COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY · UNDERGRAD & GRAD · AGES 19–28

ESG Reporting Guide

Understanding How Companies Measure & Disclose Impact

This guide introduces the major frameworks companies use to report environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance, and equips students to critically evaluate a real sustainability report.

SECTIONS IN THIS GUIDE

GRI · TCFD · CDP

ESG Reporting Frameworks

GRI (Global Reporting Initiative)

The most widely used sustainability reporting standard, covering economic, environmental, and social impact indicators across an organization’s full value chain.

TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures)

A framework focused specifically on climate-related financial risk, requiring companies to disclose governance, strategy, and risk management around climate change.

CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project)

A global disclosure system where companies report environmental data — carbon emissions, water security, and deforestation risk — that is scored and benchmarked.

THE INVESTOR LENS

What Investors Look For

Institutional investors increasingly weigh ESG performance alongside financial metrics. Understanding what investors scrutinize helps students evaluate whether a company's sustainability claims are substantive or superficial.

Materiality

Does the report focus on issues that genuinely affect the business and its stakeholders, or on easy wins?

Third-party verification

Are emissions and impact figures independently audited, or self-reported without external review?

Year-over-year trends

Is performance improving over time, or does the report show only a single snapshot year?

Target specificity

Are goals time-bound and quantifiable (e.g., "net zero by 2035") or vague aspirations?

DRAFT A MINI ESG DISCLOSURE

Applied Worksheet

Using Pure Form Solution (or another company of your choosing) as a case, draft a short ESG disclosure covering the categories below. Cite any public data you reference.

1. **Environmental: material sourcing & end-of-life impact**

2. **Social: labor practices, community impact, product safety**

3. **Governance: leadership accountability & reporting transparency**

4. **One measurable target for the next 12 months**