## ESG is Vital in Infrastructure Investing





## **Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG")**

Responsible investment aims to incorporate environmental, social and governance factors (ESG) into investment decisions, to better manage risk and generate more sustainable, long-term returns

**Environmental** criteria looks at how a company performs as a steward of the natural environment, including energy usage, pollution, habitat, water use and waste.

**Social** criteria examines how a company manages relationships with its employees, suppliers, customers, the communities where it operates and other stakeholders with which it interacts.

Governance deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits and internal controls, and shareholder rights.



## Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") Considerations in Infrastructure

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

**Climate Change** 

Greenhouse gas emissions

Renewable energy

Air pollution

Water security

Waste generation and disposal

**Deforestation** 

**Habitat protection** 

#### SOCIAL

**Human rights** 

Labor standards and working conditions

Cybersecurity

Gender and diversity

Health and safety for employees, customers, community

Stakeholder communications

**Employee engagement** 

#### **GOVERNANCE**

**Board composition** 

**Executive compensation** 

**Audit committee structure** 

**Accounting fraud** 

Succession planning

**Bribery and corruption** 

Lobbying activities

**Political contributions** 

Whistleblower protection



## **ESG** in Infrastructure Investing

As an asset class, infrastructure provides direct exposure to ESG and plays a critical role in the essential functions and sustainability of communities and their environments

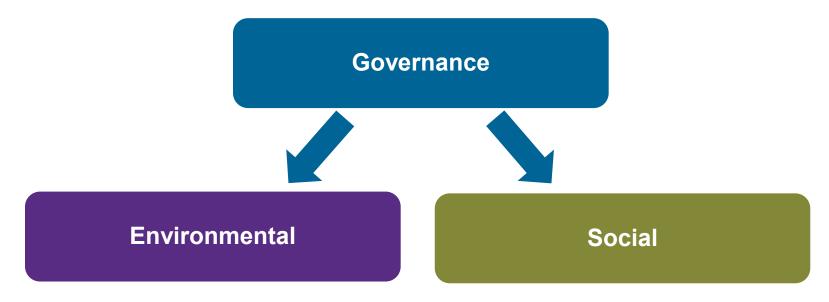
Long lived assets that are designed to provide stable long term returns

Critical assets that support people's lives and communities

Operate within complex regulatory, environmental, safety and customer service frameworks

## **ESG Management Begins with "G"**

Active governance is the first step to implementing ESG practices, reviewing risks and opportunities and having a significant impact on a company's ability to achieve its objectives



- Majority Control allows for implementing of sustainable practices
- Independent Board of Directors provides diversity of thought, relationships and experience
- Business-Wide Policies includes policies and process for hiring practices, health and safety, anti-corruption and stakeholder engagement, among other essential business elements
- Culture of Accountability and Alignment allows for implementing long-term strategy and goals
- Leading Driver of Returns research has demonstrated that active governance is a leading driver of adding value to performance; mapping goals to tangible metrics and outcomes

Source: J.P. Morgan Perspectives: ESG Investing Goes Mainstream, Global Research Investment Banking Research Paper, May 2018.

## **Governance Lays Groundwork For Sustainability**

Proper oversight of management, culture, and the alignment of stakeholders' incentives help companies with implementation and provide appropriate risk-adjusted returns

### **Management Oversight**

#### **Corporate Culture and Internal Controls**

#### **Aligned Incentives**

#### Independent oversight of company management

- Control positions
- **Build diverse Boards**
- Formalize onboarding process
- Review company's policies and procedures
- Annual Reviews and skill assessments

#### Open, transparent and ethical culture

- Discuss mission and values
- Transparent environment
- Implement the necessary policies
- Put committees in place (Health and Safety, ESG, etc)

#### Cleary defined responsibilities

- Aligned compensation and expected outcomes
- Regular performance reviews with measurable goals
- Provide feedback at quarterly board meetings
- Succession planning
- Aligning interests of all stakeholders

For illustrative purposes only.

## Playing Offense and Defense to Invest and Manage for the Long-Term

Implementation of strong ESG practices, with an emphasis on the "S" via stakeholder engagement, is critical for a long-term, sustainable investment.

# **Defining Key Stakeholders**

**Employees** 

**Customers** 

Community

Government Agencies and Local Councils

Supply Chain and Third
Parties

**Environmental Organizations** 

### Stakeholder Engagement

#### **Connecting to Customers**

- Keeping rates affordable
- Proactive, responsive communication
- Leveraging social media to connect with the community

#### **Building Trust**

- Delivering services through any environment
- Providing solutions to stakeholders
- Investing in communities through philanthropy and job creation

#### **Long-Term View**

- Building resilience, being prepared, and staying ahead of trends
- Involvement in policy making and "activist" CEOs

#### Resilience

Strength of a company, asset or system to withstand external demands without material interruption

Providing alternate options, choices and substitutions under shocks and stressors

Capacity to mobilize needed resources and services in emergencies and implement a resilience roadmap/communications system for stakeholders

Urgency: speed operated to overcome disruption

For illustrative purposes only.



## Stakeholder and Community Development Initiatives

Infrastructure assets provide long-term essential functions to local communities

Employee Engagement in Community

Health and Safety Reviews

Local Employment Opportunities

Positive Reputation Impact

#### **Regional Australian Airport**

- Hosted its annual stakeholder engagement celebration event
- Opportunity for airport partners, employees and local business and political leaders to meet and celebrate the local community on the airport tarmac

#### **U.S. Generation Company**

- Employee participation in local community events
- Bike to Work aid station
- Sponsored a team in bike race to raise awareness for MS; have raised over USD 60,000 in the past 3 years
- Adopted a highway to clean up

#### **U.S. Renewables Company**

- Provides scholarships for high school students in local community
- Host stakeholder engagement events at local community wind farm sites

#### **European Renewables Company**

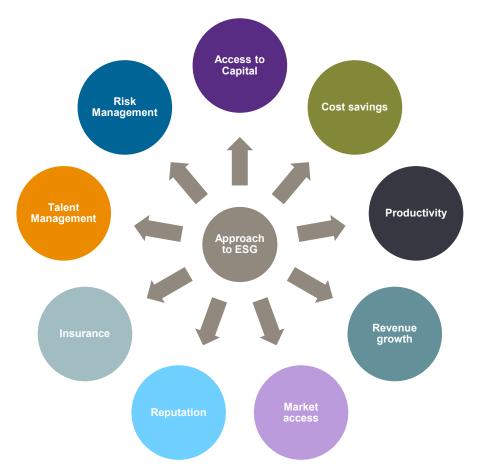
- Contributed over GBP 1.6 million in funding for social projects in the communities where the company's assets operate
- Send internal newsletters to employees and provide informal trainings, many hosted by the company's own employees





## Management of ESG Factors Impacts the Bottom Line

Responsible investment aims to incorporate environmental, social and governance factors into investment and asset management decisions, to better manage risk and generate more sustainable, long-term returns



Transparency around how a company manages ESG risks and opportunities is part of its value proposition



## **Appendix**



## **PRI Rating and Methodology Overview**

#### PRI rating and methodology overview

- Each of the 10 assessed modules have a consistent scoring approach
- Equal weighting is applied to individual indicators (where indicators include information about different practices, the practices are assessed separately but weighted equally)
- Two new bandings were introduced from 2015:
  - An additional band was created for the signatories scoring above 95% in a module to distinguish and provide more granular feedback to top scoring signatories (A+)
  - Signatories that do not implement responsible investment for an asset class will be put into a separate band from those who are active, but in early stages of developing processes to separate the two groups and provide more contextual feedback (E)

#### Each module contains two types of assessed indicators

- Core assessed: all signatories are assessed on these indicators and make up the majority (~75%) of their overall assessment score for each module. These indicators are frequently, but not always, mandatory to disclose. Completing these indicators and demonstrating advanced levels of implementation will enable a signatory to reach the third-highest performance Band (B)
- **Additional assessed**: signatories can generally complete these indicators if they wish (i.e. they will usually be 'voluntary to report') and they provide an opportunity to demonstrate more advanced stages of implementation or reflect alternative practices

#### **Indicator Scoring**

- Signatories receive a score for each 'core assessed' and 'additional assessed' indicator in every relevant module in four categories, ranging from (no stars) to (three stars).
  - For binary indicators with only 'Yes'/'No' response options, these will be the only two scores available.

Module Score (%)	Performance Band	
>95%	'A+'	
76-94%	'A'	
51-75%	'B'	
26-50%	,C,	
1-25%	'D'	
0	'E'	

Source: UNPRI 2018 Assessment Methodology Overview





#### What is GRESB?

GRESB is the global ESG benchmark for real assets with the mission to enhance and protect shareholder value by evaluating and improving sustainability best practices in the infrastructure sector

- The GRESB Infrastructure Asset Assessment provides the basis for systematic reporting, objective scoring and peer benchmarking of ESG management and performance of infrastructure assets around the world
- The Asset Assessment is organized around 7 core aspects:
  - Management
  - Policy & Disclosure
  - Risks & Opportunities
  - Monitoring & EMS
  - Stakeholder Engagement
  - Performance Indicators
  - Certifications & Awards
- GRESB Infrastructure is in its third year and is becoming the global ESG benchmarking standard that investors and prospects look at regarding ESG performance and integration
- Assessment evolves each year to better reflect ESG industry trends and to produce the most accurate scoring and relevant results for each infrastructure sector
- IIF participates in GRESB and uses the assessment and results to benchmark against peers, formally
  engage with each portfolio company, review areas of success and share best practices and discuss areas of
  improvement as it relates to ESG policies, process and implementation



## **GRESB Infrastructure Rating and Methodology Overview**

#### **GRESB** rating and methodology overview

- The GRESB infrastructure assessment provides the basis for systematic reporting, objective scoring and peer benchmarking of ESG management and performance of infrastructure funds and assets around the world
  - Two components: the Fund assessment and Asset assessment
  - The Fund assessment contains ten indicators focused on management and investment processes
  - The Asset assessment is organized around seven core Aspects (below) covering the most material ESG issues for infrastructure investors.
     The Aspects include indicators addressing asset-level plans and policies, on-the-ground actions and ESG performance



- If the entity is placed in the top quintile, it will have a GRESB 5-star rating; if it ranks in the bottom quintile, it will have a GRESB 1-star rating.
  - As more companies and funds report over time, and as ESG performance improves, the thresholds for reaching the next category will change.
  - Therefore, the GRESB Rating is thus a relative measure of ESG performance, not an absolute measure

#### **Systematic Assessment with 3 parts**

- 1. Validation: GRESB has established a robust data validation process to underpin the accuracy and reliability of its output
  - Based on a three-layer data quality control process designed to ensure submission of high quality information
  - Approach to validation was developed by PwC and involves third party verification by GBCI
- 2. **Objective Scoring:** The GRESB Scoring Model is based on an automated system, which uses a technology platform designed for GRESB by a third party that specializes in data analysis software development
  - The scoring is completed without manual intervention after data input
- 3. **Peer Benchmarking:** Peer comparisons that take into account country, regional, sectoral and investment type variations provide a powerful lens through which to benchmark performance
  - Each participant is assigned to a peer group, based on the entity's legal structure (listed/private), sector and geographical location of assets





## **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

- SDGs are a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that people enjoy peace and prosperity
  - Work to improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations
  - Provide guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world





































Source: United Nations Development Program; Sustainable Development Goals





## Measurability and Reporting of the "S"

"S" Factors	Measurement	SDG Goal
Health and Safety	Accidents, lost time incidents, near misses	Good Health & Well-Being
Gender and Diversity	Employees, management team, Boards – ratio breakout, pay gap	Gender Equality
Citizen-Related Activities	# of community meetings	Partnerships to Achieve the Goal
Jobs and Economic Growth	# of jobs created and retained for local community and contractors	Decent Work & Economic Growth
Training and Education	# of people participating in workforce programs	Decent Work & Economic Growth
Employee Health and Wellbeing	Feedback surveys, use of internal reference tools	Good Health & Well-Being
Fair Labor Practices	Policies in place and track any violations or concerns	Reduce Inequality
Philanthropic Capital Invested	Amount of community or philanthropic funding invested	Partnerships to Achieve the Goal
Neighborhood Revitalization	Specific examples of improvements and amount invested	Sustainable Cities & Communities
Affordable Housing	# of units created or preserved	Sustainable Cities & Communities
<b>Customer Satisfaction Surveys</b>	Feedback to improve training programs and overall service	Decent Work & Economic Growth
Employee Feedback Surveys	Feedback to improve review process, training and culture	Quality Education
Stakeholder Grievances	# of grievances or complaints submitted	Responsible Consumption/Production
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Implementation of plan, program review, and evaluation	Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

Source: GRESB, PRI, SASB and GRI frameworks. Please see Appendix for IIF's SDG mapping.



#### Risk and Disclosures

#### Supplementary Information

Investing in infrastructure assets or debt associated with infrastructure involve a variety of risks, not all of which can be foreseen or quantified, and which include, among others: the burdens of ownership of infrastructure; local, national and international economic conditions; the supply and demand for services from and access to infrastructure; the financial condition of users and suppliers of infrastructure assets; risks related to construction, regulatory requirements, labor actions, health and safety matters, government contracts, operating and technical needs, capital expenditures, demand and user conflicts, bypass attempts, strategic assets, changes in interest rates and the availability of funds which may render the purchase, sale or refinancing of infrastructure assets difficult or impracticable; changes in environmental laws and regulations, investments in other funds, troubled infrastructure assets and planning laws and other governmental rules; changes in energy prices; negative developments in the economy that may depress travel activity; force majeure acts, terrorist events, under-insured or uninsurable losses; and other factors which are beyond the reasonable control of the Fund or the Investment Adviser. Many of these factors could cause fluctuations in usage, expenses and revenues, causing the value of the Investments to decline and negatively affecting the Fund's returns.

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