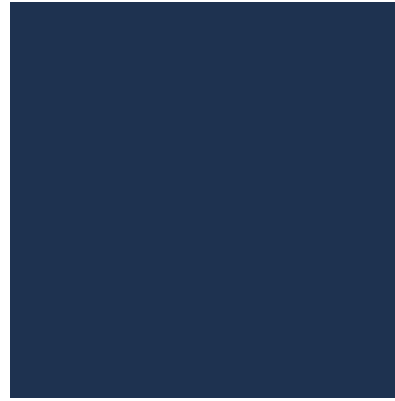


# THE BUSINESS CASE



# THE EVOLUTION OF SUSTAINABILITY

**Corporate values  
and branding**

**2007**

**72%**

of CEOs  
prioritize brand  
and reputation  
outcomes

**2022**

**79%**

of CEOs see a  
business case for  
at least one SDG

**Business  
imperative**

**2025**

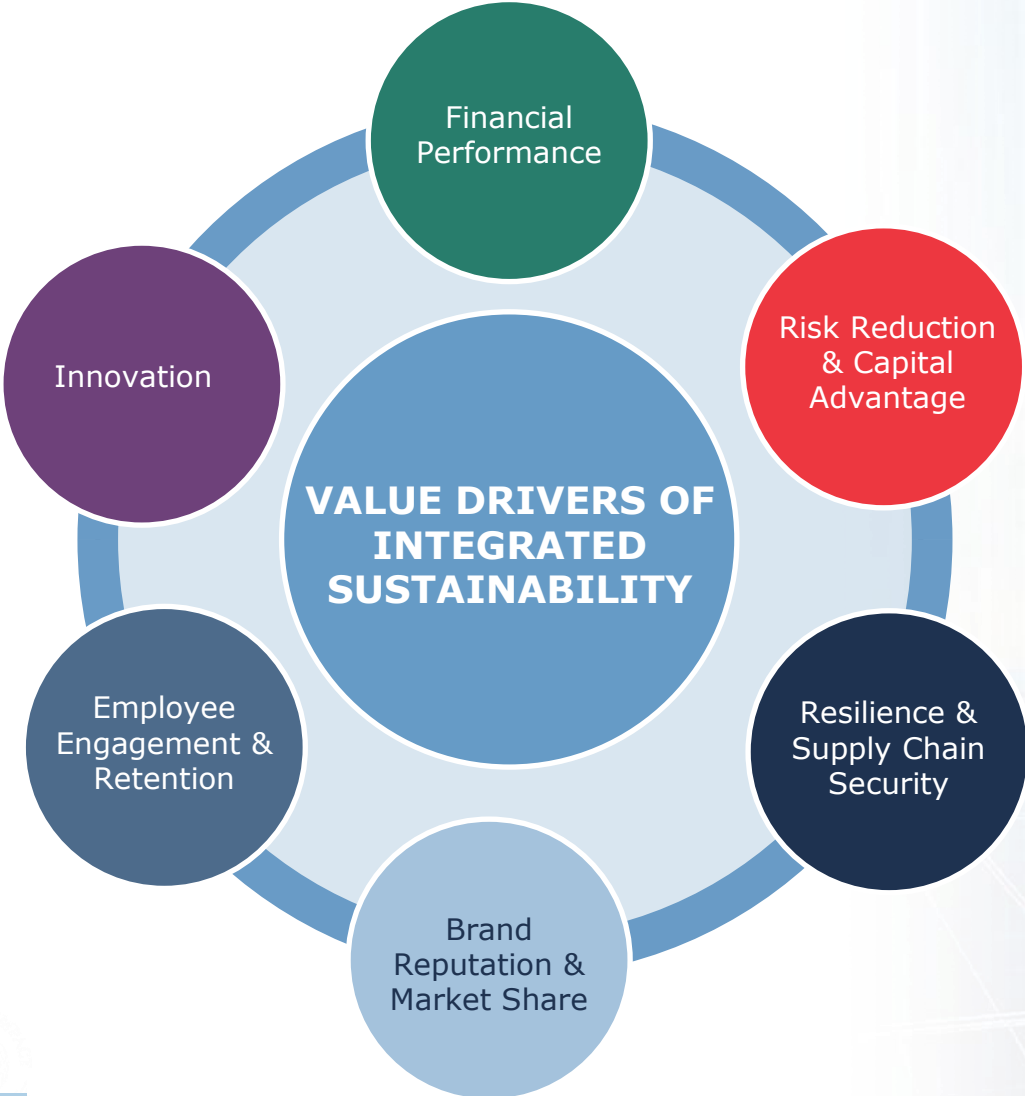
**88%**

of CEOs believe the  
business case for  
sustainability is stronger  
today than five years ago

**97%**

of CEOs remain  
committed to the SDGs

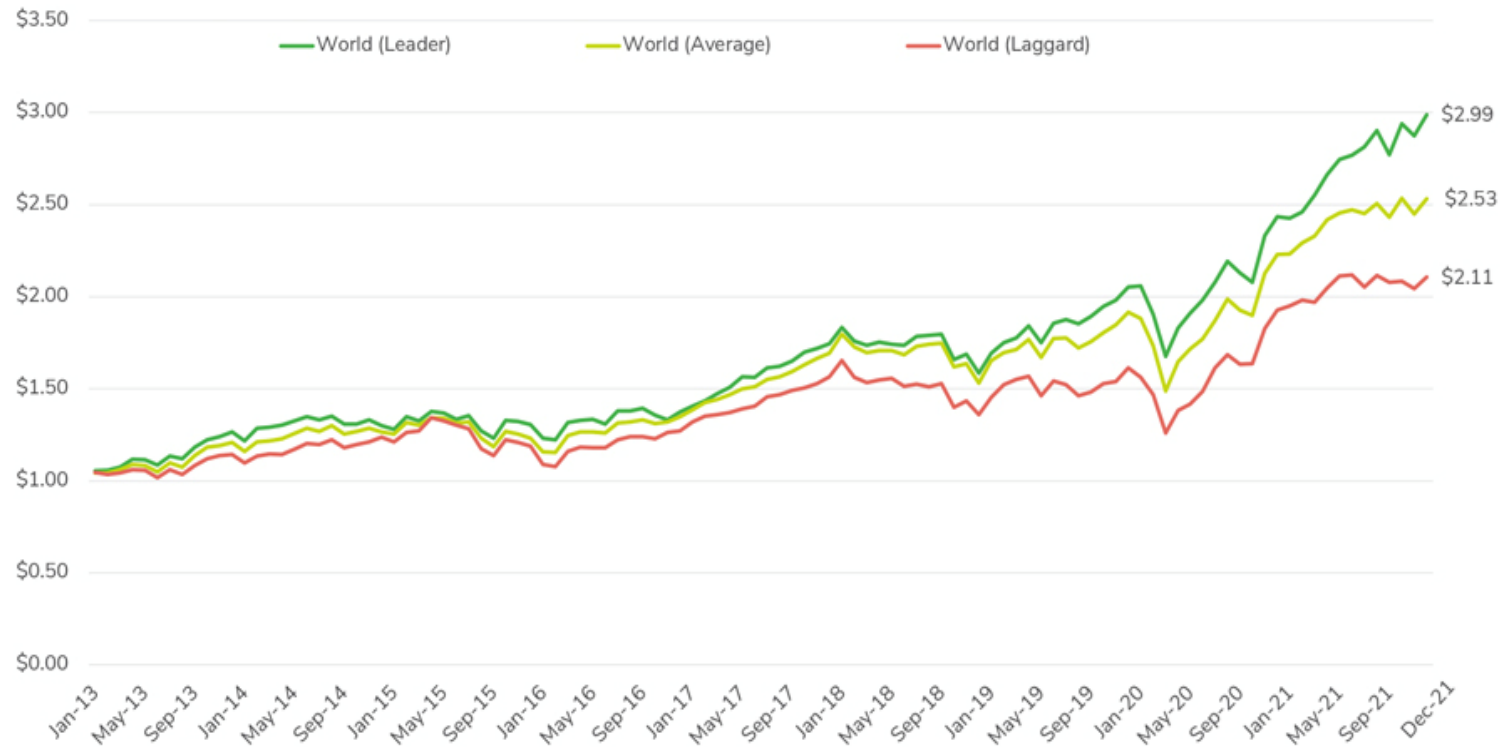
# RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IS GOOD BUSINESS



# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## Sustainability leaders materially outperform peers in shareholder returns

Global Performance of ESG Ratings Portfolios: Cumulative Return in 2013-2021 Horizon  
(\$1 Invested in December 2012)



**12.9%**  
annual returns for  
ESG leaders

VS

**8.6%**  
of ESG laggards

Sources: [ESG and Global Investor Returns Study](#), Kroll (2023);

# RISK REDUCTION & CAPITAL ADVANTAGE

---

Improving sustainability performance  
can reduce business risk by

**30%**  
or more

ESG Leaders have an  
average financing  
rate of

**6.8%**

vs

**8.6%**  
of ESG  
laggards

# RESILIENCE & SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY

---

**\$162 billion**

Supply chain disruptions from climate change cost businesses annually

Companies integrating sustainability into their supply chains experience

**30%**

**fewer disruptions**

**75%**

**of CEOs** are actively constructing responsible supply chains



**Sources:** [Strengthening the Chain](#), HSBC & CDP (2024); Resilient Supply Chains & Sustainability, World Economic Forum (2022); Turning the Key: Unlocking the Next Era of Sustainability Leadership; UN Global Compact & Accenture (2025)

# BRAND REPUTATION & MARKET SHARE

---

**86%** of consumers expect brands to act on sustainability

On average, a company's perceived sustainability contributes to 3% of brand equity, amounting to

**\$193Bn**

in brand value for global top 100 brands

**2.3x** The growth rate of products marketed as sustainable compared to products not marked as sustainable

**Sources:** [Trust: The New Brand Equity](#), Edelman (2021); [Why ESG Credentials Must Have Visibility if They are to Add Value](#), Kantar (2022); [Sustainable Market Share Index](#), NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business (2024)

# EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT & RETENTION

**21%**

Boost in employee productivity  
from sustainability

Sustainability can improve talent attraction  
by as much as

**69%**

And reduce employee turnover by up to

**57%**



# INNOVATION

---

Companies incorporating sustainability are

**1.4x**

more likely to achieve innovative breakthroughs

Products featuring sustainability attributes can generate up to

**25%**

more revenue than products with no sustainability attributes

Companies that combine high levels of innovation with sustainability achieve up to

**3.1%**

higher operating profits than peers

**Sources:** [Unlocking Green Growth: Sustainability as a Key Driver of Corporate Innovation](#), World Economic Forum (2025);

[PwC's Second Annual State of Decarbonization Report](#), PwC (2024); [Determining the Competitive Financial Advantages of CR and Sustainability](#), Impact ROI (2025)

# INNOVATION



## Innovation

Volvo expanded its electric vehicle lineup while integrating circular manufacturing into vehicle production.

## Results

Boosted electric vehicle sales by **50% in two years**, demonstrating that electrification can drive both growth and operational efficiency.



## Innovation

Schneider Electric undertook a bold transformation of its core business. They transitioned from hardware focused products to digital and software-enabled energy management solutions.

## Results

Enabled 50 million people to access clean, reliable energy through inclusive energy solution. **Revenue multiplied by four** from 2003 to 2024 and Market Capitalization increased 11x, reflecting strong investor confidence.



## Innovation

Iberdrola shifted its energy model to ensure a sustainable and competitive energy transition. They made strategic investments for renewable energy development across wind, solar, and energy storage solutions.

## Results

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by **29%** through accelerated clean energy deployment, showing that renewables investments can simultaneously cut emissions and strengthen energy market position.

# INNOVATION



## Innovation

Adiantes embedded a living wage commitment into its core business strategy, combining wage benchmarking, leadership buy-in, and workforce development programs.

## Results

Adiantes achieved **64% employee retention** over a decade, with wages consistently rising above inflation. A stable, skilled workforce has strengthened product quality, customer trust, and business resilience.



## Innovation

ReNew has built a scaled, integrated renewable energy platform combining wind, solar, and manufacturing to accelerate India's energy transition. Its model also extends to community programs that link clean energy with inclusive development.

## Results

ReNew Energy has mobilized over **\$15B in investment** to accelerate India's clean energy transition, while delivering tangible social impact through initiatives that electrify schools and support women's livelihood.



## Innovation

Interface pioneered a carbon-negative strategy by embedding recycled and bio-based materials into carpet tile design and scaling circular manufacturing.





## Results

Interface has reduced the carbon footprint of its carpet tiles **by over 70%** since 1990 and launched carbon-negative products, demonstrating that sustainability-led product design can drive differentiation and cost efficiency.

# WHY THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT?



# ALIGN WITH GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS & BEST PRACTICES

 <p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p>	 <p><b>LABOUR</b></p>
 <p><b>ENVIRONMENT</b></p>	 <p><b>ANTI-CORRUPTION</b></p>



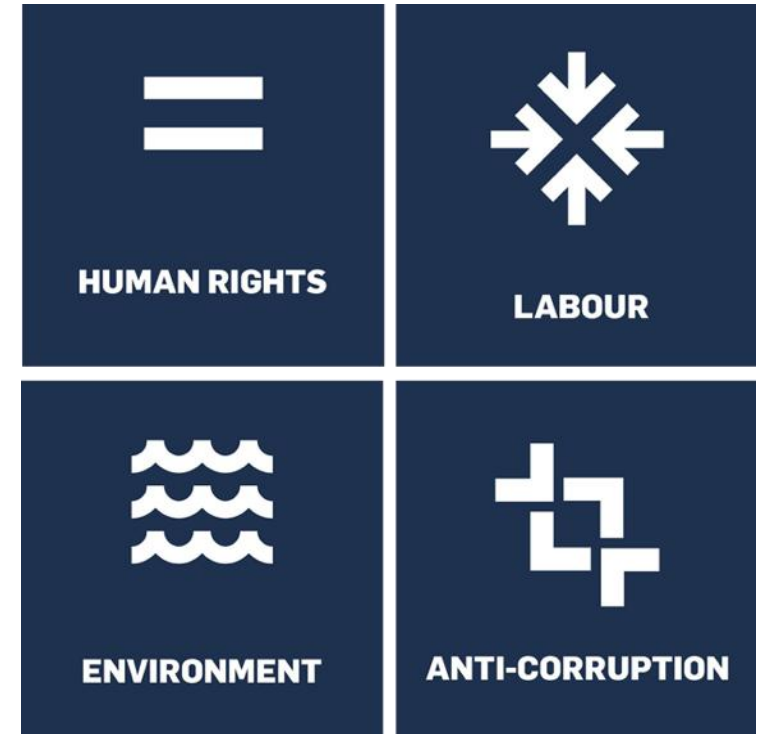
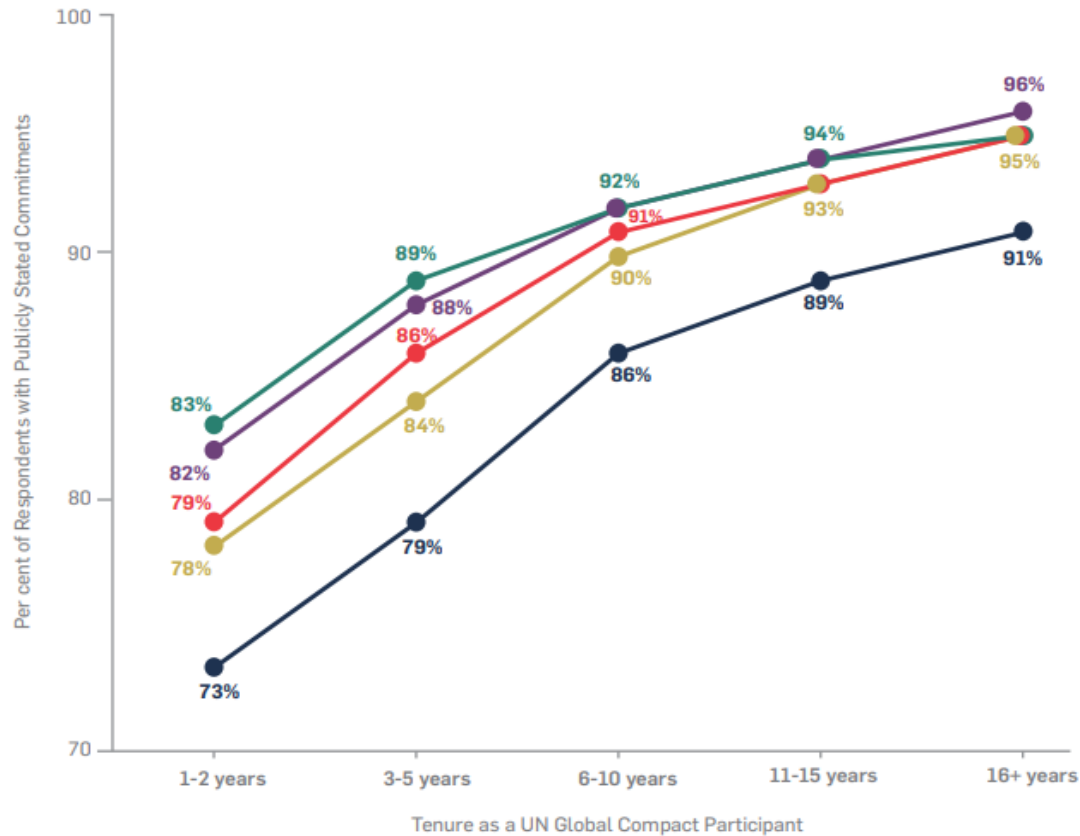

# ACCELERATE PROGRESS ACROSS KEY SUSTAINABILITY AREAS

Companies are more likely to **demonstrate progress** on key sustainability issue areas as tenure with the UN Global Compact increases

Figure 2.5: Join year breakdown of policy commitments on Four Pillars

N=10,956 (G2. Does the company have a publicly stated commitment regarding the following sustainability topics?)

● Human Rights ● Labour Rights/Decent Work ● Environment ● Anti-Corruption ● All Four Pillars



# CONNECT WITH THE **LARGEST** GLOBAL NETWORK OF SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS AND INNOVATORS

**25,000+**

company participants in 170 countries

**24,000+**

attendees participating in our in-person, hybrid, and virtual events in 2024



**210,000+**






Academy online platform users in 140 countries

**1,300+**

Hybrid and in-person events organized by UN Global Compact Country Networks in 2024

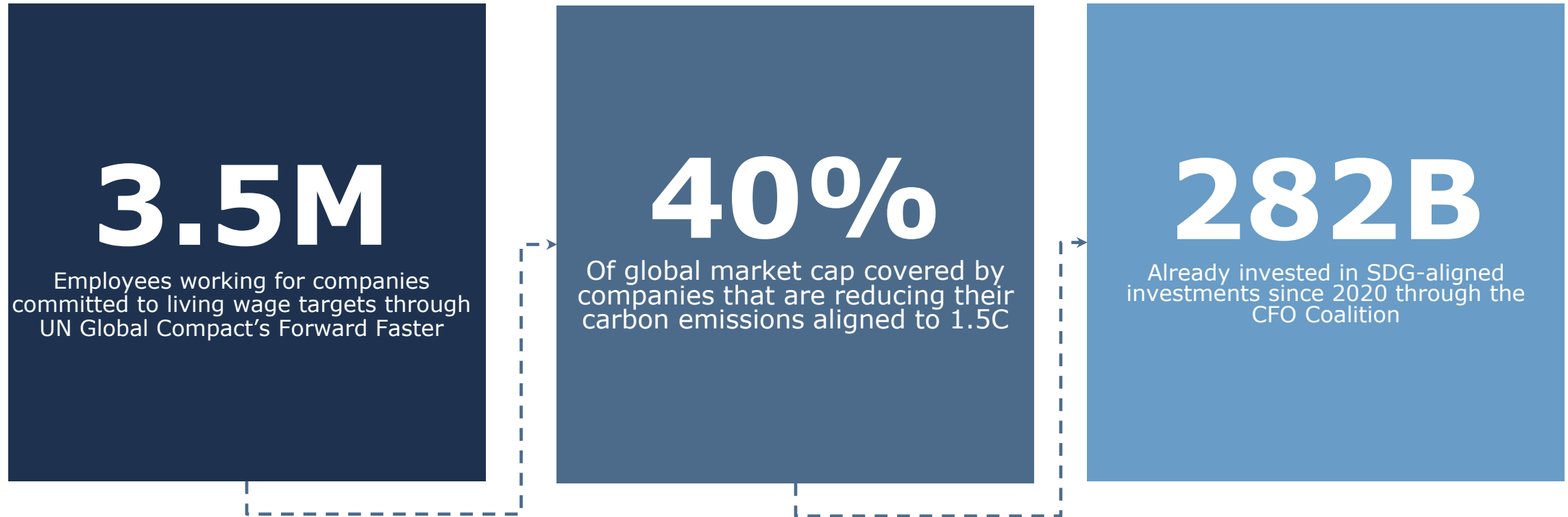


# ESG RATINGS ALIGNED WITH THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

ESG Rating Providers	UNGC principles in ESG rating framework	UNGC participation in rating criteria
 S&P Global Sustainable 1	✓	✓
 RepRisk	✓	✓
<b>MSCI</b> 	✓	✓
<b>Bloomberg</b>	✓	✓
<b>ecovadis</b>	✓	✓
 SUSTAINALYTICS	✓	
<b>ISS</b> 	✓	

# COLLECTIVE IMPACT TO SOLVE PRESSING CHALLENGES

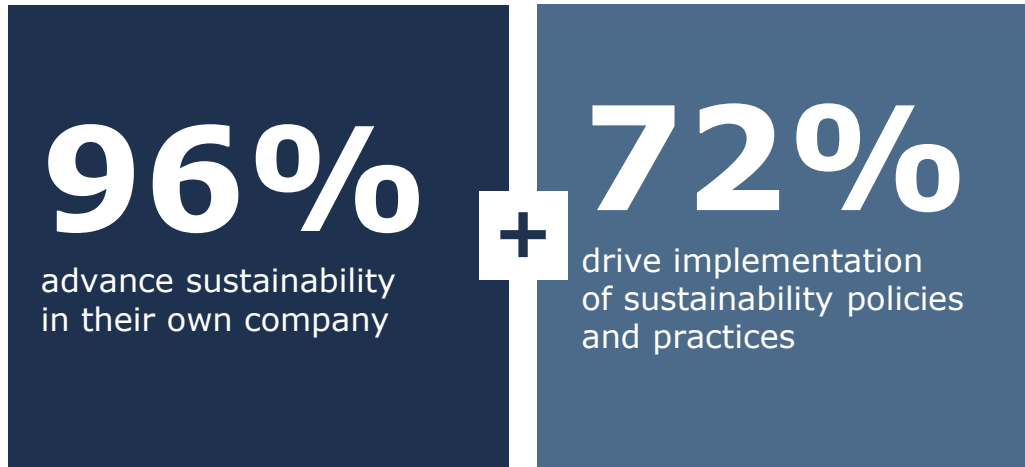
---



**Sources:** [Moving Business Forward Faster: 2024 Trends & Insights, UN Global Compact \(2024\)](#); [Corporate Climate Action Momentum Builds as SBTi Reaches 10,000 Companies with Validated Targets, SBTi \(2026\)](#)

# OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY

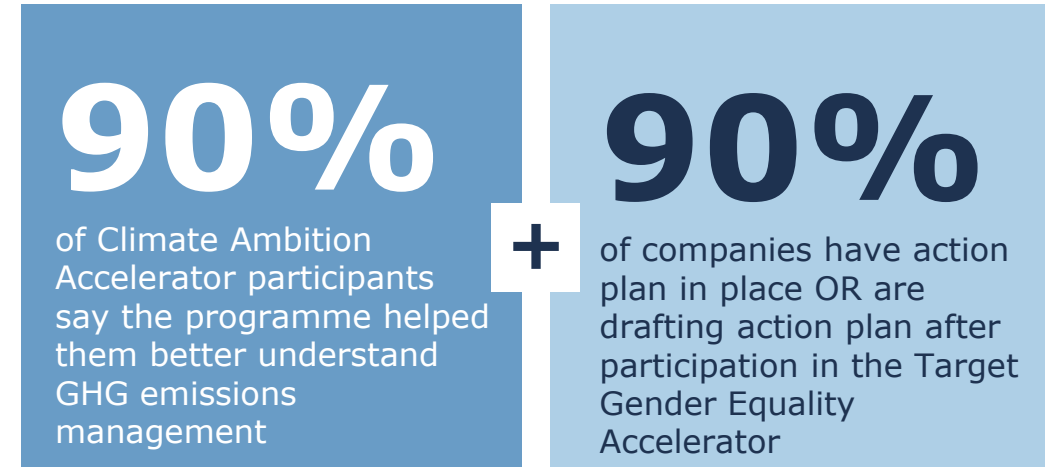
## THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT HAS HELPED:



“ I feel that the UNGC team are excellent leaders in supporting and encouraging businesses to be more sustainable. They speak with urgency but also with a business focus. They are thought leaders and encourage companies to collaborate.  
– UN Global Compact Participant & SME in the Industrial Transportation sector

“ The UN Global Compact provides invaluable information and is always a go to, readily available source of information and training. – UN Global Compact Participant & large national company in the Real Estate Investment sector

## UN GLOBAL COMPACT PROGRAMMES HAVE HELPED:



“ The Climate Ambition Accelerator was essential for us to understand the impacts of our emissions along the value chain and to understand where and how to act, thus accelerating the transition to a low carbon economy. We encourage companies to take this path in line with the emissions reduction trajectory defined by climate science as necessary to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.  
– UN Global Compact Participant & Subsidiary of a Multinational company in the Telecommunications sector