

# What is ESG?

ESG stands for environmental, social and governance and refers to a set of standards used to measure an organization's environmental and social impact. It's typically used in the context of investing, although it also applies to customers, suppliers, employees and the general public.

The term "ESG" was popularized in the 21st century and often comes up in the same conversation as sustainability and [corporate social responsibility](#) (CSR). However, while sustainability and CSR function more as philosophies or end-goals, ESG is more tangible; it encompasses the data and metrics needed to inform decision-making for companies and investors alike.

Source: <https://www.ibm.com/topics/environmental-social-and-governance>