



CORPORATE KNIGHTS INC.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **20 years on, the Global 100 Index continues to track higher total returns**

*Corporate Knights' 20th annual ranking of the world's 100 most sustainable corporations shows that companies are tripling down on green investments*

**Davos, Switzerland, January 17, 2024** – As a group, the 2024 Global 100 most sustainable corporations invested 55% of their capital expenditures, research and development, and acquisitions in green themes, compared to an average of 17% by large companies (more than \$1 billion in revenue) overall.

“The Global 100 index has outperformed over time because Global 100 companies back up their green commitments with their investment dollars,” says Toby Heaps, CEO of Corporate Knights. “Sustainable investment themes like clean energy are growing exponentially, and the Global 100, across sectors, are helping to drive and are poised to thrive in the low-carbon economy.”

The annual ranking devised by [Corporate Knights](#) quantitatively compares and ranks the world's largest publicly traded companies, equally emphasizing the impact of a company's operations and its core products and services on people and the planet. The ranking is based on a rigorous assessment of 6,733 companies with more than US\$1 billion in revenues, among which Australian metal recycler Sims Ltd. emerged as 2024's most sustainable corporation.

Global 100 companies direct three times (55% vs 17%) more capital into sustainable investments as a percent of total investments and generate three times (51% vs 16%) more sustainable revenue as a percent of total revenue compared to the average large company. The Global 100 Index has also continually tracked higher total returns (net US\$) since its inception in 2005, returning 295% (vs 278% for the MSCI ACWI) as of the end of 2023. This is particularly notable as the Global 100 have no exposure to weapons or traditional fossil fuel stocks, which have benefited from geopolitical instability over the past two years.

Two Australian companies, Sims Ltd. and Brambles Ltd., respectively, top the 2024 ranking. Sims recycles scrap metal in 30 countries, and Brambles rents recycled shipping pallets and containers around the globe. Both companies score 100% on sustainable revenue and sustainable investment. Thirty-one

new companies entered the ranking in 2024, helping to broaden the index’s geographic footprint, particularly in China.

## Two decades of Global 100 vs. benchmark



Corporate Knights also awarded a Global 100 “pivot prize” to Italian energy firm ERG SpA, which completed its multiyear transition from black to green halfway through 2023, selling off its last fossil fuel asset after announcing its plans in 2013 to transition from being an oil-and-gas to a green-energy company.

“When we first did the Global 100 ranking 20 years ago, the green economy was a quaint idea,” Heaps says. “It is now the overwhelming driver of global economic growth, and we are enthusiastic that the Global 100 will continue to lead the way over the next 20 years and beyond.”

## Global 100 vs. the rest

Indicator	2023 G100	2024 G100	2023 average*	2024 average
Sustainable revenue (% total revenue)	50%	51%	17%	16%
Sustainable investment (% total investment)	47%	55%	14%	17%
Executive gender diversity	24%	24%	22%	19%
Board gender diversity	34%	35%	32%	25%
Executive racial diversity	12%	11%	9%	8%
Board racial diversity	13%	13%	10%	10%
Cash taxes paid (% of EBITDA)	14%	14%	19%	14%
Carbon productivity (\$ sales/tonnes GHGs)	\$1,979,051	\$619,266	\$1,378,605	\$196,045
Energy productivity (\$ sales/GJ energy used)	\$397,247	\$479,161	\$423,125	\$160,630
Sustainability pay link	80/100	79/100	1898/6670	1882/6330
CEO to average worker pay ratio	102:1	85:1	102:1	74:1

\*Large publicly traded companies (with more than US\$1 billion in annual revenue) excluding the Global 100

A digital version of the ranking and further contextual and methodological information are available at [corporateknights.com](https://corporateknights.com).

### What is the Global 100?

Since 2005, the Global 100 has been one of the world's most valued and transparent rules-based sustainability ratings that emphasizes the impact of a company's core products and services. It is the best-performing global sustainability index (ticker: CKG100), with more than 10 years of history. All publicly traded companies with more than US\$1 billion in revenue are assessed across 25 key performance indicators that cover resource management, employee management, financial management, sustainable revenue and sustainable investment, and supplier performance. Companies engaging in "red flag" activities such as blocking climate policy and contributing to deforestation are disqualified. Our methodology illuminates the "say-do" gap. Only those companies making sustainable solutions a core part of their business offerings and allocating meaningful investments to reduce their carbon footprints make the grade.

### About Corporate Knights

Corporate Knights Inc. is an independent media and research B Corp. Its media division publishes the award-winning sustainable-economy magazine *Corporate Knights*, circulated in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Its research division produces sustainability rankings, research reports and financial product ratings based on corporate sustainability performance. Learn more at [corporateknights.com](https://corporateknights.com).