

Deloitte advantage

Our teams bring together a combination of knowledge and experience in key areas of corporate sustainability reporting and associated disciplines with the skills of consultants and auditors.

Our practitioners have detailed local knowledge and experience in local legislation, industry practices, culture and stakeholder demands, and regularly participate in international teams serving international clients.

Deloitte credentials

Deloitte Sustainability has been involved in the development and revision of several sustainability reporting frameworks and standards by various organizations, including the GRI G4, the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and the Global Initiative for Sustainability Ratings (GISR). The firm is currently involved in the development of the IIRC Integrated Reporting Framework to advance disclosure focusing on the interrelationships of financial and non-financial information, and in ongoing IAASB activities to develop a methodology for assurance applicable to sustainability reporting.



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Deloitte.



Reporting on your sustainability management and performance Assurance Services

Reporting on your sustainability management and performance

Decreasing resource availability along with increasing marketplace and regulatory demands and investor attention around how companies are managing their long-term sustainability risks represent a few of the trends requiring companies to disclose an increasing amount of non-financial information.

Assurance of sustainability reporting

Independent assurance of non-financial information provides a credible way for organisations to disclose publicly their corporate responsibility and sustainability activities along with their progress towards their goals.

Stakeholders such as regulators, investors, and market analysts, among others, are increasingly relying on third-party assurance to assess the quality and reliability of a company's sustainability reporting. The risk of disclosing inaccurate or inconsistent sustainability information can lead to a damaged corporate brand and loss of stakeholder trust.

Our sustainability specialists provide assurance services to global clients in a wide range of sectors covering environmental, health & safety, social, and economic information in compliance with GRI Standards.

What is assurance?

In an assurance engagement, a practitioner aims to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence in order to express a conclusion (outcome) regarding the measurement or evaluation of the underlying subject matter against criteria. Assurance serves to enhance the degree of confidence in the outcome on the part of the intended users (stakeholders) other than the party responsible for the subject matter.

The outcome of the measurement or evaluation of an underlying subject matter is the information that results from applying the criteria to the underlying subject matter.

For example:

A greenhouse gas statement (outcome) results from measuring an entity's greenhouse emissions (underlying subject matter) by applying recognition, measurement, and presentation protocols (criteria).

The term "subject matter information" is used to mean the outcome of the measurement or evaluation of an underlying subject matter against the criteria. It is the subject matter information about which the practitioner gathers sufficient appropriate evidence as the basis for the practitioner's conclusion.

Performance indicator selection for assurance

All sustainability disclosures, including claims made, policies outlined and data published are potentially subject to third party assurance. When determining the scope of assurance that should be applied, we consider the following areas:

1. Strategy
2. Systems and data collection processes
3. Stakeholders

Levels of assurance and implications

The International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE3000 revised) is a generic standard for any assurance engagement other than audits or reviews of historical financial information.

The level of assurance indicates the extent and depth of the work the assurance provider will undertake, and therefore the degree of confidence that report users should be able to have in the assured report. There are two levels of assurance:

- Reasonable assurance (i.e. high but not absolute); and
- Limited assurance (moderate)

The higher the level of assurance, the more rigorous the assurance process is, as defined in the standards and procedures used for a specific assurance engagement. As a result of cost constraints and other feasibility issues, organisations typically choose reasonable assurance for some indicators and limited assurance for others.



Limited assurance

Report detailing work carried out and presenting a conclusion:
"Nothing has come to our attention that indicates..."

Reasonable assurance

Report detailing work carried out with a positive opinion:
"In our opinion, the information has been prepared, in all material respects, in compliance with the Reference Document"

We can work with you to help you identify what level of assurance fits your needs, the expectations of your stakeholders, and the requirements of relevant reporting frameworks.