

ESG Integration Forum – Summer 2020

An interactive, virtual event

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

LIVE: 9 am – 3.30 pm Eastern. Available for replay

Agenda: All times below are in EDT (Eastern)

9.00 am Welcome to our ESG Integration Forum – Summer edition

Laurie Havelock, editor-at-large, *IR Magazine*

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?

Jessica McDougall, vice president, investment stewardship and corporate governance, BlackRock

Dottie Schindlinger, executive director, Diligent Institute

Ariel Smilowitz, analyst, investment stewardship, BlackRock

Moderator: Laurie Havelock, editor-at-large, *IR Magazine*

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

- Trends, 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 proxy season outcomes?
- Will proposals ultimately affect change, even if the resolutions failed?
- What is the impact of ESG proposals? Did ESG investors side with management?

Alexandra Higgins, managing director, Okapi Partners

Ron Schneider, director of corporate governance services, Donnelley Financial Solutions (DFIN)

Moderator: Laurie Havelock, editor-at-large, *IR Magazine*

10.45 am Breakout sessions and networking

- Why is ESG material? An experienced board director's view on enterprise risk management
Joyce Cacho, president, Adinura Advisory Services
- Evolving expectations on corporate climate lobbying: Ceres blueprint to responsible policy engagement on climate change
Veena Ramani, senior program director, capital market systems, Ceres

11.15 am A debate for and against: Reforming shareholder proposal thresholds

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.

Andrew Behar, CEO, As You Sow

Patrick Foley, securities counsel, General Motors

Arielle Katzman, associate, Shearman & Sterling

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12.00 pm **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

Evan Barth, general counsel, IBM

Maureen Wolff, CEO, Sharon Merrill

Brian Tomlinson, director of research, CEO investor forum, CECF

Moderator: Laurie Havelock, editor-at-large, *IR Magazine*

1.00 pm **Breakout sessions and networking**

- ESG and shareholder engagement: A discussion about how investors communicate ESG expectations through engagement: [Alexandra Higgins, managing director, Okapi Partners](#)

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

- 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?
- How can IR and governance teams develop investor-facing ESG reports that perform well with ratings agencies?

Ben Kruse, director – global ESG reporting and insights, CSR, AT&T

Nicolai Lundy, director of partnerships and market outreach, SASB

Huub Savelkoul, chief sustainability officer, Philip Morris International

Janice Warren, managing director, head of ESG reporting solutions, Nasdaq

Moderator: Ben Ashwell, editor, *IR Magazine*

2.30 pm **Developing an ESG program during a pandemic and building support internally**

- How should a company go about launching or improving their ESG strategy and disclosure?
- What can you do to drive your sustainability agenda amidst all the noise around Covid-19?
- 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

Yonni Fushman, executive vice president, chief legal officer and secretary, Aecon Group

Karen Keyes, senior investor relations professional

Sean Wilson, chief administrative officer and corporate secretary, Gibson Energy

Moderator: Ben Ashwell, editor, *IR Magazine*

3.15 pm **Summary and wrap up**

3.30 pm **End of event**