



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। अनेकेषु कुरु।

#### 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.

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## WATER FOOTPRINT\*

The water footprint measures the amount of water used to produce goods or render services. It can be attributed to a single process, product, entire organization or country as a whole. The water footprint looks at both direct and indirect use of water for a process, product, company or sector and includes water consumption and pollution throughout the full production cycle from the supply chain to the end-user.

It is also possible to use the water footprint to measure the amount of water required to produce all the goods and services consumed by the individual or community, a nation or all of humanity. This also includes the direct water footprint, which is the water used directly by the individual(s) and the indirect water footprint i.e., the summation of the water footprints of all the products consumed.

The water footprint has three components: green, blue and grey. **Green water footprint** is water from precipitation that is stored in the root zone of the soil and evaporated, transpired or incorporated by plants. It is particularly relevant for agricultural, horticultural and forestry products. **Blue water footprint** is water that has been sourced from surface or groundwater resources and is either evaporated, incorporated into a product or taken from one body of water and returned to another, or returned at a different time. Irrigated agriculture, industry and domestic water use can each have a blue water footprint. **Grey water footprint** is the amount of fresh water required to assimilate pollutants to meet specific water quality standards. The grey water footprint considers point-source pollution discharged to a freshwater resource directly through a pipe or indirectly through runoff or leaching from the soil, impervious surfaces, or other diffuse sources.

## Good Practices in ESG

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Organisations should ascertain water footprints of its products/services and their impact on the environment.

### SOCIAL

Organisations may conduct awareness campaign on reducing water footprints.

### GOVERNANCE

Organisations should adopt a water footprint policy for all its plants and offices.

## Tips for Environment Friendly Initiatives

Practice Water Conservation

Promote Virtual Meetings

Quit Smoking & Spitting

\*<https://www.waterfootprint.org>

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## News in ESG

### (i) UK unveils draft of Transition Finance Guidelines

The Transition Finance Council of United Kingdom (UK) has launched a public consultation on new draft Transition Finance Guidelines, a framework designed to unlock capital for high-emitting industries and position the country as a global hub for transition finance. By focusing on companies rather than individual projects, the guidelines are designed to be flexible, proportionate, and practical, offering a voluntary framework that helps distinguish credible transition finance from greenwashing. It sets out a series of principles and factors that apply across asset classes and geographies, including emerging markets.

Global investors, financial institutions, and regulators are invited to comments by 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 to submit feedback on the draft guidelines, which are seen as a first step in shaping international consensus on transition finance standards.

**Source:** <https://tinyurl.com/UKtransitionfinance>

### (ii) Philippines to Launch Carbon Credit Policy for Energy Sector

The Philippines is preparing to introduce a Carbon Credit Policy for its energy sector that will help the country to access growing carbon markets while accelerating the shift to cleaner power. The draft policy outlines rules for generating and trading carbon credits, while aligning the Philippines' commitments with the Paris Agreement. It is also designed to encourage private investment in renewable energy and emissions-reduction projects. The initiative follows a 2024 Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore to collaborate on carbon credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which enables cross-border cooperation in emissions reduction.

Public consultation with different stakeholders is underway to refine the policy framework as well as preparations for participation in international carbon markets. The proposed Carbon Credit Policy complements the Philippine Energy Plan 2023–2050, which targets expanded renewable energy use, improved efficiency measures, and the development of a low-carbon, sustainable energy system.

**Source:** <https://tinyurl.com/philippinescarbonpolicy>

### (iii) Qatar Expands Green Finance Strategy

Qatar is accelerating its sustainable transformation by issuing its first sovereign green bonds and updating its sovereign green assets register, which tracks environmentally friendly assets and underpins investor confidence through transparency. Its first sovereign green bond allocation report has also been released.

Beyond finance, Qatar is advancing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address climate vulnerabilities, focusing on safeguarding its economy, population, and coastal areas. This initiative aligns with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and global climate resilience goals. The plan complements the Qatar Central Bank's sustainable finance framework, which sets guidelines for green and sustainability-linked finance, aiming to unlock growth opportunities and strengthen market adoption.

**Source:** <https://tinyurl.com/Qatargreenbonds>

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#### (iv) **UN Global Compact launched Central Asia Network**

The UN Global Compact has launched the Central Asia Network, a multi-country office uniting over 140 companies across five nations i.e., Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to accelerate sustainable business practices and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Until now, sustainability efforts in these countries have largely operated independently.

The initiative will provide companies with tools, training, and global connections to improve corporate governance, foster transparency, and meet rising demands for decarbonization and ethical labour practices. The new network aims to break down silos, building trust through joint training, regional dialogue, and cross-border business alliances. With more than 60% of the population under 30 years of age, Central Asia's youth are pushing for an economic model rooted in ethics, opportunity, and environmental responsibility.

**Source:** <https://tinyurl.com/UNGCsouthasia>

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](mailto:esgsb@icsi.edu).

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