

Scorecard

# S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment

## About S&P

COVERAGE OF COMPANIES

**10,000+**

LAUNCH DATE

**1999**

FOCUS

**Corporate ESG scores**

LINK:

<https://www.marketplace.spglobal.com/en/solutions/corporate-sustainability-assessment>

# S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment Score

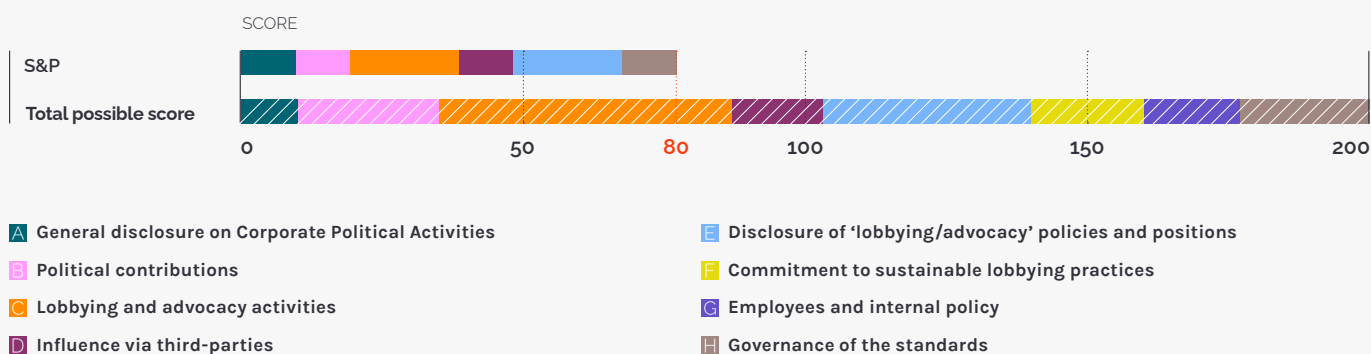


Rank 8 /26

## Tracker Rank and Score for S&P

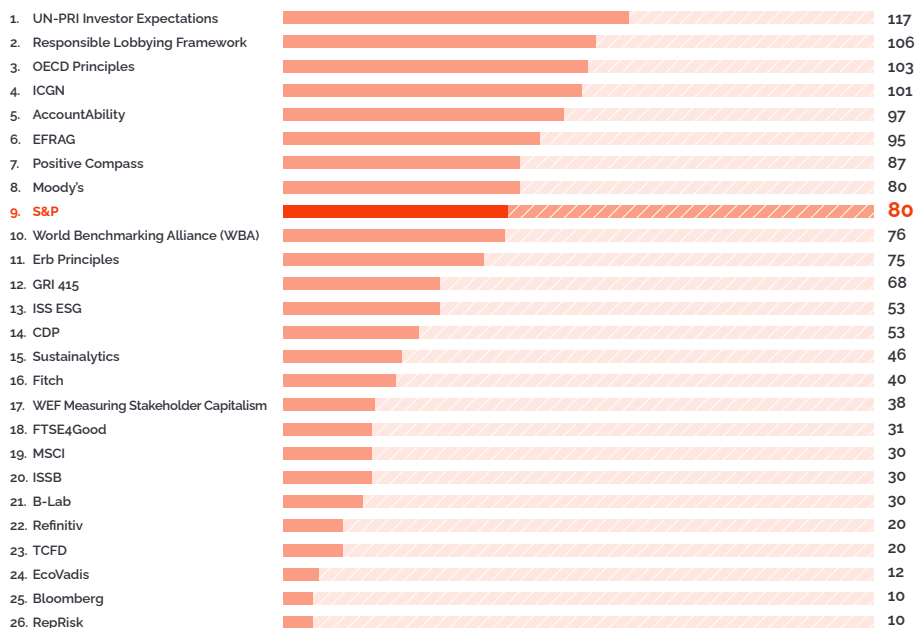
The score is out of a total of 200 and the rank describes the standards position in the 26 standards assessed by the Tracker.

## Category scores of S&P



\*Categories where the standard received no points do not appear in the colour-coded graph

## Rank and scores for all standards



# Description

The S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) provides an annual evaluation of companies' sustainability practices. It covers over 10,000 companies from around the world. According to S&P, the CSA focuses on sustainability criteria that are both industry-specific and financially material and has been an ongoing research and analytical process since its inception in 1999.<sup>1</sup> This makes S&P one of the more well established ESG company ratings providers. The CSA process is designed to generate company ESG Scores that are then made available via the public S&P Global ESG Scores website<sup>2</sup> alongside Percentile Ranks based on those scores which are shared on the Bloomberg data platform.<sup>3</sup>

## Summary

**The S&P ESG ratings methodology receives a Tracker score of 80 out of a possible total of 200.** The assessment methodology touches on corporate political activities and associated risks and opportunities in an indirect manner. As with the other ESG rating agency methodologies, the review of materiality issues, materiality assessments, and emerging risks provides an opportunity for companies to consider risks associated with their political activities but this information is never requested directly. The S&P methodology earns points in Tracker Category A, 'general disclosure on corporate political activities,' and in category B, 'political contributions.' Sections in the S&P methodology on ethics and codes of business conduct miss the opportunity to fully consider a firm's corporate political activities.

The S&P questions on policy influence ask for disclosures on the amount of money companies are allocating to organisations whose primary role is to create or influence public policy, legislation and regulations. Yet companies completing the assessment are also given the option of selecting the answer **"We do not track our largest contributions or expenditures for political and related purposes."** These inconsistencies and a number of significant gaps in the approach, including on employee conduct, suggest that the S&P methodology can be significantly improved in order to better capture reputational and legal risks associated with corporate political activities and other forms of lobbying.

# Opportunities for improvement

The S&P assessment does not currently consider a firm's commitment to sustainable lobbying practices in the assessment questionnaire. The S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment<sup>4</sup> methodology scores zero in two Tracker categories: Category F, 'Commitment to sustainable lobbying practices,' and Category G, 'Employees and internal policy.' Where a standard scores zero on the Tracker assessment methodology, The Good Lobby engages with the standard provider to enable a more consistent and effective assessment of lobbying conduct in those categories. In the case of large, sophisticated global data and index providers such as S&P, The Good Lobby expects improvement over time in capturing important data on corporate political activities to inform ESG ratings and also, even more importantly, index construction.

## Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.spglobal.com/esg/csa/>
- 2 <https://www.spglobal.com/esg/solutions/data-intelligence-esg-scores?>
- 3 'ESG Data:' <https://www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/esg-data/>
- 4 'Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2023:' <https://www.spglobal.com/esg/csa/>

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