

METHODOLOGY

# World's **Most Sustainable Companies** 2026

**TIME**

**statista** 

June 2026



# The World's Most Sustainable Companies ranking **increases transparency** around corporate efforts

Key elements of the ranking



## Relevance of Ranking

Ranking sustainable companies plays a crucial role in advancing **corporate responsibility** by addressing pressing environmental and social challenges. By **spotlighting sustainability leaders**, it sets a powerful benchmark for others to follow while fostering greater transparency and accountability. As the World Economic Forum highlights, 'sustainability is a key driver of corporate innovation'<sup>(1)</sup>.

The joint effort by Statista and TIME Magazine highlights the **top 750 companies** based on rigorous evaluation, guiding businesses to embed sustainability into their core strategies.

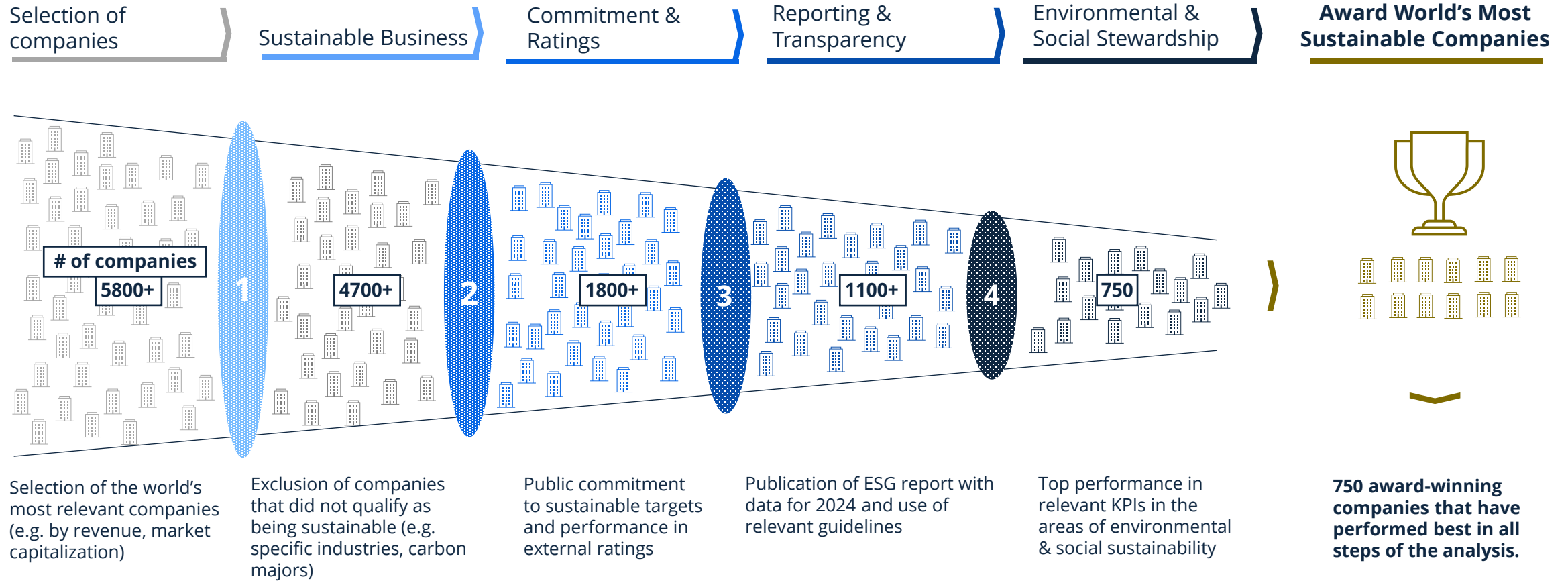


## Executive Summary

- **Title of ranking:** World's Most Sustainable Companies 2026
- **Media partner:** TIME
- **Edition:** 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Number of awardees:** 750
- **Methodology:** evaluation of more than 20 key performance indicators in a 4-step process
- **Criteria used for determining rank:** sustainable business practice, commitments & ratings, reporting standards & transparency, environmental & social stewardship

# Starting with a pool of over 5,800 companies, an elaborate 4-step process led to the **World's Most Sustainable Companies ranking**

Methodology overview



# In the first step, **non-sustainable businesses** were excluded

Methodology in detail (1/5)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Step: Sustainable Business

**Exclusion** of companies that did not qualify as a sustainable company:

- Companies active in **non-sustainable industries** like fossil fuels or deforestation were excluded.
- Automatic disqualification of companies on **negative lists**<sup>1</sup> related to sustainability issues, such as carbon majors or those associated with environmental catastrophes.
- Consideration of **major scandals or controversies** in the realm of sustainability, ensuring companies with tarnished reputations or histories of environmental negligence were not included.

# In the following step, **external ratings and commitments** were evaluated

Methodology in detail (2/5)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Commitment & Ratings

The evaluation process also incorporated the **analysis of ratings from reputable organizations**. This included scrutiny of various commitments & ratings:

- **CDP Rating:** Assessment of a company's environmental impact and efforts to mitigate climate change, based on disclosures provided through the CDP.
- **UN Global Compact:** Evaluation of a company's commitment to aligning its operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, as outlined by the United Nations Global Compact.
- **SBTi (Science Based Targets initiative):** Examination of a company's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to ensure they are in line with scientific recommendations for limiting global warming, as endorsed by the SBTi – short-term & long-term targets & net-zero commitment
- **S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook:** Consideration of a company's performance and leadership in sustainability, as recognized in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook, which showcases the top-performing companies in terms of economic, environmental, and social criteria.
- **Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI):** Assessment of a company's sustainability performance based on economic, environmental, and social criteria, as included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which identifies leading companies in terms of sustainability worldwide.
- **UNFCCC Race to Zero:** Assessment of a company's commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, in alignment with the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Race to Zero campaign.
- **MSCI ESG & SRI:** Evaluation of a company's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance and its suitability for socially responsible investment (SRI), as rated by MSCI, a leading provider of ESG research and analysis.

# In step three, compliance with **international reporting standards** was examined

Methodology in detail (3/5)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Step: Reporting & Transparency

In addition to external ratings, the evaluation process involved researching the availability of certain criteria in the area of **reporting and transparency**, including:

**Published ESG Report** for 2024: Examination of whether a company has published an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report for the year 2024. Such reports provide detailed insights into a company's sustainability initiatives, performance, and goals.

**Assurance** of ESG Report: Verification of whether the company's ESG report has undergone external assurance, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the disclosed information. External assurance enhances transparency and credibility in reporting.

Compliance with **International Standards**:

- **GRI** (Global Reporting Initiative): Assessment of whether the company's sustainability reporting aligns with the guidelines provided by GRI, which promote standardized reporting on various sustainability topics.
- **IFRS/ISSB (incl. SASB)**: Evaluation of whether the company's sustainability disclosures align with IFRS/ISSB standards, including the industry-specific SASB metrics, to ensure comparability, consistency, and transparency in reporting.
- **TCFD/IFRS (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures / International Financial Reporting Standards)**: Verification of whether the company discloses climate-related risks and opportunities in line with TCFD/IFRS recommendations, supporting transparency and resilience in financial markets.
- **ESRS (European Sustainability Reporting Standards)**: Assessment of whether the company reports sustainability information in accordance with ESRS requirements, ensuring standardized, comparable, and transparent ESG disclosures under EU regulation.

# In the final step, **environmental KPIs** were researched for each company

Methodology in detail (4/5)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Step: Environmental Stewardship

In the final step, a comprehensive selection of environmental and social **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** was meticulously researched from the companies' **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports**. These KPIs were then measured and scored against those of competing companies.

### a) Environmental

- Emission intensity: Measurement of a company's scope 1 & 2 emissions relative to its revenue
- Emission intensity reduction: reduction rate of emission intensity between 2024 and 2023
- Energy intensity: Measurement of a company's energy consumption relative to its revenue
- Renewable energy ratio: Proportion of renewable energy sources used by the company in its operations
- Waste intensity: Measurement of total waste relative to revenue
- Recycling ratio: Proportion of recycled/reused/diverted waste in relation to the company's total waste

Moreover, **social KPIs** from the companies' reports were researched

Methodology in detail (5/5)



## 4<sup>th</sup> Step: Social Stewardship

### b) Social

- Women in company: Does the company report the number of women among their employees?
- Women on board of directors: Representation of women in the company's board of directors
- Women in leadership: Presence of women in leadership positions within the company
- Gender pay gap: Analysis of the disparity in pay between male and female employees
- Work safety reporting: Does the company report on work safety as per GRI standards
- Employee turnover: Rate at which employees leave the company; reflecting aspects of workplace satisfaction and retention (voluntary and involuntary combined)

In total, **more than 20 data points** were considered to calculate the company scores and create the ranking

Scoring model

Commitments & Ratings	
Item	Metric
CDP	CDP score
SBTi (short-term, long-term, net-zero commitment)	Target
UN Global Compact list	Yes/no
S&P Sustainability Yearbook	Rating
Dow Jones Sustainability Index	Yes/no
UNFCCC Race to Zero list	Yes/no
MSCI ESG & SRI index	Yes/no

40%

Reporting & Transparency	
Item	Metric
GRI	Scope of usage
TCFD/IFRS/ESRS/SASB	Usage
Independent Assurance	Yes/no

20%

Stewardship	
Item	Metric
Emission intensity	Emissions/revenue
Emission intensity reduction	Reduction (2023/24)
Energy intensity	Energy/revenue
Waste intensity	Waste/revenue
Recycled waste ratio	In %
Women on board of directors	In %
Women in leadership	In %
Women in workforce reported	Yes/no
Gender pay gap	In %
Workplace safety (GRI, IFRS, ESRS)	Yes/no
Employee turnover	In %

40%

Overall Score (1 – 100 points)

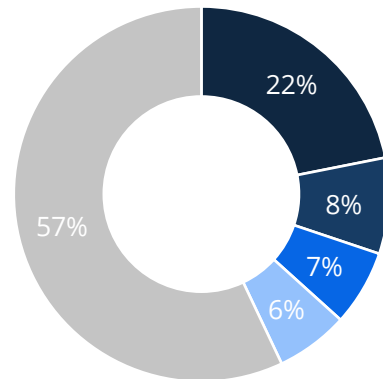
# The ranking represents the 750 sustainability leaders with the highest overall score from **43 countries and in 20 industries**

## Composition of the ranking



### Country of headquarters of awarded companies

The majority of ranked companies are based in the US. Japan is home to the second-largest number of companies in the ranking. Overall, companies from 43 countries are represented on the list.

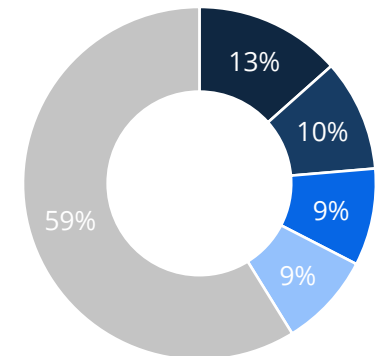


- United States
- Japan
- France
- United Kingdom
- Other



### Industries of awarded companies

The engineering & manufacturing sector led the way among industries with the highest number of sustainable companies. Along with Banking & Financial Services, it accounted for approximately 23% of the companies on the list. Overall, the list features companies from 20 different industries.



- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Banking & Financial Services
- Technology, Media & Services
- IT, Electronics, Hardware & Equipment
- Other

# Legal disclaimer for the ranking World's Most Sustainable Companies 2026

The ranking is comprised exclusively of companies that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on publicly available data sources at the time.

The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the calendar year 2024. Furthermore, events following May 1st, 2026 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the companies were not included in the metrics.

As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations. The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information. The quality of companies that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

# Statista R in cooperation with TIME, create a strong cooperation behind the World's Most Sustainable Companies.

Overview of involved parties

## TIME

### About TIME


[TIME](#) is a global media brand built on 100 years of unparalleled trust and authority, with an audience of more than 100 million people worldwide across their platforms.

Created in 1923, TIME began as the first weekly news magazine: a digest of world events, for busy people to read. Today, TIME includes a website; a magazine; a social media footprint of over 51 million; TIME Studios, an award-winning film and television division; live events; Red Border, an award-winning in-house branded content studio; TIME CO2, a climate action platform; TIME Stamped, a recommendations and e-commerce platform created in partnership with Taboola; and TIME Sites, a customer-experience platform.

## statista

### About Statista R

Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit [rankings.statista.com](https://rankings.statista.com).

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