



PRESS RELEASE

SASB Initiates New Projects in Consumer Goods and Food & Beverage Sectors

SAN FRANCISCO, February 27, 2020—The [Sustainability Accounting Standards Board](#) (SASB) recently announced three new projects to address key issues raised through evidence-based research and market consultation. One project was added to SASB’s standard-setting agenda to address measuring performance on raw materials sourcing in the Apparel, Accessories & Footwear industry. SASB also expanded its research program to explore two issues. First, the Standards Board deferred voting on a standard-setting project focused on supply chain management in the Tobacco industry but approved additional research on the project. Additionally, the board approved a research project to explore the financial impacts of alternative meat and dairy products in the Food & Beverage sector. All projects were discussed at the [February 25, 2020 public meeting](#) of the [Standards Board](#).

“We believe the most effective way to maintain our standards is to identify priority areas for improvement through our project-based model,” says Standards Board Chair Jeff Hales. “The standard-setting project we recently approved will follow a rigorous process that includes research, consultation, and opportunities for public comment, prior to any Standards Board vote to approve any amendments to a standard.”

The standard-setting project in the Apparel, Accessories & Footwear industry resulted from market feedback requesting clearer measurement guidance on SASB’s existing disclosure topic of Raw Materials Sourcing. As a result, SASB will be considering revisions to the related metrics, including their technical protocols. The research project in the Tobacco industry arose from market feedback indicating interest in the social and environmental impacts of tobacco cultivation. The research project to explore the impacts of alternative meat and dairy products resulted from shifting consumer preferences. For both research projects, SASB will assess evidence of financial materiality prior to forming an opinion on whether to proceed with standard setting on these issues.

“Under the direction of the Standards Board, the SASB staff is actively advancing numerous projects. With the recent addition of one standard-setting project and two research projects, we now have a total of ten projects undergoing our evidence-based and market-informed process,” says SASB Director of Research—Standards Bryan Esterly. “This project-based model ensures that our standards evolve alongside ever-shifting global dynamics.”

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. Standards Board meetings are open to members of the public via livestream. The next meeting is June 22-23 and is



expected to include decisions by the Standards Board on the potential release of exposure drafts of proposed changes related to [other projects](#) previously approved.

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

About SASB

The Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Foundation, which supports and oversees the Standards Board, is an independent, nonprofit international standard-setting organization that develops and maintains robust reporting standards that enable businesses around the world to identify, manage, and communicate financially material sustainability information to investors. SASB standards are evidence based, developed with broad market participation, and are designed to be cost-effective for companies and decision-useful for investors. 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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