# **MSCI ESG Ratings**

MSCI ESG Research LLC

**April 2021** 



# **Introducing MSCI ESG Research**

First ESG provider to assess companies based on industry financial materiality<sup>1</sup>

**Toronto** 

Monterrev

Chicago

San Francisco

1500+

ESG equity & fixed income **ESG Research** ratings and data

indices use MSCI

1 Through our legacy companies KLD, Innovest, IRRC, and GMI Ratings. ESG Ratings dating back to 1999. <sup>2</sup> Source: MSCI ESG Research as of March 2021. Includes full time employees, employees of foreign affiliates providing investment advisory services to MSCI ESG Research LLC, and global allocated staff performing non-investment advisory tasks.

\* Representative office for business development.





1700+

clients









São Paulo\*

MSCI 🛞

London

**Paris** 

**Portland** 

**Boston** 

**New York** 

Gaithersbur

The Independent Research in Responsible Investment Survey MSCI voted Best Firm for SRI Research, Corporate Governance and Sustainability Indexes for the fourth consecutive year Information Classification. GENERAL

Stockholm

**Potsdam** 

Geneva

Cape Town

Mumbai

Frankfurt

Zurich



Seoul

Singapore

Sydney

WINNER

Beijing

Tokyo

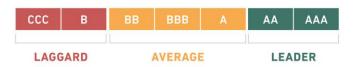
**Hong Kong** 

Manila

2020 ESG Trends project: What are the big challenges for the new decade?

# MSCI's approach to ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings assess the extent to which companies are positioned to manage the risks and take advantage of the opportunities emerging from a rapidly changing world









Forward-looking financial materiality: We monitor emerging risks & opportunities and focus on the issues that are most relevant to a company's core business model.

#### Alternative data & models:

Alternative data helps minimize reliance on voluntary disclosure to deliver key insights.

Robust models transform unstructured data into meaningful signals.

# Tech-enabled human insights: We use

insights: We use technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to increase the timeliness and precision of data collection and analysis, and to check and validate data.

Our 200+ strong team of analysts vet, validate and transform the data into meaningful insights



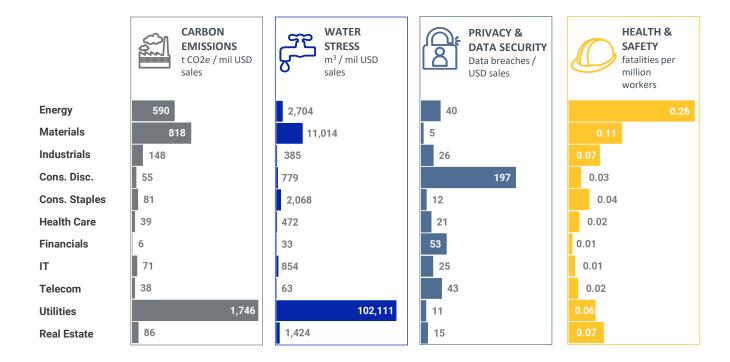
# MSCI ESG Rating model key issues

Example: Soft Drinks Sub-Industry

MSCI ESG Score									
ENVIRONMENT PILLAR				SOCIAL PILLAR				GUVERNANCE PILLAR	
Climate Change	Natural Capital	Pollution & Waste	Env. Opportuniti es	Human Capital	Product Liability	Stakeholder Opposition	Social Opportuniti es	Corporate Governance	Corporate Behavior
Carbon Emissions	Water Stress	Toxic Emissions & Waste	Clean Tech	Labor Managemen t	Product Safety & Quality	Controversia I Sourcing	Access to Communicat ion	Board	Business Ethics
Product Carbon Footprint	Biodiversity & Land Use	Packaging Material & Waste	Green Building	Health & Safety	Financial System Instability	Community Relations	Access to Finance	Pay	Tax Transparenc y
Financing Environment al Impact	Raw Material Sourcing	Electronic Waste	Renewable Energy	Human Capital Developmen t	Consumer Financial Protection		Access to Health Care	Ownership	
Change				Supply Chain Labor Standards	Privacy & Data Security		Opportuniti es in Nutrition & Health	Accounting	
Key issues selected for the Soft Drinks Sub- Industry (e.g. Coca-Cola)				Responsible Investment					
Universal key issues applicable to all industries				Insuring Health & Demograp hic Risk					



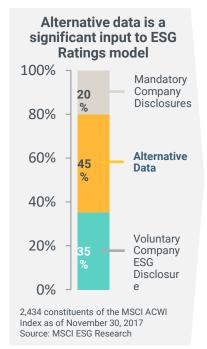
# Which issues are more relevant?





Sources: Carbon emissions and freshwater withdrawal intensities based on sample of 3,823 and 1,633 companies, respectively as of March 2, 2020. Percentage of companies with active bribery and ethics controversies is based on the number of companies with ongoing bribery & fraud controversies in the MSCI ACWI Investable Market Index (IMI) as of March 2, 2020. Fatalities per million workers calculated based on three-year average fatality rates from the Census of Occupational Injuries (US Bureau of Labor Statistics). Data breach intensity calculated based on three-year average of the number data breaches by sector (Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report) and business segments for companies in the MSCI ACWI Index as of March 2, 2020. Information Classification: GENERAL

# Alternative data helps minimize reliance on voluntary disclosure to deliver key insights



#### Problems to solve:

- The company does not self disclose sufficient information to gauge its risk management capabilities on the topic
- Risks may emerge at the macro level, requiring information external to the company

Alternative data sets are information about a company published by sources outside of the company. We use them to:

- Deliver insight not captured with voluntary company disclosures
- Identify unexplored risks and opportunities
- Create innovative signals



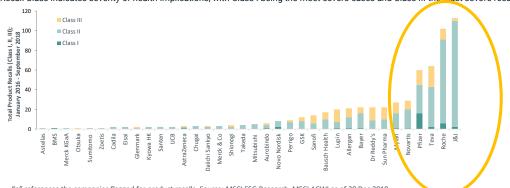


# Example: Measuring exposure to product liability issues requires more than company disclosure



#### Example: pharmaceutical industry (Jan'16-Jul'18) - identifying outliers

Description: Recall Class indicates severity of health implications, with Class I being the most severe cases and Class III the least severe recall types.

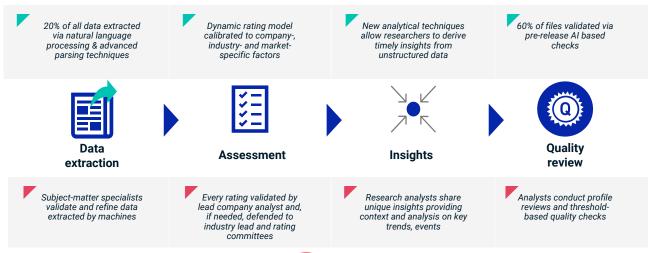




# Tech-enabled human insights



We use technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to increase the timeliness and precision of data collection and analysis, and to check and validate data

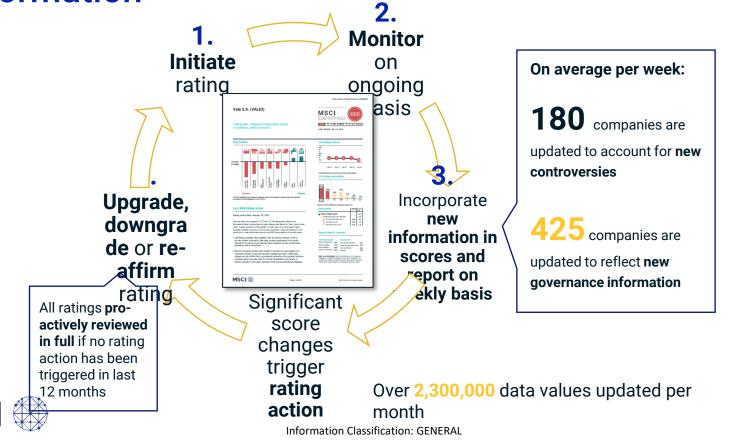


Our 200+ strong team of analysts vet, validate and transform the data into meaningful insights





Frequent updates capture the latest events and information



# Systematic data verification process incorporating issuer feedback



8 people dedicated to issuer communications, representing

210+ ESG analysts.



One portal enabling issuers to download their rating, verify their data and learn about ESG



25 events to educate issuers on ESG investing including 2 consultations to gather their feedback

#### INDEPENDENT

- No solicited ESG Rating
- Dedicated team focusing solely on issuers' communications

#### CONSISTENT

- Systematic outreach to all companies
- Standard data review process

#### TRANSPARENT

- Logging of all interactions with issuers
- Availability of MSCI ESG
   Research assessment and underlying data to companies at no cost





# **COP26 – Aiming at mandatory climate risk disclosures**



COP26 will be a significant milestone for the transition to a sustainable future. The objective for the private finance work for COP26 is simple: ensure that every professional financial decision takes climate change into account."

Mark Carney

1

## Reporting

- Implement a common disclosure framework built on the TCFD recommendations
- Improve the quality and quantity of climaterelated financial disclosures.

2

# Risk Management

- Ensure that the financial sector can measure and manage climate-related financial risks.
- **Embed use of scenario analysis** in the financial sector using the NGFS reference scenarios

3

#### **Returns**

- Establish best practice/standards for financial institutions to assess the credibility of companies' transition plans to net zero.
- Create a framework for measuring the alignment of investment portfolios with climate targets.

4

#### **Mobilization**

 Increase private financial flows by connecting available capital with investable projects and encouraging new market structures.

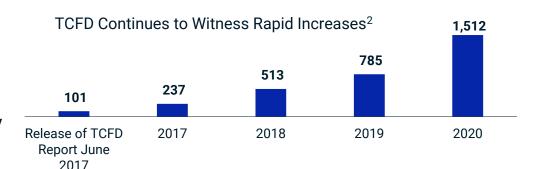


# TCFD is becoming the standard for climate risk reporting

The TCFD recommendations are the standard framework on climate reporting by the G20 countries

The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) is a **voluntary** disclosure platform designed to:

- provide a framework for companies and other organizations to develop more effective climate-related financial disclosures through their existing reporting processes" and
- support more informed investment, credit, and insurance underwriting decisions"



#### **GOVERNANCE**

- Boards oversight
- Management's role

#### **STRATEGY**

- Identify climate risk
- Quantify climate risk
- Strategy for resilience

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Process for climate risk identification and monitoring
- Procedures for climate risk mitigation
- Integration within overall management

#### **METRICS & TARGETS**

- Risks and opportunities indicators
- Carbon emissions
- Performance monitoring
- Targets



## The Road to Net Zero for Asset Owners

#### Following suit from members of the Net Zero **Asset Owner Alliance, asset owners will:**

- Set themselves targets on emission reduction at sector and/or portfolio level, and on climate positive investments.
- Adjust portfolios to achieve those targets, and will expect their managers to adjust similarly
- Actively engage with companies as a key lever for a real transition
- Track progress against those targets and report on it regularly







#### Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance target setting protocol

#### **Engagement Targets**

- Engagement with 20 companies with a focus on highest emitters or those responsible for 65% of emission in portfolio (either Direct, Collective, or via Asset Manager)
- Contribute to
- Sector Engagement with corporates in target
- Asset Manager Each member to participate in at least one engagement with the pre-identified (largest) 4 Asset Managers
- Alliance position papers

AOs to set action targets on policy advocacy

#### Sub-portfolio (later Portfolio) Emission Targets

- -16% to -29% CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction by 2025 (per IPCC 1.5°C SR scenarios) on Listed Equity and Publically Traded Corporate Debt, with the same recommended for Real Estate and/or CRREM national pathways used
- Covers Portfolio Emissions Scope 1 & 2, tracking of
- Absolute or intensity-based reduction against 2019 base year recommended

#### **Sector Targets**

- Intensity-based reductions on Alliance priority Sectors (O&G, Utilities, Steel, and Transport - Aviation, Shipping, Heavy and Light Duty Road)
- Scope 3 to be included wherever possible
- Sector specific intensity KPIs recommended
- Sectoral Decarbonization Pathways used to set

1.5 degree Net-Zero by 2050 Real World Impact



Source: Draft 2025 Target Setting Protocol October 2020.

# The Road to Net Zero for Asset Managers

#### @Enterprise level (Asset Manager / General Partner)

#### Establish & report on:

Governance

Strategy: overall climate risk assessment, scenarios analysis

#### **Expected actions:**

Integration into overall risk management

Strategic asset allocation

Set Net Zero Targets

Report on TCFD

Policy advocacy

#### @Fund / portfolio level

#### Measure & report on:

S1 & 2 footprint: Scope 3 footprint; Brown/Green ratio; Scenario analysis, T° alignment

#### **Expected actions:**

Re-allocate from brown to green; divestment policy;

Tilt towards leaders & away from laggards;

Use a climate-related / FSG performance benchmark

#### @Holding / company level

Identify exposure to climate risks & opportunities:

Measure: S123 emissions. brown & green exposure, physical risk exposure, TCFD disclosure

Assess credibility of companies' transition plans to Net Zero: patents, green CapEx, targets scorecard, T° alignment

#### **Expected actions:**

Select securities Engage

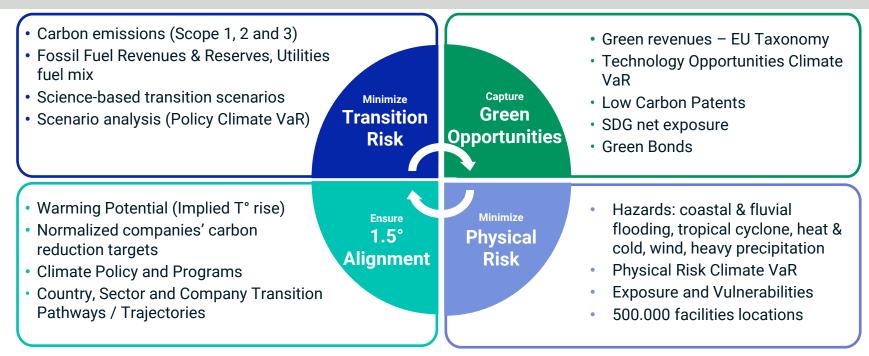
**Z** As the transition accelerates, companies with a well-articulated long-term strategy, and a clear plan to address the transition to net zero, will distinguish themselves with their stakeholders with customers. policymakers, employees and shareholders"

Larry Fink's 2021 letter to CEOs extract.



https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/investor-relations/larry-fink-ceo-letter

# The four dimensions of MSCI Climate Analytical Framework



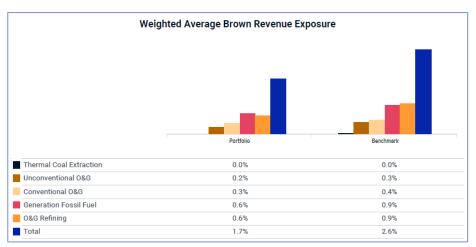
#### Coverage:

More than 10,400 companies including large, mid and small cap developed and emerging market equities, as well as Investment Grade, high yield and emerging market fixed income issuers; 198 countries for select / relevant metrics.



## How to minimize transition risk?

**Risk Management** – Measure & monitor carbon footprint on S1&2, set target to decarbonize, track Scope 3 exposure and potentially divest



Understand how your holdings rely upon "Brown Revenues" for growth

Carbon Footprint				
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Active	
Carbon Emissions (S1+S2 t CO2e / \$M Invested)	32.3	61.8	-47.7%	
Carbon Intensity (S1+S2 t CO2e / \$M Sales)	83.5	168.9	-50.5%	
Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (S1+S2 t CO2e / \$M Sales)	77.6	142.8	-45.6%	
Weighted Average S3 Downstream Intensity	0.9	0.6	55.2%	
Carbon Footprint Coverage	99.6%	99.7%	-0.1%	

Measure the carbon footprint of your holdings along different scopes and conduct attribution analysis

Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change				
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Active	
Companies with GHG emissions reduction targets	70.6%	71.1%	-0.5%	
Use of Cleaner Energy Sources	83.6%	86.7%	-3.1%	
Companies with top quartile carbon management score	66.9%	70.4%	-3.5%	
Adaptive Capacity Coverage	99.8%	99.7%	0.0%	

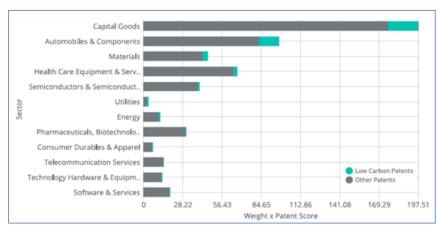
Assess how management teams are able to adapt to new/upcoming regulatory constraints



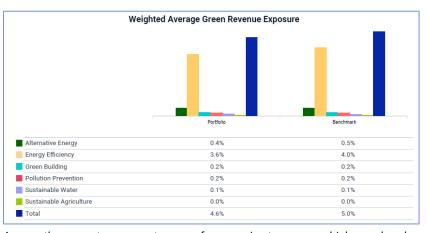
# **Capture Green opportunities**

**Security Selection** - Identify & invest in climate solution providers, including companies investing in low carbon technologies.

Report on your exposure to EU-taxonomy aligned companies.



Consider tilting portfolios towards companies that are developing low carbon technologies



Assess the current revenue streams of companies to assess which are already generating revenue from low carbon products and services

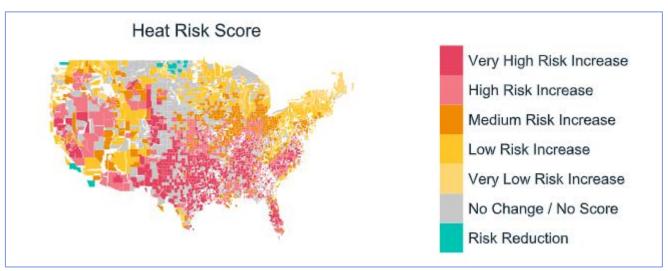


# Minimize physical risk

#### Measure exposure to physical risks, monitor and mitigate

# On a company level, ask yourself:

- Are the companies you have invested in aware of physical climate risk exposure?
- Are companies properly insured?
- Integrate climate risk exposure into company valuations
- Tilt your portfolio away from companies or regions with high climate risk exposure



Assess the potential damage that a company would be exposed to under different climate change scenarios



# **Engage with companies on targets and management**

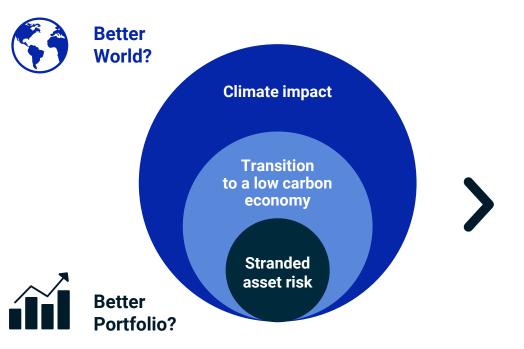
Net-zero targets are becoming more prevalent...





# Climate objectives and targets will lead to rethinking of strategic asset allocation

Customizable framework to address ESG and long & short-term financial views



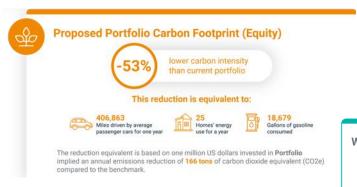
#### **Select Sustainable Building Blocks**

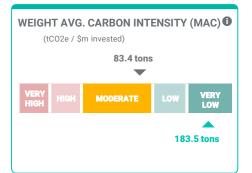




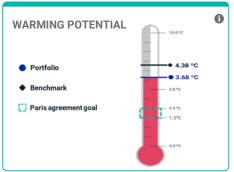
# Communicate on progress and outcomes

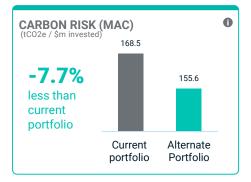
# Integrate metrics into your TCFD report, to be publicly disclosed





Climate Scenario Analysis					
	Portfolio	Alternate	Active		
Policy Climate VaR (Scope 1)	-1.58%	-2.78%	1.20%		
Technology Opportunities Climate VaR	+2.67%	+3.51%	-0.84%		
Physical Climate VaR (Aggressive)	-1.58%	-2.78%	1.20%		
Aggregated Climate VaR (Aggressive physical risk)	+2.67%	+3.51%	-0.84%		







# **MSCI Leadership in Climate**

# **Leadership in Climate Data & Analytics**

Climate Data Provider to 16 of the World's Top 20 Asset Managers<sup>6</sup>

**700+** Climate Change Metrics, Covering **10,000+** Issuers<sup>7</sup>

# Leadership in ESG Ratings and Data

#1 ESG Data and Research Provider 4

**1,900+** MSCI ESG Research Clients<sup>5</sup> Globally with Coverage of **14,800+** Issuers and **650,000+** Securities

# Leadership in Climate Indexes

**#1 Climate Index Provider by Equity**Assets Linked to its Climate Indexes<sup>8</sup>

# Leadership in ESG Indexes

#1 ESG Index Provider by Equity ETF Assets Linked to its ESG Indexes<sup>3</sup>

\$106B Linked to Equity ESG Assets<sup>3</sup>
70% of Equity ESG ETF Flows as of Q4'20<sup>3</sup>



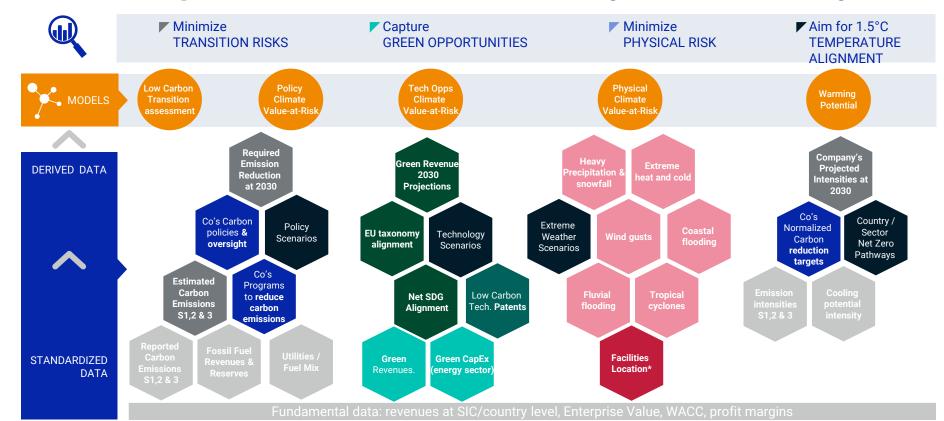
MSCI CLIMATE RISK CENTER



¹ Through MSCI legacy companies KLD, Innovest, IRRC, and GMI Ratings; ² Source MSCI Inc. as of February 2021; ³ Data based on Refinitiv Universe as of December 2020, only primary listings, and not cross-listings; ⁴ UBS Report published 2/16/2020 "Is the ESG Data and Services TAM Expanding? Who is Capitalizing on the Trend?" -Survey data from 35 Mutual funds, 18 hedge funds, 9 pension funds, 63 Wealth Management (High Net Worth), and 48 Long-only institutional investors.; ⁵ To calculate the number of clients, we use the shipping address of the ultimate customer utilizing the product, which counts affiliates, user locations or business units within a single organization as separate clients; ⁵ MSCI ESG Research's climate solutions are used by 16 of the top 20 world's largest Asset Managers as determined by Willis Towers Watson report "The world's largest 500 asset managers, Joint study with Pensions & Investments." AUM and rankings calculated as of December 2019. Report published October 2020; ¹ Source: MSCI ESG Research as of February 2021

<sup>8</sup> Data as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, based on eVestment for Institutional funds, Morningstar for Retail funds and Refinitiv Universe for ETFs Information Classification: GENERAL

# MSCI comprehensive solutions to manage climate change





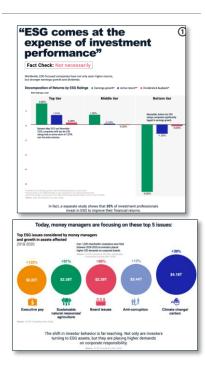
# Visualizing Investment Data @ MSCI.com

# Top 5 Sustainable Investing Questions

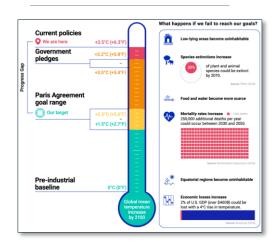
# The Top 5 Sustainable Investing Questions Advisers Need Answered When advisers ask the right ESG questions, they can make more effective decisions for their clients. What is ESG data, and why is it important? At the hard #256 feotoset fettings in Edd. In fact, #1600. I



#### **The Truth Behind 5 ESG Myths**



#### Global Progress Towards the Paris Agreement





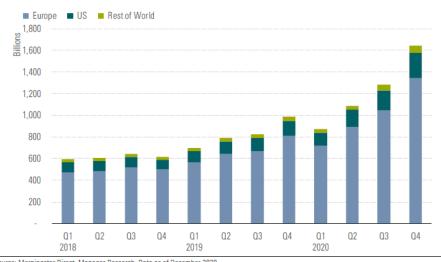


# **Growth of ESG Investing**

# MSCI is the # 1 provider based on assets tracking MSCI ESG indexes\*



# Based on a Morningstar study, sustainable assets reached \$1.6trn as of Q4'2020 (\$B)



Source: Morningstar Direct, Manager Research. Data as of December 2020.



## **About MSCI**

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