

## WEF Announces Formation of ESG Accelerator to Serve the Water Sector

### Background

Water utilities and Resource Recovery Facilities have been leaders in the environmental movement for decades through intrinsic environmental stewardship. Decades later, the private and financial sectors are catching up and prioritizing environmental stewardship.

The financial sector has seen widespread adoption of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting. The Water Sector has an important role in the rapidly growing and changing ESG landscape – not only in providing reporting to improve investor metrics but because water is essential to business



and life. **Therefore, WEF has created this ESG Accelerator to generate an increased awareness within the water sector and provide guidance for pursuing ESG goals, reporting, and partnerships.** This Accelerator seeks to crowdsource and share information for WEF members, to provide cross-organizational collaboration, and to improve water sector communications to investors and the public.

### Charter

The WEF ESG Accelerator seeks to provide guidance for water and wastewater utilities in understanding Environmental, Social, and Governance requirements and reporting, and to demonstrate how water and wastewater utilities can adopt language that conforms with broader market ESG requirements. This includes:

- Define ESG and what it means to the Water and Resource Recovery sectors.
- Share information about the importance of ESG for driving access to capital, improving creditworthiness, attracting and retaining talent, branding, and addressing supply chain and management risks around climate change.
- Share the experiences of leading utilities and private companies on why and how they pursued ESG reporting, detailing the first steps necessary to embark on ESG reporting.
- Illustrate how to translate sustainability and risk reporting into investor-ready information that is also accessible to ratepayers and other stakeholders.
- Demonstrate opportunities to connect public-sector water replenishment, renewable energy and carbon drawdown projects with private-sector funds earmarked for advancing environmental commitments.

The WEF ESG Accelerator has wide-ranging participation from WEF Committees, including Utility Management Committee, Industrial Water Committee, Residuals & Biosolids Committee, and others.

**Follow our Progress at [wef.org/esg](http://wef.org/esg)!**

The Accelerator is an open access group. Individuals interested in staying informed with or contributing to this effort should feel free to contact Mandy Sheposh ([amanda.sheposh@jci.com](mailto:amanda.sheposh@jci.com)) or Karri Ving ([kving@brwncald.com](mailto:kving@brwncald.com)).