' output

Driving sustainable performance

We believe that shareholder values are safer and performance will improve when diversity, human rights and environmental consideration form an integral part of our strategy and management, and we drive sustainable performance through an integrated scorecard with KPI's across the People, Planet and Prosperity dimensions.

Strong shareholder returns

We deliver strong shareholder returns through internal improvements, strict capital discipline and a clear capital allocation policy. We have a target of a >10% ROIC through the cycle. In addition, we see significant value creation potential in a climate-positive food future building on our baseline.

Source: Yara Investor Relations

Conclusions and reflections

This resource provides corporate investor relations teams with a synthesis of current practice and guidance for future practice encouraging and equipping the integration of sustainability in equity stories.

This integration to provide a sustainable equity story is now widely expected by investors and provides important context for corporate-investor engagement alongside enhanced transparency resulting from sustainability reporting developments.

Embedding sustainability in the equity story is not a one-size-fits-all exercise, there are various options and points of integration. But sustainable business transformation must be further integrated into investor relations strategy, messaging and activities, to differentiate and strengthen company investment cases and propositions to financial markets.

Key actions for companies

- 1. Assess potential communication connections between sustainability factors and components of the equity story (e.g. market positioning, capabilities & assets, innovation, capital allocation)
- 2. Develop internal engagement with colleagues across strategy, finance, communications, innovation, management
- 3. Review equity story examples from other companies, particularly those from peers
- 4. Understand investor interests and expectations through direct engagement
- 5. Consider connections and alignment with the evolving sustainability reporting landscape (e.g. ISSB, EFRAG, taxonomies)
- 6. Ensure relevance, balance, consistency, strategic focus, future orientation and connectivity of information



Acknowledgements

Disclaimer

This publication has been developed in the name of WBCSD. Like other WBCSD publications, it is the result of collaborative efforts by representatives from member companies and external experts. A wide range of member companies reviewed drafts, thereby ensuring that the document broadly represents the perspective of WBCSD membership. Input and feedback from stakeholders listed above was incorporated in a balanced way. This does not mean, however, that every member company or stakeholder agrees with every word.

The report has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice.

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About WBCSD

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a global community of over 220 of the world's leading businesses, representing a combined revenue of more than USD \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees. Together, we transform the systems we work in to limit the impact of the climate crisis, restore nature and tackle inequality.

We accelerate value chain transformation across key sectors and reshape the financial system to reward sustainable leadership and action through a lower cost of capital. Through the exchange of best practices, improving performance, accessing education, forming partnerships, and shaping the policy agenda, we drive progress in businesses and sharpen the accountability of their performance.

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