



PRESS RELEASE

SASB Presents Preliminary Insights on Human Capital Project

San Francisco, March 3, 2021—Today the SASB Standards Board announced the outcomes of its February 26, 2021 public meeting, including preliminary insights from a recent public consultation on Human Capital, a summary of responses received during a public comment period related to proposed revisions to SASB’s governance documents, and potential research opportunities in the utilities and real estate industries.

“SASB Standards are designed to evolve along with market needs—as such, broad and balanced input is imperative to our process. Our recent meeting provided an opportunity for us to discuss the market input we have received on two critical projects: the feedback we received during the public comment period for our governance documents will help as we look to further strengthen the documents that guide our standard-setting efforts, and the input we solicited during a public consultation on our Human Capital project will be helpful in our effort to review the manner and extent to which human capital issues are reflected across SASB’s 77 industry Standards,” says SASB Standards Board Chair Dr. Jeffrey Hales.

SASB staff presented a summary of preliminary insights from its public consultation on the [Human Capital research project](#), noting general consensus among survey respondents on the relevance of the sub-themes outlined in the [Preliminary Human Capital Framework](#), but varying views on the materiality of these themes by industry. Staff plans to present a full analysis of the Human Capital public consultation at the May Standards Board meeting and will provide deliverables to the Board for its July meeting, including the revised Human Capital Framework, an industry heat map, and an initial set of proposed projects related to human capital.

Next, staff presented a summary of the public comments SASB received on [the Conceptual Framework](#) and [Rules of Procedure exposure drafts](#), which were available for public comment from August 28-December 31, 2020. Public comments received addressed financial materiality, the characteristics for topic and metrics selection, the potential for additional detail and clarity, and considerations related to further alignment with the IASB Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting. Staff will continue to analyze the comments and conduct additional market consultations.

Staff also presented an overview of research and market feedback on three early-stage research opportunities in the Infrastructure sector: renewable energy policies in Electric Utilities; the incorporation of end-use efficiency into business models of Electric, Gas, and Water Utilities; and



healthy buildings in Real Estate. Staff will continue to assess the opportunities and priorities for research and standard setting across the sector.

SASB's rigorous standard-setting process includes evidence-based research, broad and balanced stakeholder participation from companies and investors, and independent oversight and direction from the Standards Board. [Standard-setting meetings](#) of the Standards Board are open to members of the public via livestream and are archived [here](#). The next public meeting is May 5, 2021.

Visit sasb.org for more information about SASB's [standard-setting process](#) and [current projects](#).

About SASB

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) connects businesses and investors on the financial impacts of sustainability. SASB Standards enable businesses around the world to identify, manage, and communicate financially material sustainability information to investors. SASB Standards are industry-specific and are designed to be decision-useful for investors and cost-effective for companies. They are developed using a process that is evidence based and market informed. To download any of the 77 industry-specific standards, or learn more about SASB, please visit [SASB.org](https://sasb.org).

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