



GLOBAL UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)

MAS sets aside \$35 million to Support Upskilling Singapore's Financial Services Sector Workforce in Sustainable Finance

- The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF), with support from Workforce Singapore (WSG), introduce the Sustainable Finance Jobs Transformation Map (JTM) to address the impact of sustainability on Singapore's financial sector employment landscape.
- According to the JTM study, the ASEAN sustainable finance market is projected to reach S\$4 to 5 trillion over the next decade, highlighting the need for a skilled workforce to capitalize on this growth. Over 50,000 professionals will see new sustainable finance-related tasks integrated into their roles, particularly in areas like Risk, Compliance and Legal, and Product Management.
- The JTM identifies 20 high-priority job roles for upskilling, including Relationship Managers and Portfolio Managers, who require expertise in sustainable finance instruments and strategies.
- MAS commits S\$35 million from the Financial Sector Development Fund to support upskilling efforts over the next three years. Initiatives include expanding sustainable finance course offerings, launching undergraduate programs, and implementing an IBF Skills Badge to recognize professionals' mastery of sustainable finance skills and facilitate skills-based hiring and promotion.

BlackRock-backed Decarbonization Partners raises \$1.4 bn for first fund

- Decarbonization Partners, a collaboration between BlackRock and Temasek, exceeds its fundraising target by raising \$1.4 billion for its first fund, attracting over 30 institutional investors from 18 countries.
- The fund, focused on late-stage growth equity and companies driving the transition to a low-carbon economy, The fund, Decarbonization Partners Fund I, has already invested in seven companies including low-carbon hydrogen firm Monolith, biotechnology firm MycoWorks, and electric battery material firm Group14.
- The fund aims to deliver financial returns while achieving significant decarbonization outcomes, supported by strategic guidance and resources for portfolio companies.

Robeco positions Asian Bonds fund for transition investing

- Robeco announces plans to launch a new range of transition investing strategies, targeting alpha in companies making sustainable transitions across various industries, including carbon-intensive sectors that are making the sustainable transition..
- With its public market frameworks (for bonds and listed equities), Robeco makes transition investing available to broader audiences, starting where the investment opportunities are most stark – in Asia and emerging markets.
- Robeco's approach will distinguish transition leaders from laggards using frameworks and principles such as intentionality, measurability, and credibility, aiming to drive meaningful change across sectors while generating financial returns.

FCA Proposes Anti-Greenwashing and Sustainability Disclosure Rules for Portfolio Managers

- FCA proposes extending Sustainability Disclosure Requirements (SDR) to portfolio managers, aiming to combat greenwashing and enhance transparency in investment products.
- The proposal mirrors previous SDR requirements for asset managers released in November 2023, which included anti-greenwashing rules and guidelines for naming and marketing funds based on sustainability characteristics.
- Portfolio managers catering to retail investors and wealth management services would be subject to the new rules, with a focus on ensuring clarity and accuracy in sustainability-related claims.
- Under the new proposal, portfolio managers would be subject to the new naming and marketing rule on December 2, 2024, the same date as asset managers, and would also be able to begin using the labels at the same time. Firms with assets under management greater than £50 billion would be required to begin providing product-level disclosures under the SDR from December 2025, and those with AUM greater than £5 billion from December 2026.

Carbon removals: MEPs adopt a new EU certification scheme

- European Parliament lawmakers vote to adopt a new law establishing a certification system for carbon removals, aiming to combat greenwashing and enhance trust in carbon removal technologies.
- The legislation covers different types of carbon removals, namely permanent carbon storage through industrial technologies, carbon storage in long-lasting products and carbon farming.
- The certification framework, forming part of the EU's climate strategy, aims to quantify, monitor, and verify carbon removals, with a focus on ensuring quality and comparability of projects.
- The finalized rules differentiate between categories of carbon removal and emission reduction activities, emphasizing the importance of sustainability objectives, liability mechanisms, and co-benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems in carbon farming practices.