

# SUSTAINABILITY WATCH

Evalueserve's Monthly ESG Newsletter

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### EUROPE

Tightening the ESG rulebook, driving traceability, circularity, and nature finance

### APAC

Accelerating green transition, strengthening decarbonization, tightening carbon accountability, and unlocking finance to embed sustainability into growth

The EU is advancing product-level traceability through Digital Product Passports while refining battery circularity rules and strengthening forest resilience via improved seed traceability.

The UK and Wales are driving circular economy practices through deposit return schemes and high-integrity nature investment standards.

Switzerland is aligning sustainability reporting with EU frameworks, and the GHG Protocol is tightening Scope 3 emissions reporting, reinforcing global expectations for robust value chain accountability.

## **EFRAG Seeks Industry Input on New Voluntary ESG Standards**

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EFRAG has launched a call for expressions of interest to help shape a voluntary sustainability reporting standard for non-SME companies outside the CSRD scope. The initiative targets firms below key thresholds and seeks input from companies, investors, and auditors through consultations and research activities, supporting practical, market-aligned ESG disclosures amid reduced mandatory reporting requirements.

## **SSB Launches Consultation on Key SASB Standards Revisions**

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The ISSB has issued an exposure draft proposing amendments to three SASB Standards, viz. Agricultural Products, Meat, Poultry & Dairy, and Electric Utilities & Power Generators, to enhance global applicability and investor usefulness. The updates aim to align SASB with ISSB Standards, improve interoperability, and maintain consistency with IFRS S2 guidance. Stakeholder feedback is invited until 24 July 2026.

## **New UK Nature Market Standards Aim to Boost Investment and Integrity**

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The British Standards Institution has released nature market standards to enhance clarity, consistency, and integrity, aiming to boost investor confidence and scale private finance for nature recovery. Building on overarching principles (Flex 701), new biodiversity (Flex 702) and nutrient (Flex 704) standards set requirements for credit design and verification, supported by guidance to drive credible, high-integrity nature markets.

## **EU Unveils Digital Product Passport Registry for Enhanced Traceability**

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The EU Digital Product Passport Registry will serve as a central reference infrastructure under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, enabling identification, discovery and access to Digital Product Passports across the Single Market. It supports interoperability and enforcement without hosting full product data, ensuring traceability, transparency and regulatory compliance, with rollout aligned to phased DPP implementation from 2026 onward.

Japan is advancing its decarbonization agenda through a strengthened legal framework for CCS, alongside updated airport management policies that emphasize climate resilience, governance, and decarbonisation.

China has introduced stricter accountability measures for carbon peaking and neutrality, reinforcing performance evaluation systems for local governments and accelerating its green transition strategy.

Vietnam has launched its first ESG-linked green financing incentive, tying preferential interest rates to sustainability compliance, while the Philippines is promoting climate-resilient housing through lower capital requirements for green loans.

## Singapore to Establish the Council for a Competitive Climate Transition

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The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) will launch the Council for a Competitive Climate Transition (C3T), a public private platform, in partnership with the National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS). The role of the council is to help businesses strengthen climate resilience, manage risks, and capture green growth opportunities, ensuring competitiveness in a climate transition.

## New Zealand Amends Standards on Auditing and Assurance

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The External Reporting Board (XRB) revised auditing and assurance standards to strengthen ethical requirements, clarify auditor responsibilities, and align with sustainability assurance frameworks. Key changes include stricter rules on using experts, expanded definitions of “other information,” and integration with ISSA 5000 for sustainability assurance engagements.

## Japan Publishes Policy on Supply Chain Security Countermeasure Evaluation System

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The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has announced the Supply Chain Security (SCS) Evaluation System framework, which sets common criteria to assess and visualize companies’ cybersecurity measures, aiming to strengthen supply chain resilience, reduce burdens on contractors, and raise overall security standards. The system will begin implementation by late FY2026.

## India Requires National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) Certification for Social Impact Assessors

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The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated that all social impact assessors obtain NISM certification to ensure credibility, standardization, and investor protection. The certification validates assessors’ knowledge of securities markets, impact measurement, and compliance, addressing concerns over inconsistent practices and strengthening transparency in social impact assessments.

Empower your sustainability journey.  
Navigate ESG controversies with confidence!

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