

# **ENGAGING SASB:**

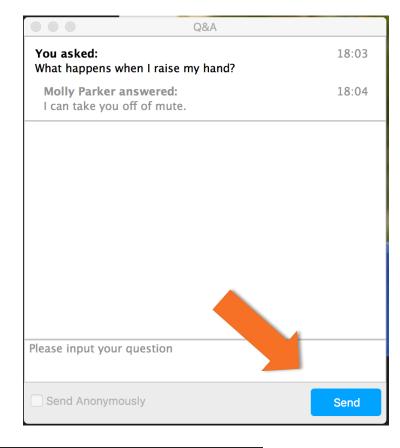
Civil Society Call to Action





Open the **Q&A** window to ask questions to the panelists.









# **MEET THE PANELISTS**



Paul Rissman Co-Founder, Rights CoLab



Delilah
Rothenberg
Executive
Director, PreDistribution
Initiative



Hugues
Létourneau
Manager,
Global Unions
Committee on
Workers'
Capital



David Parham
Director of
Research,
SASB



Kelli Okuji-Wilson Project Lead, Human Capital Management Project, SASB



Joanne Bauer Co-Founder, Rights CoLab (moderator)

# FROM "A FUNDAMENTAL RESHAPING OF FINANCE"



(BlackRock, January 2020)

"Disclosure should be a means to achieving a more sustainable and inclusive capitalism."

"This year, we are asking the companies that we invest in on behalf of our clients to publish a disclosure in line with industryspecific SASB guidelines by year-end..."

"[W]e will be increasingly disposed to vote against management and board directors when companies are not making sufficient progress on sustainability-related disclosures and the business practices and plans underlying them."





# FROM "CEO'S LETTER ON OUR 2020 PROXY VOTING AGENDA"

(State Street Global Advisors, January 2020)

"[L]everaging the [SASB] materiality framework... this year we are prepared to use our proxy voting power to ensure companies are identifying material ESG issues and incorporating the implications into their long-term strategy."

"Beginning this proxy season, we will take appropriate voting action against board members..."



### INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS SUPPORTING IMPROVED ESG DISCLOSURE

SASB's Investor Advisory Group includes investors with over \$34 trillion in assets

### Asset Manager IAG Members

























































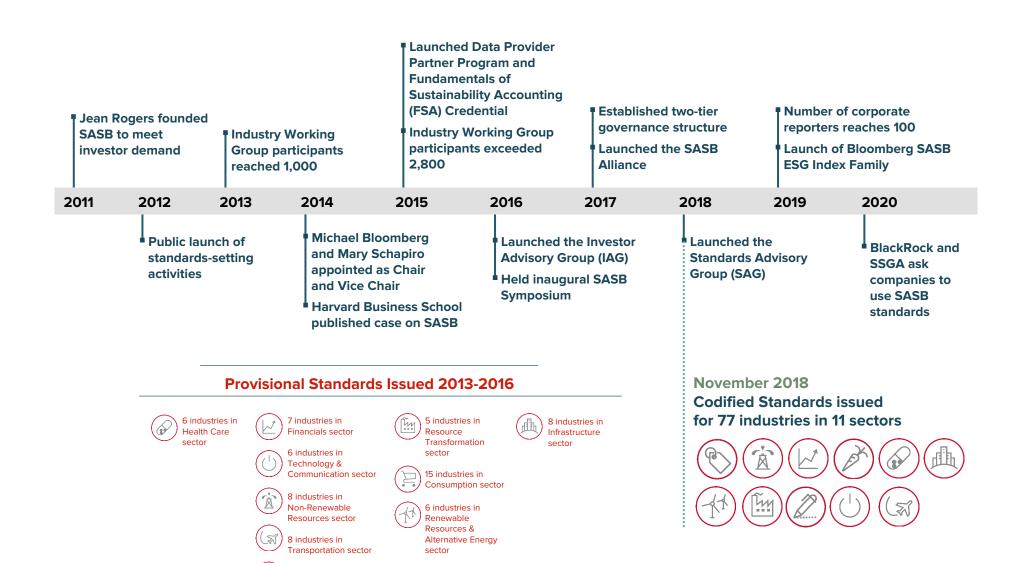






# SASB ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

10 industries in Services sector





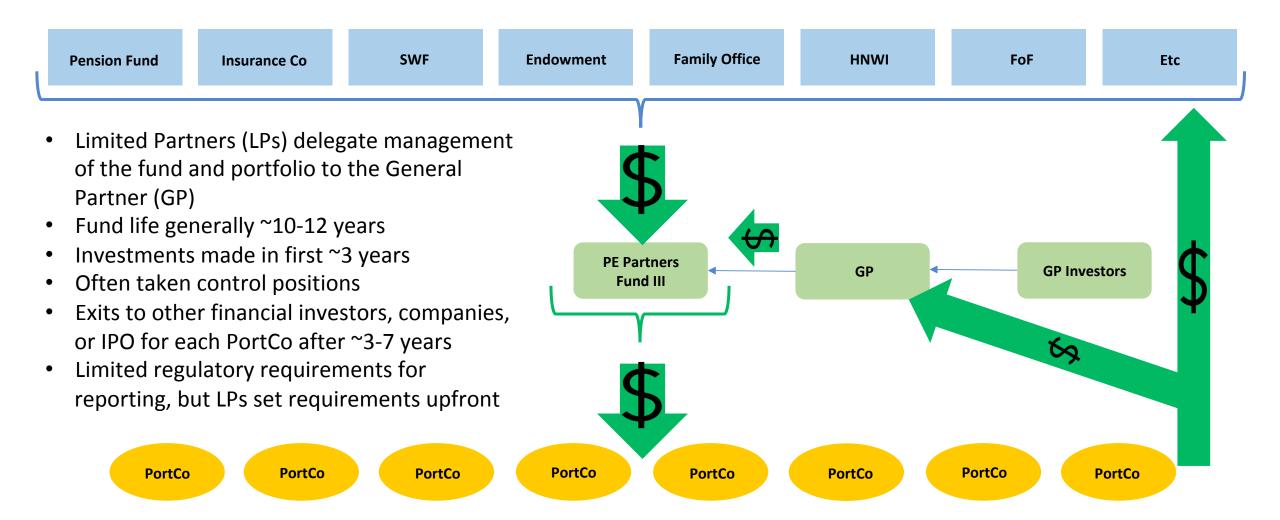
**Presentation by Delilah Rothenberg** 

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

For Rights CoLab SASB Webinar

# SASB & Human Capital in the Private Equity Context

# Private Equity: High-Level Overview





# **ESG** in the Investment Process

Screening Due Diligence Investment Decision Investment Agreement Monitoring & Exit / Wind-down Performance Management Stakeholder Engagement

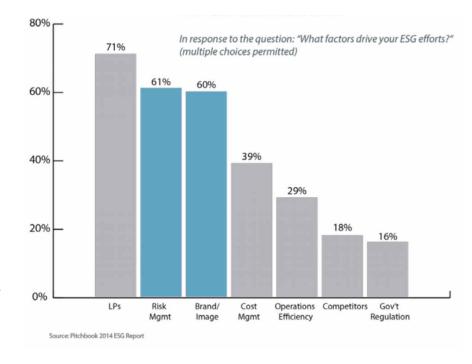
### A strong ESG program will have:

- An <u>ESG Management System</u> with roles and responsibilities, policies and procedures, monitoring and evaluation and reporting at each stage of the <u>investment process AND at the fund manager level</u> (increasingly common, but latter relatively uncommon)
- Investment Professional and other team member <u>performance tied to ESG metrics</u> (currently uncommon)
- <u>Senior management</u> endorsement and support
- Appropriate resources (uncommon)
- <u>Transparency and accountability</u>, including appropriate records and documentation
- Ideally structured for <u>long-term outlooks</u> (not as concerned with quarterly reporting, IRR, EBITDA but this is uncommon)



# Why Do PE Investors Care About ESG & Impact?

- As per a 2015 PwC survey of LPs: "Responsible investment is rapidly becoming a
  mainstream concern within the investment industry. The dramatic growth in the number of
  investors who have adopted the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is only the
  latest indicator of the increased attention the sector is paying to the integration of ESG
  factors into investment management"
  - 18% of LPs have withdrawn capital from an investment or withheld capital on ESG grounds
  - Almost all (97%) of LPs interviewed carry out an ESG assessment of a GP's approach to RI before allocating funds to a GP
  - 97% of LPs believe that responsible investment will increase in importance over the next year
- "The trend in the market seems clear. Asset class after asset class has been added in terms of ESG considerations. Now we can see increased interest and commitment in the private equity sphere, although much remains to be done" AP6, Sweden
- "Initially, reputational risk mitigation was seen as the main reason for considering ESG factors. Then, investors recognized that ESG factors can pose investment risks. There is now increasing focus on the opportunity to enhance returns and create positive impact from ESG integration." Partners Group, Switzerland
- Regulators globally are beginning to consider ESG reporting requirements (e.g. SEC, Bank of England, EU and several developing countries)





# **Human Rights**

### Figure 4: Level of engagement on human rights

Q. What is your level of concern for emerging responsible investment or ESG issues? - Human rights for portfolio companies (incl. modern slavery) (very concerned and slightly concerned)

Q. How are you addressing this issue? - Human rights for portfolio companies (incl. modern slavery) (implemented measures)



76%

of respondents are concerned about human rights

Source: PwC PE Responsible Investment Survey 2019
Base: All respondents (162)

71%

of those concerned about human rights have or plan to address this issue in the next year

# Investor pressure is becoming more refined, with many LPs unpacking the broad notion of "human rights" to focus on salient issues

We have noticed that investors are more familiar with the notion of human rights due diligence and the broader requirements set forth in the UN Guiding Principles than they were a few years ago, especially in Western Europe.

Our experience also shows that investor-led ESG engagement programmes focusing on human rights have considerably improved in the past couple of years, with significant issues (or salient issues) getting the attention they deserve.

These include living wages, discrimination and equal pay, customer and employee privacy among others. Initiatives like the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB – a collaboration led by investors and civil society organisations), that draws on input and expertise from investors including APG, have been instrumental in shedding light on key human rights risks that exist in various industries and that might therefore exist across portfolios. CHRB recently said that its members would push for greater corporate transparency and engagement this year. It also committed to expanding its assessment to include human rights practices in the technology sector, with a pilot planned for 2019<sup>8</sup>.



# **Are Quality Jobs Good for Business?**

JUST Capital's 100 "Most Just Companies"

- pay their median U.S. worker 33% more
- Are >10x likelier to have conducted gender pay equity analyses
- Face 74% fewer employment discrimination cases and pay 99% fewer fines to the EEOC
- Have on average 8% higher ROE

Companies that adopt profit-sharing see a gain in profitability on average of 4% after adoption

"Another ESG fund that gets high marks for governance and performance is Parnassus (PARNX), which emphasizes companies that treat employees well. It has beaten the S&P 500 by more than two percentage points a year the past decade."

"Consumers, for their part, have increasing influence on each other through social media, and rarely make distinctions between a given company's internal practices and those of its partners or suppliers. Exploitation of workers by any company partner or supplier can have significant reputational costs for both brands and businesses."



Research has shown that a 1% workforce reduction can lead to a 31% increase in voluntary turnover.<sup>21</sup>

150-250%

It is estimated that layoffs can cost firms 150-250% of an employee's salary.<sup>22</sup>

2.3-3.8%

From 1984–2011, companies on the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For list delivered stock returns that beat peers by 2.3–3.8% per year. The study found that employee satisfaction improves performance, not the other way around.<sup>10</sup>



Companies with high levels of employee engagement experienced earnings per share growth **4.3X** greater than peers from 2011–2015.<sup>11</sup>



# **Common ESG Metrics & Frameworks**

### Frameworks & Guidance for Standards, Policies & Procedures







### Frameworks Designed for Reporting (and sometimes due diligence)









### **Examples of relevant issues some metrics frameworks cover:**

Compensation and benefits, remuneration policies and employee involvement, compensation ratios, grievance mechanisms, employee development programs, hiring locally, full-time / part-time / temporary / outsourced / etc, demographic and DEI metrics, parental leave, retention / turnover, incidents and their management, notice periods regarding operational changes, approach to collective bargaining, stakeholder engagement, local suppliers, local economic and community impacts, political contributions and \$ received from government, anti-competitive behavior, human rights topics



# **Examples of Why SASB is Attractive to PE Investors**

- ✓ Focus on financially "material" issues makes reporting burden more manageable
  - ✓ Portfolio companies are often smaller than public companies and can't afford major data collection efforts
  - ✓ Material issues by industry vs. other frameworks which are general
  - ✓ Not getting into the weeds of ESG issues just focusing on what matters to the bottom line for investors
  - ✓ Allows investors to focus on traditionally accepted definitions of "fiduciary duty"
- ✓ Integrated reporting approach
  - ✓ Makes data easier to analyze than traditional forms of ESG reporting (avoiding the stereotypical glossy sustainability report that takes forever to read and eliminates need to pull out data that may not be clearly articulated)
  - ✓ Elevates ESG issues to be just as important as traditional financial data
  - ✓ ESG and financial issues are often inextricably linked anyway, so why not?
- ✓ LPs and the institutional market are gravitating toward this framework, and adopting it increases the probability of standardization across the industry



# **But Risks Remain**

"SASB identifies financially material issues, which are the issues that are reasonably likely to impact the financial condition or operating performance of a company and therefore are most important to investors."

- ✓ Often overlooks ESG issues like quality jobs and good benefits which may not be material at the company level, but are material for investors at the portfolio / systemic risk level
  - ✓ Benefits like paid sick leave and time off, healthcare, retirement, living wage to help workers have financial cushion in times of shock (note current ripple effects through the economy)
- ✓ Overlooks investment structure issues that exacerbate economic inequality and jeopardize jobs, such as:
  - ✓ Appropriate levels of leverage used in PE transactions that can push risk to workers and destabilize markets
  - ✓ PE executive-to-average-worker compensation ratios
- ✓ Reactionary
  - ✓ Risks around parental leave, forced arbitration, etc only surfaced during the #MeToo movement
  - ✓ What other risks haven't surfaced yet (e.g. those listed in 1<sup>st</sup> bullet point above, retirement benefits, etc)
- ✓ Some ESG risks, particularly S and G, apply across companies focus on industry has pros and cons

As Rick Alexander of the Shareholder Commons has pointed out, returns for institutional investors who are universal owners of the market are not just comprised of alpha, but also beta.

What are we missing by only focusing on factors that influence individual companies and alpha?



# **Economic Inequality is a Systemic Market Risk**

# US income inequality is a 'national emergency,' billionaire Ray Dalio says

 Widening income inequality and under-investment in public education "pose an existential risk for the U.S.," hedge fund billionaire Ray Dalio wrote in a paper released Thursday. The Washington Post Democracy Dies in Darkness

Politics

Capitalism in crisis: U.S. billionaires worry about the survival of the system that made them rich

Published 6:21 AM ET Fri, 5 April 2019 | Updated 1:18 PM ET Wed, 10 April 2019



BUSINESS • COVID-19

'If We Don't Work, We Don't Get Paid.' How the Coronavirus Is Exposing Inequality Among America's Workers









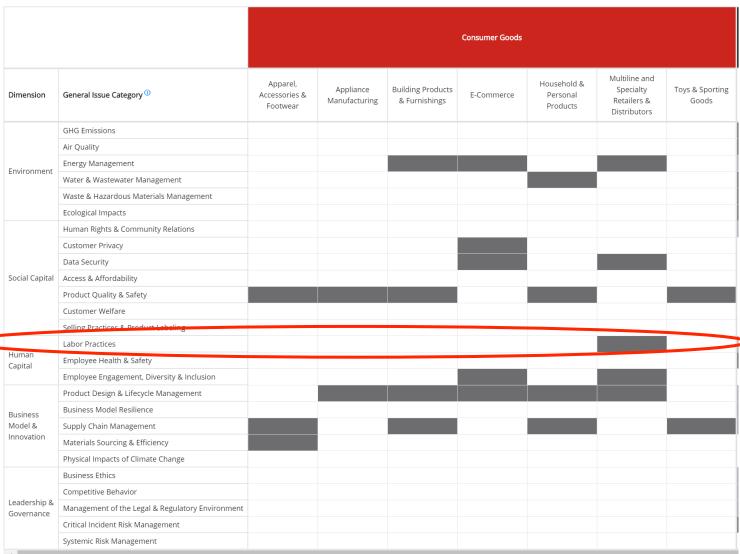




24 October 2018



# Materiality & Varying Interpretations: SASB





# Amazon fires warehouse worker who led Staten Island strike for more coronavirus protection

PUBLISHED MON, MAR 30 2020-8:43 PM EDT | UPDATED 34 MIN AGO







# **Materiality & Varying Interpretations: SASB**

### BUSINESS INSIDER

 A 2018 study found that cities that had required employers to pay workers while they were ill experienced a 40% drop in infection rates a year later.





Bellingham physician who decried lack of coronavirus protections is removed, sparking protest

March 29, 2020 at 12:44 pm | Updated March 29, 2020 at 7:21 pm

### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

MARKETS | CREDIT MARKETS

Lenders Brace for Private-Equity Loan Defaults

Financial institutions raised default probability estimates for loans to private-equity-owned companies







# Other Considerations to Keep in Mind

### For each issue, governance and accountability are key:

- ✓ Are there appropriate and thorough policies and procedures in place?
- ✓ Are <u>appropriate</u> roles and responsibilities assigned?
- ✓ Are the policies and procedures communicated and are people appropriately trained on their implementation?
- ✓ What are the KPIs, and how are they tracked and reported upon through the company to senior management and the board / shareholders (and potentially other stakeholders)?
- ✓ How are team members incentivized to perform against these KPIs?
- ✓ How are grievances, critical concerns, conflicts, and incidents disclosed and managed?
  - Through management
  - > To shareholders
  - To other stakeholders, as appropriate
  - ➤ Is there whistle-blower protection and non-retaliation?



# Let's Encourage SASB to Include a Dimension of Systemic Risk Metrics



Please stay in touch and get involved!

Delilah Rothenberg:
Delilah@predistributioninitiative.org
www.predistributioninitiative.org

A multi-stakeholder effort to improve investment structures so that:

- Workers and communities share more of the gains of economic growth
- Investment teams have stronger incentives to integrate ESG
- Systemic risks, including economic inequality and climate change, are addressed

The initial focus is co-creating private equity fund structures that share more economics with workers and narrow the wealth gap.

"Nothing about us without us"

Labor and civil society are critical stakeholders and voices in this process!







# What is the CWC's interest in sustainability disclosures?

- About the CWC: we are a global network of trade unions and worker nominated pension trustees
- CWC Guidelines for the Evaluation of Workers' Human Rights and Labour Standards informs engagement with investment chain initiatives
- Work with trade unions and pension trustees to "mainstream" the integration of the ILO Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work in the investment chain



# What opportunity do we see with SASB?

 SASB plays an important role in the US market where the CWC supports many workers' rights campaigns

# **XPOLogistics**



 There continues to be gaps in ability of investors to effectively appraise a company's approach to fundamental workers' rights

Total amount of monetary losses as a result of legal proceedings associated with labor law violations Quantitative

Reporting currency

XPO will not disclose this figure, except to the extent material and required by SEC rules.

Source: XPO Logistics Inc., 2018 Sustainability Report

 SASB focus on financial materiality relies on a company's definition of information that is important for "reasonable investors" → CWC believes there is an opportunity to elevate human and workers' rights



# Thank You!

Contact:

**Hugues Letourneau** 

Program Manager

Global Unions Committee on Workers Capital

www.workerscapital.org | hletourneau@share.ca











# **Sustainability Accounting Standards Board**

SASB Overview and Human Capital Project

April 2, 2020

**David Parham**Director of Research – Projects

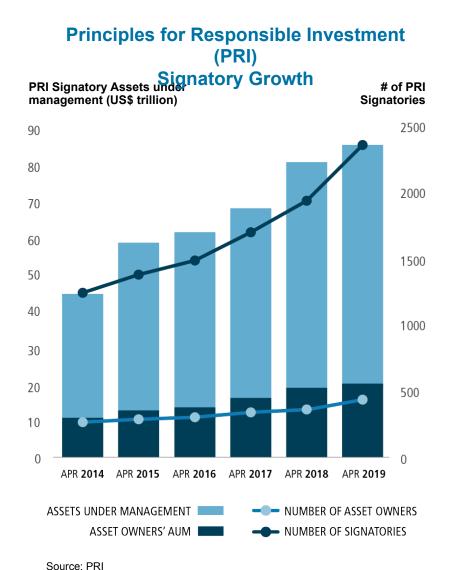
**Kelli Okuji-Wilson**Sector Analyst, Healthcare

# SASB Overview



# **Growing Investor Focus on Sustainability**

A rapidly increasing share of institutional assets are managed with ESG issues in mind



### **Over 2300 PRI Signatories\* Include:**

- 432 asset owners representing USD 20 trillion in assets
- ~70% of the world's top 100 asset managers (incl. Aberdeen Standard, BlackRock, Capital Investment Group, Legal & General, PIMCO, SSGA, Vanguard)

### All PRI signatories commit to\*\*:

- Seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which they invest
- Incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes
- Be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into their ownership policies and practices



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<sup>\*</sup> As of June, 2019

<sup>\*\*</sup> Reflects only three of six PRI Principles, to which all signatories commit.

# SASB - Sustainability Accounting Standards Board

Independent, non-profit standards-setting organization for ESG information





### What Makes SASB Different?

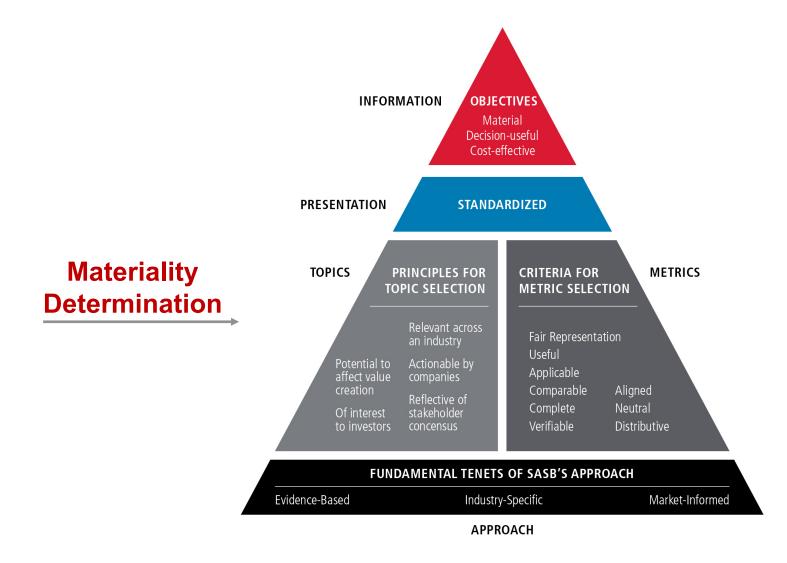
SASB standards intend to be for investors, rather than broader stakeholders





# SASB's Conceptual Framework Guides Standards Development

Clear criteria govern disclosure topic and metric selection





4/4/2020

# The SASB Approach to Financial Materiality

Standards targeted to the needs of investors for financially relevant ESG information



Identify ESG factors reasonably likely to affect the financial condition or operating performance of companies within an industry

**REQUIRE** 

**Evidence of Investor Interest** 

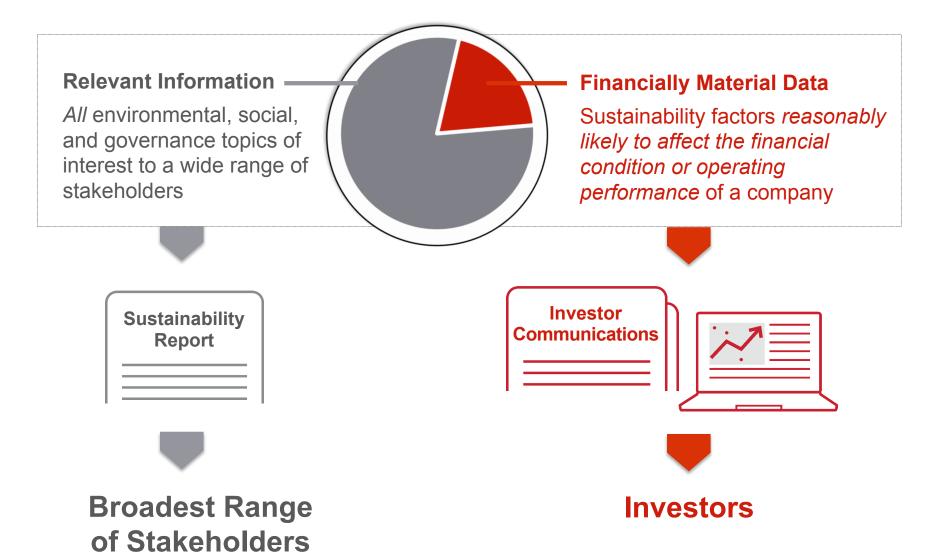
AND

**Evidence of Financial Impact** 



# **Complementary Efforts**

Target sustainability information to specific audiences for specific purposes





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# **Evaluation of Materiality of Sustainability Issues in Each Industry**

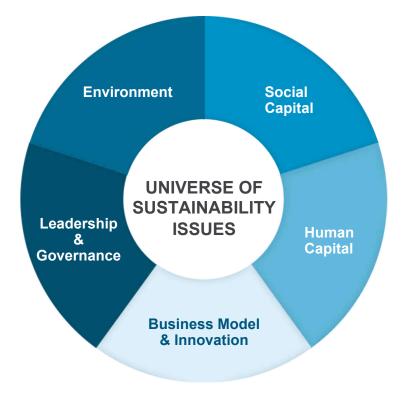
SASB's research process starts with a broad universe of sustainability issues

### **Environment**

- GHG Emissions
- Air Quality
- Energy Management
- Water & Wastewater Management
- Waste & Hazardous Materials Management
- Ecological Impacts

# Leadership & Governance

- · Business Ethics
- · Competitive Behavior
- Management of the Legal & Regulatory Environment
- Critical Incident Risk Management
- Systemic Risk Management



### **Business Model & Innovation**

- Product Design & Lifecycle Management
- · Business Model Resilience
- Supply Chain Management
- Materials Sourcing & Efficiency
- Physical Impacts of Climate Change

### **Social Capital**

- Human Rights & Community Relations
- Customer Privacy
- Data Security
- Access & Affordability
- Product Quality & Safety
- Customer Welfare
- Selling Practices & Product Labeling

### **Human Capital**

- Labor Practices
- Employee Health & Safety
- Employee Engagement, Diversity & Inclusion



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# Industries Grouped by Resource Intensity & Sustainability Impacts

Sustainable Industry Classification System (SICS®): 77 industries within 11 sectors



### **Consumer Goods**

- Apparel, Accessories & Footwear
- Appliance Manufacturing
- Building Products & Furnishings
- E-Commerce
- Household & Personal Products
- Multiline and Specialty Retailers & Distributors
- Toys & Sporting Goods



### **Extractives & Minerals Processing**

- Coal Operations
- Construction Materials
- Iron & Steel Producers
- Metals & Mining
- Oil & Gas Exploration & Production
- Oil & Gas Midstream
- Oil & Gas Refining & Marketing
- Oil & Gas Services



### **Financials**

- Asset Management & Custody Activities
- Commercial Banks
- Consumer Finance
- Insurance
- Investment Banking & Brokerage
- Mortgage Finance
- Security & Commodity Exchanges



### Food & Beverage

- Agricultural Products
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Food Retailers & Distributors
- Meat, Poultry & Dairy
- Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Processed Foods
- Restaurants
- Tobacco



### **Health Care**

- Biotechnology & Pharmaceuticals
- Drug Retailers
- Health Care Delivery
- Health Care Distributors
- Managed Care
- Medical Equipment & Supplies



#### Infrastructure

- Electric Utilities & Power Generators
- Engineering & Construction Services
- Gas Utilities & Distributors
- Home Builders
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Services
- Waste Management
- Water Utilities & Services



### Renewable Resources & Alternative Energy

- Biofuels
- Forestry Management
- Fuel Cells & Industrial Batteries
- Pulp & Paper Products
- Solar Technology & Project Developers
- Wind Technology & Project Developers



### **Resource Transformation**

- Aerospace & Defense
- Chemicals
- Containers & Packaging
- Electrical & Electronic Equipment
- Industrial Machinery & Goods



#### Services

- Advertising & Marketing
- Casinos & Gaming
- Education
- Hotels & Lodging
- Leisure Facilities
- Media & Entertainment
- Professional & Commercial Services



### **Technology & Communications**

- Electronic Manufacturing Services & Original Design Manufacturing
- Hardware
- Internet Media & Services
- Semiconductors
- Software & IT Services
- Telecommunication Services



### Transportation

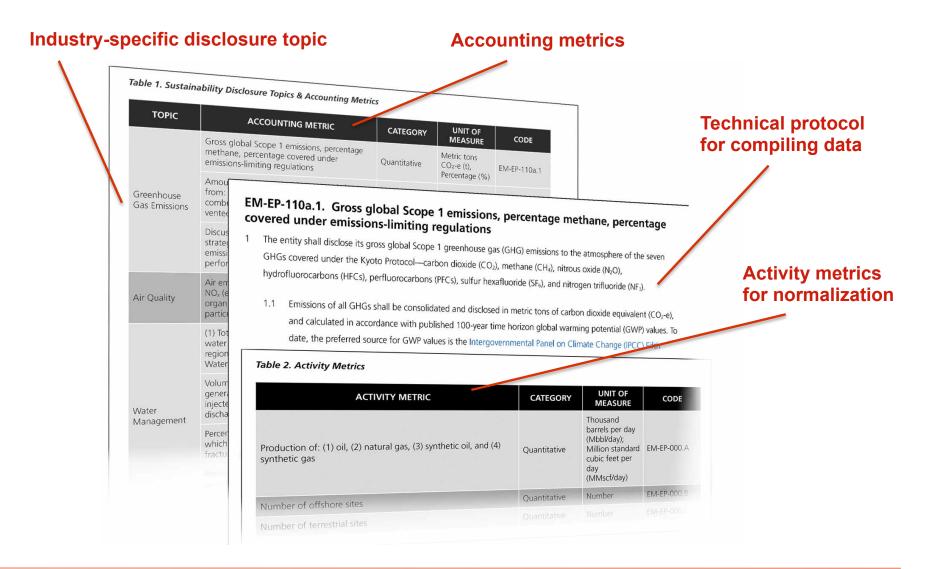
- Air Freight & Logistics
- Airlines
- Auto Parts
- Automobiles
- Car Rental & Leasing
- Cruise Lines
- Marine Transportation
- Rail Transportation
- Road Transportation



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# Robust Standards Designed to Provide Decision-Useful Information

SASB standards contain industry-specific disclosure topics, metrics, and guidance





# **Standard-Setting Process**

**Project-based model to maintain the SASB standards** 



#### <u>Project screening</u> – input from:

- Market & public engagement
- Standards Advisory Group
- Standards Board
- Staff research

#### Research Program – objective:

Conduct research and obtain market input to determine if standard setting should be pursued (meets four criteria)

#### **Standard-Setting Agenda:**

- Project determined to meet four criteria
- Prioritization informed by agenda priorities (Sept. 2019 meeting)
- Initiates standard-setting process



#### **Standards Enhancement Projects Underway**

10 projects were approved in the last three quarterly Board meetings

#### **Conceptual Framework**

Clarify and strengthen the core principles and concepts that govern SASB's Standards

#### **Rules of Procedure**

Ensure that the operations and Standard-setting processes detailed in the document reflect SASB's procedures today

#### **Human Capital**

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Assess the scope and prevalence of various human capital management themes across SASB's industries to develop a solid evidenced-based view on this crosscutting theme

# **Content Moderation on Internet Platforms**

Evaluate technology companies' management of usergenerated content, advertisements, and other thirdparty content to assess implications related to social capital

# Plastics Risks and Opportunities (Pulp & Paper, & Chemicals Industries)

Assess investor interest in risks and opportunities associated with plastics use in the two industries

# Systemic Risk in Asset Management

Evaluate the Systemic Risk Management topic in the Asset Management & Custody Activities industry standard, including scope and accounting metrics

#### **Tailing Management in Extractives**

Evaluate the issue of tailings facility management in the Metals & Mining and Coal Operations industry standards, including scope and accounting metrics

#### Measuring Performance on Raw Materials Souring (Apparel, Accessories & Footwear Industry)

Evaluate two metrics and associated technical protocols to examine and improve measurability, completeness, comparability, alignment, and cost-effectiveness.

# **Supply Chain Management in the Tobacco Industry**

Assess financial materiality of supply chain management and material sourcing topics in the Tobacco industry standard.

# Alternative Meat & Dairy in Food & Beverage

Assess implications on the Food & Beverage industry standards from increasing consumer demand for products with reduced environmental impact.

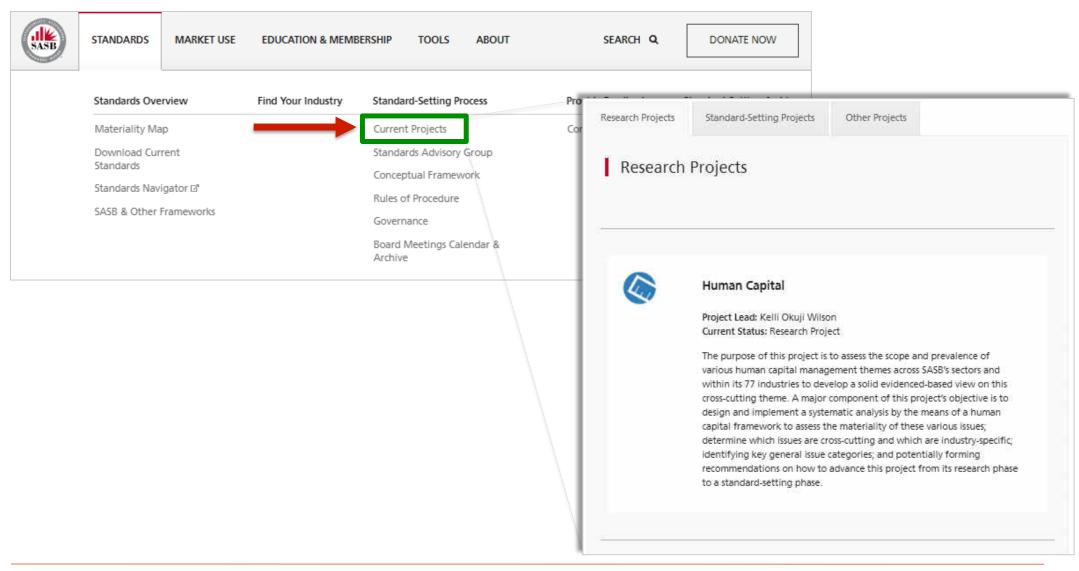


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# All active projects are posted to the SASB website

**Ensuring public transparency of standards-setting process** 

4/4/2020





# Human Capital Project



# **What is Human Capital?**

#### SASB defines human capital as:

- "[a sustainability] dimension [that] addresses the management of a company's human resources (employees and individual contractors) as key assets to delivering long-term value."
- The concept of human capital <u>currently</u> includes issues related to:
  - ➤ Employee health and safety Addresses a company's ability to create a safety culture for those that operate in dangerous working environments
  - ➤ <u>Labor practices</u> Addresses working conditions and the management of labor relations in industries that rely on economies of scale and compete on the price of products and services, and in industries with legacy pension liabilities
  - Employee diversity, inclusion, and engagement Addresses incentives and compensation as well as the attraction and retention of employees in highly competitive or constrained markets for specific talent, skills, or education



# What is Human Capital? (cont.)

#### SASB's human capital definition <u>largely</u> excludes the concepts of:

Human rights and community relations

4/4/2020

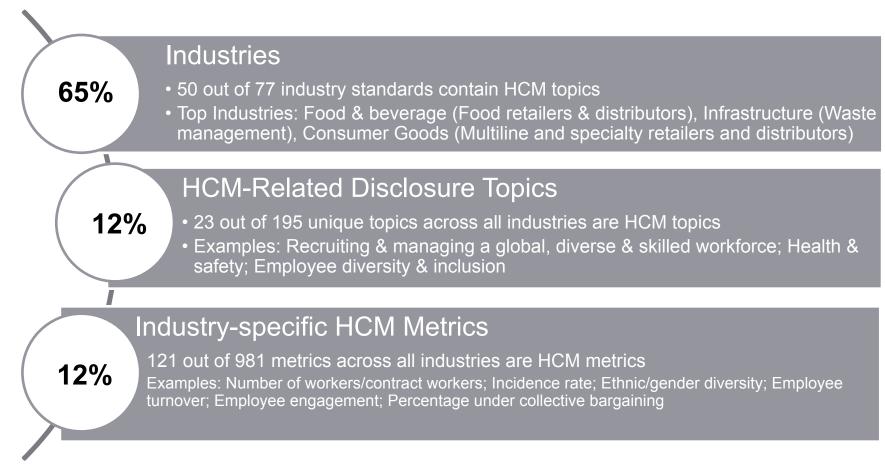
- > These issues are predominantly addressed in the Social Capital sustainability dimension
- Supply chain management
- > This issue is predominantly addressed in the Business Model and Innovation sustainability dimension



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# Human Capital Management (HCM) in the Codified Standards

**HCM Snapshot By the Numbers** 



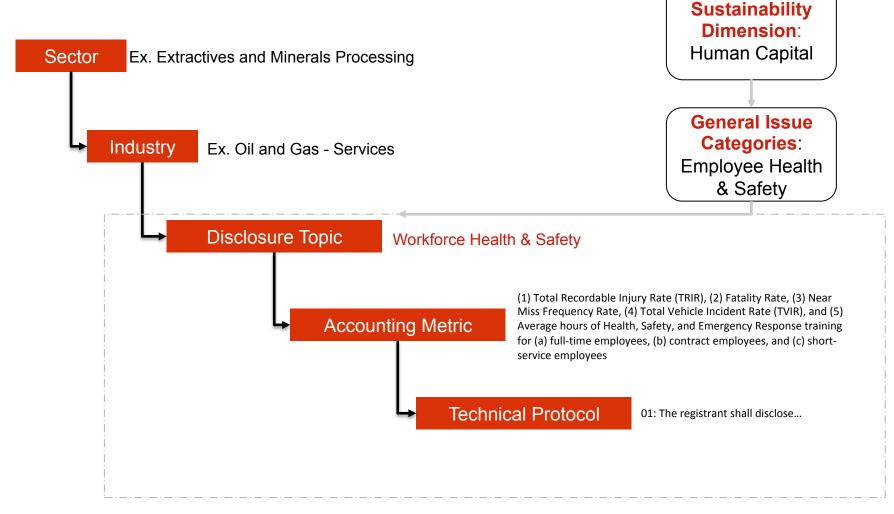
Note: This analysis was completed on a broader definition of human capital, hence human capital management (HCM)-related disclosure topics, to highlight that some topics address a human capital element that are not exclusively under the human capital sustainability dimension. Examples of disclosure topics not strictly under the human capital sustainability dimension include accident and safety management; operational safety, emergency preparedness & response; media pluralism; and labor conditions in the supply chain.



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# A Note on SASB Terminology

Each Industry Standard Includes Industry-Specific Disclosure Topics and Metrics



SASB standards also include suggested <u>activity metrics</u> to enable users to normalize data.



# Disclosure Topics and Metrics are Industry-Specific

**Examples from the Extractives & Minerals Processing and Transportation Sectors** 

## Industry: Construction Materials

Industry: Road Transportation

General Issue Category

Employee Health & Safety

General Issue Category

Employee Health & Safety

Disclosure Topic Workforce Health & Safety

Disclosure Topic Driver Working Conditions

Accounting Metric  Number of reported cases of silicosis\*

Accounting Metric (1) Total recordable incident rate (TRIR) and (2) fatality rate for (a) direct employees and (b) contract employees\*



<sup>\*</sup> Performance metrics are supplemented by "Activity Metrics," basic business data that may assist in the accurate evaluation, normalization, and comparability of disclosure.

# The Genesis of the Human Capital Research Project

**Strong Signals of Market Interest and Engagement** Key shifts in market prioritization: U.S. SEC Modernization of Regulation S-K Fundamental Rulemaking Proposal shifts in **Human Capital Management Coalition** market perspective (HCMC) rulemaking petition to the U.S. prioritizing SEC **HCM** issues 2019 Business Roundtable's Stakeholder Capitalism statement Milestone regulatory/policy action: ISO 30414 Strong EU Commission Directive 2014/95/EU signals of 2015 UK Modern Slavery Act ShareAction Workforce Disclosure Initiative SASB Investor Advisory Group: HCM market polled as #1 ranked priority issue California Gig Economy Bill (AB-5)1 interest & SASB Standards Advisory Group: Recurring theme in recent SAG survey engagement Other private market feedback SASB Increasing regulation and feedback policy globally network

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Passed California State Senate on September 10, 2019

# What is SASB Seeking to Accomplish in This Project?

**Project Fundamentals** 

#### Project description

- Formal research project to:
  - Assess scope &
     prevalence of various
     human capital
     management (HCM)
     themes across SASB's 77
     industries
  - Further develop SASB's evidenced-based, marketinformed view on HCM in the SASB standards

#### Scope

- Scope includes:
  - Production of a framework
  - Extensive research and stakeholder outreach to investors, companies, and subject matter experts to gather evidence
- Application of the framework will enable standard-setting project(s) to drive revisions to the standards

#### Outcomes

- Create a market-informed and evidenced-based framework that identifies the relevant, potentially financially-material human capital general issue categories
- The framework will enable the assessment of these issues on an industry-byindustry basis



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## **How Does SASB Expect to Assess Human Capital in the Standards?**

**Project Plan Structure - Key Objectives** 

Project Plan Key Component	Objective
Executive Summary	Project scope, objectives, and expected outcomes
Introduction	<ul> <li>What is human capital?</li> <li>How is human capital currently incorporated in the codified standards?</li> <li>Why and where are there areas of opportunity for improvement?</li> <li>What is the purpose of the framework?</li> </ul>
Evidence – Literature Review	<ul> <li>How do certain general industry characteristics tie to material financial impacts and broad human capital themes?</li> </ul>
Evidence – Market Consultation	<ul> <li>Validate, vet, and build upon Literature Review findings through market feedback</li> </ul>
Analytical Framework	<ul> <li>Preliminary development</li> <li>Final development</li> <li>See next slide for example</li> </ul>
Findings/Conclusions	Presentation in written form (Format TBD)



# **Connecting Human Capital Issues to Financial Impacts**

**Human Capital Framework - Example** 

Identified Value Drivers	Human Capital – General Issue Category (GIC)	Potential Financial Impact
<ul> <li>Shifting demographics</li> <li>Changing societal expectations of the obligations of the employer to the employee</li> <li>Technology/intellectual capital</li> </ul>	Employee Diversity, Inclusion, & Engagement	<ul> <li>Expenses: COGS, G&amp;A</li> <li>Intangibles: R&amp;D, Patents</li> <li>Long-term assets: PP&amp;E</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Shifting demographics</li> <li>Changing societal expectations of the obligations of the employer to the employee</li> <li>Technology</li> </ul>	Labor Practices	<ul> <li>Long-term liabilities: Pension liabilities</li> </ul>
<ul><li>Employee recruitment/ retention</li><li>Increased regulatory oversight</li></ul>	Employee Health & Safety	<ul><li>Expenses: CAPEX</li><li>Long-term assets: PP&amp;E</li><li>Contingent liabilities</li></ul>





# Accounting for a **Sustainable Future**



# HARNESSING BIG DATA FOR INVESTOR-LED ESG STANDARDS

Two interrelated components

- 1. Collaboration with the Data Science Institute "Data for Good" program at Columbia University.
- 2. The launch of a Civil Society Advisory Group to SASB

Timeframe: April 2020 – March 2021

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### Q&A



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#### THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

# Engaging SASB: Civil Society Call to Action

For more information on Rights CoLab's SASB Project, visit <a href="https://www.rightscolab.org">www.rightscolab.org</a>

For expressions of interest in the Civil Society Advisory Group, contact <a href="mailto:info@rightscolab.org">info@rightscolab.org</a>