

These Are the World's 10 Most Sustainably Managed Companies

The global rankings take into account a range of sustainability metrics

The Wall Street Journal's environment, social and governance research analysts assessed more than 5,500 publicly traded businesses to produce its [rankings of the most sustainably managed companies](#) in the world. They [looked at sustainability metrics](#) including environment, human capital (internal employee and workplace issues), social capital (external social and product issues), and business model and innovation. Scores reflect the amount of publicly available information about each company's policies, initiatives and performance metrics—all of which can be important indicators of a company's long-term financial performance and the effects it could have on the planet and people. Here are the top 10.

1. Sony (Japan)

[Sony's](#) strategy is working to be part of the solution for sustainability risks at large, and not just for issues it faces within the company, says Shiro Kambe, the company's sustainability chief. "For us to continue with this kind of business, the planet and society must be sustainable and healthy. Otherwise, Sony cannot exist."

Human Capital Rank: 13 | Social Capital Rank: 20 | Environment Rank: 74 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 7

2. Philips (Netherlands)



The 100 Most Sustainably Managed Companies in the World

By Fabiana Negrin Ochoa, Dieter Holger, Maitane Sardon and Catherine Lindsay

The Dutch health-technology company takes back and resells almost every medical machine in its lineup, both to extend the life of the equipment, through refurbishment, and to offer some customers lower prices without compromising on quality. Issues such as access and affordability, which the ranking addresses under the “social capital” heading, are particularly important for companies like Philips, in the medical equipment and supplies industry.

Human Capital Rank: 82 | Social Capital Rank: 4 | Environment Rank: 75 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 23

3. Cisco Systems (U.S.)

Cisco has required 80% of its suppliers to set emission-reduction targets by 2025 as part of its goal to cut 30% of its emissions from its supply chain. The hardware company also tracks the environmental impacts of select products over their life cycles. By 2025 the company says it will have standards in place to make sure all of its new products are made with circular design principles, taking into account how resource-efficient, durable, reusable, repairable and recyclable they are.

Human Capital Rank: 34 | Social Capital Rank: 32 | Environment Rank: 70 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 5

4. Merck KGaA (Germany)

The biotechnology and pharmaceuticals company came in top of the “social capital” ranking, which relates to external social and product issues.

Human Capital Rank: 28 | Social Capital Rank: 1 | Environment Rank: 80 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 49

5. Iberdrola (Spain)

The Spanish electric utilities company has been [held up as an example](#) within its sector as having growth potential due to its renewable energy exposure and strong presence in offshore-wind power in Europe. Human Capital Rank: 42 | Social Capital Rank: 44 | Environment Rank: 17 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 82

6. LG Electronics (South Korea)

The hardware maker ranked fourth for “business model and innovation.” The company, which is a subsidiary of South Korea’s LG Corp, is the second highest-ranked Asian company in the overall ranking.

Human Capital Rank: 67 | Social Capital Rank: 16 | Environment Rank: 89 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 4

7. Melia Hotels International (Spain)

The hotel chain came in seventh for environmental issues management.

Human Capital Rank: 68 | Social Capital Rank: 86 | Environment Rank: 7 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 36

8. HP (U.S.)

The third hardware company on the overall list, [HP](#) did well in the “business model and innovation” category.

Human Capital Rank: 23 | Social Capital Rank: 22 | Environment Rank: 79 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 11

9. Georg Fischer (Switzerland)

The Swiss industrial company placed seventh for employee and workplace issues management within the rankings.

Human Capital Rank: 7 | Social Capital Rank: 82 | Environment Rank: 48 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 12

10. Sekisui Chemical (Japan)

The company, which makes materials used for home building, ranked fourth for employee and workplace issues management. The Japanese government has identified overworking as a systemic issue. Sekisui is one of the companies working to tackle that issue. It has reported significant increases in employees’ use of paid vacation days and stress-check examinations from fiscal 2015 to 2019. The company has said its goal is to reduce the total time an average employee works annually to fewer than 2,000 hours by the end of this year.

Human Capital Rank: 4 | Social Capital Rank: 89 | Environment Rank: 38 | Business Model & Innovation Rank: 30

[Read the original article by Fabiana Negrin Ochoa, Dieter Holger, Maitane Sardon and Catherine Lindsay here.](#)