



# PRESS RELEASE

## SASB Standards Board Announces Standard-Setting Projects on Human Capital and Marine Transportation

*London and San Francisco, December 16, 2021*—Today the [SASB Standards Board](#) announced the outcomes of its [December 15, 2021](#) public meeting, including initiating two standard-setting projects, one to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion across multiple SASB Standards and the other to address Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality in the Marine Transportation Standard.

“In response to robust market feedback, we are pleased to advance standard-setting on Human Capital and Marine Transportation. Because the ISSB’s standards will build on existing frameworks and standards, we encourage the market to continue to engage in the SASB Standards development process now in preparation to engage with and implement the ISSB’s standards in the future. We have [numerous projects](#) open for [consultation and feedback](#)—we welcome your input,” says SASB Standards Board Chair Dr. Jeffrey Hales.

To advance the [Human Capital](#) project, the Board approved the Staff’s proposal to initiate a standard-setting project to evaluate the addition or revision of disclosure topics and/or metrics within a set of SASB Industry Standards to better account for the impact of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) on enterprise value. Rationale for standard setting includes evidence of investor interest in DEI and evidence connecting DEI to business performance. Next, Staff will conduct further research and market consultation to refine the industry list, examine channels and industries across international markets, and develop a preliminary view on disclosure topic(s) scope and general issue category mapping for each identified.

The Board also approved the Staff’s proposal to initiate a standard-setting project to evaluate improvements to accounting metrics in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality disclosure topics in the Marine Transportation Standard. The rationale for standard setting includes feedback Staff received from an industry working group of companies, investors and subject matter experts, and analysis of Marine Transportation industry company disclosures and their level of alignment with the current Standard. Next, Staff will conduct further research and develop materials to facilitate consultations with market participants, with a focus on the informational needs of investors.

The Staff provided an overview of the market input received during the public comment period for the [Raw Materials Sourcing in Apparel](#) project. The Board discussed next steps on enhancing guidance related to sourcing region and guidance related to company identification of credible third-party environmental and/or social certifications/standards. Next, Staff will conduct additional research and consultation to guide further revisions on the exposure draft.

Lastly, Staff recommended how to establish technical updates and editorial corrections processes to address minor or narrow scope issues and to correct minor inaccuracies (e.g., spelling, outdated links) in the Standards. The Board supported the recommendations and discussed how the Staff’s efforts and



learning can inform the transition work with the ISSB to establish the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards.

The rigorous standard-setting process for SASB Standards includes evidence-based research, broad and balanced stakeholder participation from companies and investors, and independent oversight and direction from the SASB Standards Board. [Standard-setting meetings](#) of the SASB Standards Board are open to members of the public via livestream and are archived [here](#). The next public meeting is March 2, 2022.

Visit [sasb.org](https://sasb.org) for more information about SASB's [standard-setting process](#) and [current projects](#).

### **About the Value Reporting Foundation**

The Value Reporting Foundation is a global nonprofit organization that offers a comprehensive suite of resources designed to help businesses and investors develop a shared understanding of enterprise value—how it is created, preserved or eroded over time. The resources – including Integrated Thinking Principles, the Integrated Reporting Framework and SASB Standards – can be used alone or in combination, depending on business needs. These tools, already adopted in over 70 countries, comprise the 21st century market infrastructure needed to develop, manage and communicate strategy that creates long-term value and drives improved performance. To learn more, visit [www.valuereportingfoundation.org](https://www.valuereportingfoundation.org).

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