Methodology

• This poll was conducted online by Morning Consult in August 2023 among a sample of 3,250 global business leaders.

• To be eligible for the survey, participants must be employed at companies with 1,000 or more employees and qualify as an IT Decision Maker or a Sustainability Strategy Maker.
  
  • To qualify as an IT Decision Maker, participants must be a director or higher, work in the tech industry, and have influence over purchasing consulting or IT products
  
  • To qualify as a Sustainability Strategy Maker, participants must be a manager or higher and have influence over the creation or management of sustainability strategies.

• The sample includes 250 participants from each of these markets: US, UK, UAE, Australia, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, and Spain. Results have a margin of error of +/- 3 points.
Section 1

IT for sustainability is a priority at large global companies, often including oversight or decision-making at the highest levels of leadership.

Business leaders see a strong connection between IT and sustainability, are expecting to increase investment in IT for sustainability, and are confident in their ability to track and execute their sustainability goals.
Business leaders think that IT investments impact their organization’s sustainability and implement IT solutions for that purpose.

- 69% of surveyed business leaders say that at least half of their IT investments impact the organization’s sustainability.

- C-level leaders are much more likely than lower-level roles to say that 75% to 99% of their IT investments have an impact on sustainability.

- Similarly, two thirds of leaders say that at least half of the IT solutions that impact sustainability were implemented specifically for that purpose.

Q: How much of your organization’s current IT investments—for any purpose—do you think impact its sustainability?
Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299

Q: Of the IT that impacts your organization’s sustainability, how much was implemented for that specific purpose?
Base: Global Business Leaders with at least 1% to 24% of IT impacting sustainability n=3296
Nearly two thirds of organizations already have a dedicated sustainability budget that pays for relevant IT solutions. Looking ahead, 38% of surveyed business leaders say their organization will be investing a lot more in IT for sustainability in the next year and almost none plan to pull back on their sustainability investments.

Q: When IT solutions are deployed that impact sustainability, what budget does it come from? 
A: Dedicated sustainability budget: 62%
A: Regular operational budget: 38%

Q: Looking ahead, how does your organization plan to invest in IT for sustainability? Please compare the next 12 months to the past 12 months.
A: A lot more investment: 38%
A: A little more investment: 48%
A: About the same level of investment: 12%
A: A little less investment: 2%
A: A lot less investment: 0%
A: No investment in IT for sustainability: 0%
Decisions are often made at the highest level with CEOs and other C-level executives involved.

CIO/CTO are most likely to be the primary decision-maker on IT solutions for sustainability, but the CSO is most likely to “play a role”

Sustainability strategy-makers at the Manager level are especially likely to think the Board has relevant expertise and is involved in decisions. By contrast, C-suite executives are especially likely to think that the CEO is a sustainability decision-maker.

Q: Which leader/Organization is primarily responsible for deciding on IT solutions that impact sustainability?; Who else plays an important role in IT for sustainability at your organization?; At what levels does your organization include executives or staff with sustainability expertise?; At what levels are buying decisions being made when deploying IT for sustainability?

Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299
Even with the prioritization of sustainability at a strategic level, the bottom line is at the top of business leaders’ minds.

Energy costs, energy efficiency, and budgets consistently emerge as a major factor influencing IT for sustainability.
The most important reason why organizations are investing in IT for sustainability is energy costs (55% say this is very important, 92% say it is important).

The top sustainability-related benefit leaders expect to get from implementing new IT tools are lower energy use (34%) and minimizing waste (32%).

**Reasons for IT Sustainability Investment**

- Energy costs: 55%
- Environmentalism: 50%
- Competitive differentiation: 49%
- Public commitments: 43%
- Regulatory pressure: 42%
- Consumer pressure: 41%
- Employee activism: 40%

**Top 3 Sustainability-Related Benefits**

1. Lower energy use
2. Minimize waste
3. Improve accuracy of reporting

Q: How important are the following reasons why your organization is investing in IT for sustainability? Showing Very Important

Base: Global Business Leaders investing in IT sustainability n=3219

Q: Thinking about your sustainability goals, what benefits would you most appreciate from implementing new/enhanced IT tools? Select top three

Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299
Along the same lines, total energy consumption and renewable energy consumption are tied as the most commonly tracked KPIs (52%) and two thirds of leaders say energy use (67%) is challenging to solve.

### KPIs Used to Measure Sustainability

- Total Energy Consumption: 52%
- Renewable Energy Consumption: 52%
- Recycling: 47%
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Scope 2: 44%
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Scope 1: 42%
- Water Usage: 39%
- Waste Generation: 39%
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Scope 3: 38%
- Plastic Usage: 35%
- Supplier Metrics: 33%
- We do not measure sustainability outcomes: 1%

### Sustainability Challenges

- Emissions: 68%
- Climate risks (to business operations/physical assets): 68%
- Energy use: 67%
- Supply chain: 67%
- Waste and pollution: 65%
- Nonrenewable energy use: 62%
- Measurement and analytics: 62%
- Construction and maintenance: 61%
- Reporting and compliance: 60%
- Water use: 57%

Q: What KPIs, if any, does your organization use to measure sustainability outcomes? How challenging is it for your organization to solve the following sustainability issues? Showing Very + Somewhat Challenging

Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299
Budgeting limits and challenges may also present an issue to future investments in IT for sustainability. Around 2-in-5 of business leaders say that budget limits and budget allocations issues are roadblocks preventing a higher investment in IT for sustainability, more than any other factors by a wide margin.

Q: What roadblocks, if any, are preventing additional investment in IT for sustainability?
Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299
There are some disparities between business leaders’ perceptions of their organizational capabilities versus what their organization is already doing.

Lack of clarity on current practices, measurement, and tooling could slow down sustainability efforts even as leaders feel like progress is being made.
Most leaders think their ability to track sustainability is “mature” but the reality is more complex.

Even though only 7% think their ability to track sustainability is still in the developing stage:

- 60% say that reporting and compliance is challenging.
- 22% say a lack of awareness about IT/services is holding them back from investing in sustainability (24% among “very mature” organizations).
- 18% say they have no data or insights on a path forward and the same percent has no strategy.
- Just over half of “mature” organizations are ready to report on Scope 3 emissions, and only 61% on Scope 2.

Not only do most organizations think their ability to track sustainability is mature: 23% of “very mature” and 13% of “somewhat mature” organizations say that they face “No roadblocks” to investing in sustainability.

**IT Sustainability Investment Roadblocks**

- Unaware of IT/services that address our challenges: 22%
- No sustainability strategy: 18%
- No data or insights on path forward: 18%
Perceived knowledge seems to be driving confidence among leaders...

Leaders at organizations “very mature” in their sustainability tracking efforts are far more likely to say their company is measuring Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, yet they are just as likely (and in some cases less likely) than those at less mature organizations to be measuring several KPIs, specifically supplier metrics, waste usage, waste generation, and recycling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KPIs Used to Measure Sustainability</th>
<th>Very Mature</th>
<th>Somewhat Mature</th>
<th>Not Very Mature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy Consumption</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Energy Consumption</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Scope 2</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, Scope 1</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Scope 3</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplier Metrics</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We do not measure sustainability outcomes</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: What KPIs, if any, does your organization use to measure sustainability outcomes? Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299
Despite varying interpretations of their company's tracked KPIs, business leaders within organizations boasting “mature” sustainability strategies are significantly **less likely** than those at “not very mature” organizations to **consider** supply chain, reporting, and measuring are challenging.
Businesses say they are ready to report on Scope 1, Scope 2, and even Scope 3 even though many of them are not currently measuring these. Leaders that say they have a mature measurement capability are only slightly more likely to say they are ready to report, suggesting that the “less mature” organizations may be simply more realistic about their capabilities.

**Readiness to Report in 2024**

- **Scope 1 emissions**: 42% say they are ready to report, 7% say they would not be ready.
  - Very Mature: 55%
  - Somewhat Mature: 61%
  - Less Mature: 61%
  - 13 point gap

- **Scope 2 emissions**: 44% say they are ready to report, 7% say they would not be ready.
  - Very Mature: 61%
  - Somewhat Mature: 55%
  - Less Mature: 52%
  - 17 point gap

- **Scope 3 emissions**: 38% say they are ready to report, 8% say they would not be ready.
  - Very Mature: 63%
  - Somewhat Mature: 61%
  - Less Mature: 45%
  - 7 point gap

Q: If required in 2024, would your organization be ready to report on the following? What KPIs, if any, does your organization use to measure sustainability outcomes?
Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299
Specific KPIs, notably supplier metrics, are likely being overlooked. Only a third of respondents report their company uses supplier metrics to measure sustainability outcomes, and almost all KPIs are being measured by less than half of organizations.

93% think their company is very or somewhat mature in using data to track sustainability goal progress.

Q: What KPIs, if any, does your organization use to measure sustainability outcomes? How mature is your organization in using data to track progress on sustainability goals? Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299

We do not measure sustainability outcomes: 1%
There is also a noticeable discrepancy between business leaders’ perceptions of their organization’s AI usage and their ability to articulate what AI entails. Nearly 40% say their company is actively using AI for sustainability, but in an open-end context, they describe AI in very high-level terms.

**IT Sustainability Investment Roadblocks**

- Actively using AI for sustainability now: 37%
- Plan to implement AI solution for sustainability soon: 40%
- Using AI, but not for sustainability: 11%
- Exploring what’s available: 10%
- Not currently considering AI for sustainability efforts: 2%
- Not currently considering AI at all: 1%

Q: How, if at all, is your organization leveraging AI in its sustainability efforts? What is top of mind for your organization as it considers sustainability and AI?

Base: Global Business Leaders n=3299

“AI can help to reduce energy use in various processes and how it minimize waste and optimize resource usage.”

“Migration of local data to the cloud published in real time.”

“Automation of processes which helps in simplifying the systems, analysis and reporting.”