



THE INSTITUTE OF
Company Secretaries of India

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Statutory body under an Act of Parliament

(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

Vision

"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टं कुरु। तृप्तये। अनेके भूते भव।

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

ESG CATALYST

A JOURNEY TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



The ICSI has always promoted good corporate governance, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility among stakeholders including its members as well as students' community.

The "ESG Catalyst" is a bimonthly initiative launched by the ICSI to build awareness about the ESG amongst the professionals by sharing key ESG term, write-up, promising practices and latest developments in ESG domain with professional fraternity.

Company Secretaries are vital in ESG reporting, ethical governance, and stakeholder engagement. By implementing ESG initiatives in their organisations, the Company Secretaries can drive positive change towards a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.

Through this initiative of ICSI, we urge upon the professional's fraternity to take a lead in prioritising and setting the ESG agenda in their respective organisation in alignment with the sustainable development goals.

To embark on this journey, the ICSI will continuously mentor the professionals by sharing knowledge on concepts, sustainable practices and latest developments in ESG.

VOL.2/NO.08/28TH APRIL, 2025



Sustainable Digitalization

Sustainable Digitalization means using digital technology in a way that supports long-term environmental care, social well-being and economic stability. It's about transforming digitally while being thoughtful of the planet and people. It refers to the process of digitalising the economy in a long-lasting, green, and organic way. It ensures that technological advancements prioritize ethical considerations and environmental sustainability throughout their lifecycle.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has taken certain initiatives for sustainable digitalization such as:

- **World Environment Situation Room** is an online platform developed and maintained by UNEP. It serves as a global hub for free and universal access to crucial environmental data, information and knowledge. Its primary goal is to keep a vigilant watch over the state of the world's environment.
- **Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES)** launched in 2021 offers a wealth of resources and opportunities for global contributors to set priorities, take concerted action and develop capacities for inclusive and sustainability-driven digital transformation.
- **EnvironmentGPT** is an application for distilling the world's vast environmental science into actionable insights i.e., transforming complex environmental data and scientific findings into practical, usable information that can be used to make informed decisions and take effective actions to address environmental challenges.

Sustainable Digitalization can contribute to achieve various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including:

- **SDG 4 (quality education)** – digital tools expand access to education & opportunities, bridging gaps across regions and populations;
- **SDG 13 (climate action)** – digital technologies can facilitate climate monitoring, data analysis, and the development of sustainable solutions.
- **SDG 9 (industry, innovation & infrastructure)** – digitalization fosters innovation, builds resilient infrastructure etc.

Aligning sustainable digitalization with SDGs ensures that digital progress benefits both people and the planet paving the way for a more smarter and greener world.

Good Practices in ESG

ENVIRONMENTAL

Organisations should assess the ecological impact before adopting or implementing new technologies, and consider better sustainable options.

SOCIAL

Organisations may design and create digital products accessible to people with disabilities and underserved communities.

GOVERNANCE

Organisations should implement strong data governance and user consent practices.

VOL.2/NO.08/28TH APRIL, 2025

Tips for Environment Friendly Initiatives

Promote Safe Disposal
of Electronic Devices

Adjust screen brightness to
avoid harmful impact on eyesight

Switch off appliances
which are not in frequent
use to save energy

News in ESG

(i) **UK Government released Carbon Credit “Integrity Principles” to advance Carbon Markets**

The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, UK has launched a consultation on a set of six “integrity principles” for carbon and nature credit markets, aiming to build trust, enhance transparency, and accelerate private sector investment in climate action. The consultation is open until 10 July, 2025.

The voluntary carbon and nature credit markets are expected to see significant growth as corporates use credits to balance hard-to-abate emissions while working toward absolute emissions reduction.

The six proposed integrity principles cover expectations for credit suppliers, corporate buyers, and market participants. These include:

- Ensuring credits meet recognized high-integrity environmental criteria
- Disclosing credit usage in sustainability reporting
- Aligning credit use with 1.5°C transition plans
- Using accurate terminology in environmental claims
- Promoting cross-sector cooperation for high-integrity market growth
- Using credits only as a supplement to in-value-chain emissions reductions

Source: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67ff86a6ed87b81608546788/vcnm-integrity-consultation-document.pdf>

(ii) **FSSAI organised National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Packaging for Food Business**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, launched National Stakeholder Consultation on “Sustainable Packaging for Food Business: Emerging Global Trends and Regulatory Framework” on April 16, 2025. The consultation focused on global trends and regulatory frameworks shaping the future of food packaging in India. The consultation featured a Technical Session wherein Chairperson of “FSSAI’s Scientific Panel on Packaging” gave a presentation on the scientific basis, risk assessment principles and transparent consultative approach employed by FSSAI while framing robust scientific standards.

FSSAI announced the completion of guidelines for the use of recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET), in food packaging. The guidelines (yet to be notified) were developed after extensive consultation with industry and regulatory partners. A new logo to help consumers identify sustainable packaging was also unveiled, aiming to make it easier to distinguish eco-friendly products.

Source: <http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=2122326>

(iii) **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Consults on Sector Specific Sustainability Disclosure Standards for the Banking, Capital Markets, and Insurance Industries**

Recognizing the central role of financial institutions in promoting business models fit for the future and underpinning a well-functioning global economy, GRI is consulting on a new set of Sector Standards for Financial Services.

VOL.2/NO.08/28TH APRIL, 2025

The proposed standards provide a comprehensive approach to assess the impact of financial services organizations, rather than focusing on a specific topic or set of topics; thereby supporting banking, capital markets and insurance sectors to achieve internationally consistent sustainability reporting.

The new standards aim to promote “internationally consistent sustainability reporting” on the economic, environmental, and societal impacts of financial services organizations. The sector-specific standards provide context for sustainability-disclosures; help reporting entities understand stakeholder expectations; and “outline material topics and list relevant disclosures.” GRI is consulting on the exposure drafts of its three sector-specific standards until May 31, 2025.

Source: <https://insights.issgovernance.com/posts/the-latest-in-esg-and-stewardship-regulation-april-2025-esg-financial-regulation-bulletin/>

(iv) New Carbon Credit Mechanism Offers a Real Opening for Voluntary Climate Action

The Government of India has approved Offset Mechanism under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2024. For the first time, non-obligated entities, that includes private businesses, project developers, and community-led initiatives, will have a formal avenue to generate and trade carbon credits outside the compliance-driven boundaries of the Perform Achieve Trade (PAT) or Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) schemes.

Detailed procedure has been introduced for offset mechanism for eight different segments, including for renewable energy, green hydrogen production, industrial energy efficiency, landfill methane recovery, and mangrove afforestation and reforestation.

The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) includes two mechanisms: Compliance and Offset. In the compliance mechanism, obligated entities shall comply with the GHG intensity targets as notified by the Central Government. In the offset mechanism, non-obligated entities can register activities that lead to GHG emission reductions

or avoidance or removals for issuance of carbon credit certificates.

The document has the following 5 sections:

- **Section A:** Registration and Issuance Procedure
- **Section B:** Project Standard
- **Section C:** Validation and Verification Standard
- **Section D:** Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Standard
- **Section E:** Methodology Development and Adoption Procedure

Sources: https://beeindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Detailed%20Procedure%20for%20Offset%20Mechanism_CCTS.pdf

<https://sustainabilitynext.in/new-carbon-credit-mechanism-offers-a-real-opening-for-voluntary-climate-action/>

We hope that the above information provided in the ESG Catalyst will be useful for professionals and inspire them to adopt ESG practices. Your suggestions and inputs on ESG Catalyst may be shared by email at esgsb@icsi.edu.

VOL.2/NO.08/28TH APRIL, 2025

