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.

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