

ESG Integration Forum – Summer 2020

An interactive, virtual event

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

LIVE: 9 am – 3 pm Eastern. Available for replay

Agenda

All times below are in EDT (Eastern)

9.00 am Welcome to our ESG Integration Forum – Summer edition

9.15 am What does Covid-19 mean for ESG and long-termism: is ESG a luxury of a long bull run?

- Trend check: What is the impact of Covid-19 on ESG in 2020?
- How is the pandemic influencing the way investors are looking at and thinking about ESG?
- With the ESG landscape rapidly evolving, what should corporates be focused on?
- Impact on shareholder commitment to sustainability issues such as climate change
- Does investor focus on human capital management reduce focus on sustainability issues?

10.00 am Outcomes of proxy season: Which ESG proposals received widespread support?

- Trend check, risks and opportunities: Lessons from 2020
- How are certain sectors responding to climate related shareholder proposals?
- What were the major ESG-related proxy disclosure trends?
- How much focus or change has been placed on CEO compensation this proxy season?
- What are the considerations for boards and companies following the outcomes of this proxy season?
- Will proposals ultimately affect change, even if the resolutions failed?
- What is the impact of ESG proposals? Did ESG investors side with management?

10.45 am Reforming the proxy process – a debate on role of the SEC and others

In November 2019, the SEC voted in favor of proposed amendments to rule 14a-8, which governs the shareholder proposals that make it onto the ballot. The proposal has proved controversial with thousands of comment letters submitted during the comment period – in particular around the changes being made to shareholder proposal resubmission thresholds and to ownership thresholds. During this session, we'll explore arguments for and against the suggested changes and its potential impact.

11.15 am Breakout sessions and networking

11.45 am Telling your ESG story in a virtual environment

- Developing an integrated approach around investor expectations in the pandemic
- Communicating ESG efforts effectively to investors – virtually and in the current context
- Off season engagement and ESG roadshows
- Effectively telling the long-term story to deepen shareholder engagement
- Weaving purpose, vision and value into your ESG narrative and other best practice tips
- Prioritizing the most important communications channels to tell an impactful ESG story
- Examples of ESG best practices in the virtual world – adapting the message well
- Formulating next steps and making the most of the company's resources

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12.30 pm **Regulations, ratings and reporting: A look at best practices**

- Is the standardization of ESG ratings and reporting a pipedream or possibility?
- As E, S & G issues continue to expand, what is the impact on future reporting/rating systems?
- Does the current system of disclosure favor large caps? What can be done to reduce the gap?
- Will ESG frameworks converge to one system in the next decade or grow with new players?
- How to balance the deck across sectors in terms of standards applied for ESG ratings?

1.00 pm **How to make your ESG reporting stand-out**

A look at recent sustainability communication trends and best practice. How can companies ensure what they are focused on actually matters and can a more active approach attract active audiences?

1.30 pm **Breakout sessions and networking**

2.00 pm **Launching an ESG program during a pandemic and building support internally**

- How should a company go about developing their ESG strategy and disclosure?
- First-time ESG program and reporting best practices: first steps, process and tips
- Opportunities, risks and challenges for small corporations launching ESG programs
- What to prioritize to make sure you get the most positive impact from governance firms?
- Pros and cons of engaging a third-party ESG consultant vs. handling ESG priorities internally

2.45 pm **Summary and wrap up**

3.00 pm **End of event**