

GREEN PAPER SERIES 2021 SUMMARY

Impact of 2020 on Corporate Sustainability Reporting

This research paper analyzes how the events of 2020, including both the COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice movement, have affected the general field of corporate sustainability.

The researchers analyzed the CSR reports of 18 different companies. Companies were selected across 6 different industries based on their S&P 500 ESG Index scores. A matrix of 23 quantitative and 25 qualitative metrics was used to compare trends across companies and sectors. The companies included in the analysis are displayed below:



The results of that analysis can be divided into external and internal trends:

External Trends

How have companies and industries responded to the socio-cultural, political, economic, and public health changes of 2020?

General Trends

- COVID-19 Relief Initiatives
- Supporting Small Businesses
- Social Justice Initiatives
- Empowering Technology to Aid COVID-19 Global Response
- Empowering Technology to Aid Education

Industry-specific Trends

- **Apparel Industry** – Leveraged Existing Supply Chain to Generate Supplies & PPE for Frontline Workers
- **Financial Services Industry** – Aided Small Businesses with Stimulus Packages & Initiatives
- **Food & Beverage Industry** – Mobilized Food for the Vulnerable
- **Healthcare Industry** – Focused on Community Health and Alleviating Health Inequities
- **Technology Industry** – Digital Software to Aid Education
- **Transportation Industry** – More Flexible Deliveries and Shipping

Internal Trends

How have the companies' relationships with their stakeholders changed in and beyond 2020?

General Trends

- Progress on Climate Goals
- Integration of Climate Risk into Business Model
- Virtual Volunteering
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives
- Special Accommodations for Employees

Industry-specific Trends

- **Apparel Industry** – Increased Digital Footprint
- **Financial Services Industry** – Climate-Focused Investments
- **Food & Beverage Industry** – Worker Safety Protocols
- **Healthcare Industry** – Telehealth Visits
- **Transportation Industry** – Electric Vehicle Integration, Alternative Fuels, Route Optimization
- **Technology Industry** – Accommodations for Teleworking Employees
- **Transportation Industry** – Continued Progress Towards Climate Goals

More details on these trends and others uncovered in the analysis are available within the [full report](#).

Lead Authors: Evelyn Wan '22 & Cartoon Nawaphan Watanasirisuk '21