

# SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment

**Benefit from an independent assessment of your company's sustainability performance**

The SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA), now issued by S&P Global, enables you to benchmark your company's performance on a wide range of industry-specific economic, environmental and social criteria that are relevant to the growing number of sustainability focused investors and financially relevant to your corporate success. It enables you to leverage the unique expertise and the proprietary methodology and database underlying the world's most renowned sustainability indices, the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI), for your internal processes and external communication.

The CSA has become a reference tool for companies to gauge the financial materiality of their sustainability performance from an investor perspective and to prepare themselves to address upcoming sustainability trends. With 61 industry-specific questionnaires, the CSA leads the field in helping companies make the link between sustainability and their business strategies.

“We consider the CSA to be the premier external sustainability assessment. To keep our sustainability strategy relevant into the future, Linde can't simply look into the mirror. We need **a way to be able to look into the future.** The SAM assessment is one of our key tools to do that.”

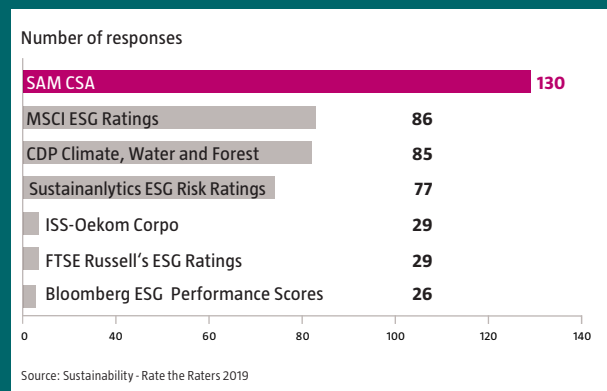
**Riva Krut,**  
VP and Chief Sustainability Offices at Linde Plc., USA,  
participating in the CSA since 2003

**Chief Financial Officers** use the CSA and its results to communicate with the growing number of sustainability-focused investors. The CSA is a tool to link a company's sustainability performance and business strategy in a convincing and credible way. Leading companies proactively use this information within their company's investor relations narrative.

**Chief Sustainability Officers** use the CSA as a credible, independent benchmark of their company's sustainability performance relative to industry peers while providing internal and external stakeholders with important insights into their company's sustainability performance and value drivers.

**Corporates consider the CSA as the rating that ads most business value.**

SustainAbility's independent and widely recognized "Rate the Raters" report 2019 confirms the credibility of the SAM CSA as a leading ESG rating that tops the global ranking in terms of value and use for global corporations. When asked to list up to three ESG ratings they consider to be the highest quality (unprompted), RobecoSAM was by far the most frequently mentioned.



### What do your peers say?

Companies that participate in the CSA year after year consistently tell us:

“We use the CSA as a tool to **communicate with the growing number of sustainability focused investors** in a convincing and credible way.”

“We use the CSA to develop and implement a **successful and sustainable business strategy.**”

“The CSA helps us to **reduce sustainability risks** for the company and **realize opportunities.**”

“We value the **external/internal recognition** for our sustainability performance.”

“The CSA participation **embed sustainability thinking** in the corporate DNA (networks).”

### Several 100,000 stakeholders use the CSA results

The CSA offers various opportunities for enhancing your brand and reputation as a global sustainability leader. The CSA results serve a wide range of stakeholders and applications ranging from asset management to world renowned indices like the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) or the S&P ESG Index family. ESG Scores based on the CSA are available via direct data-licensing from S&P Global or on platforms like Bloomberg. In addition, our public Sustainability Yearbook database is used by your (future) employees, customers and critical NGOs.

### Learning from the CSA results

The SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment enables you to establish a baseline for your sustainability performance and to conduct competitive benchmarking. We facilitate your learning with

- **A Benchmarking Scorecard and Database** empowering your to conduct multi-year trend analysis and gain detailed insight on the rankings within your industry. The scorecard covers all criteria assessed showing your company's sustainability performance, both in absolute and relative terms.
- **Personalized feedback** for companies interested in a more in-depth analysis of their sustainability performance SAM offers different customized benchmarking solutions including detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis and a discussion of the companies' strengths and weaknesses compared to their industry peers.

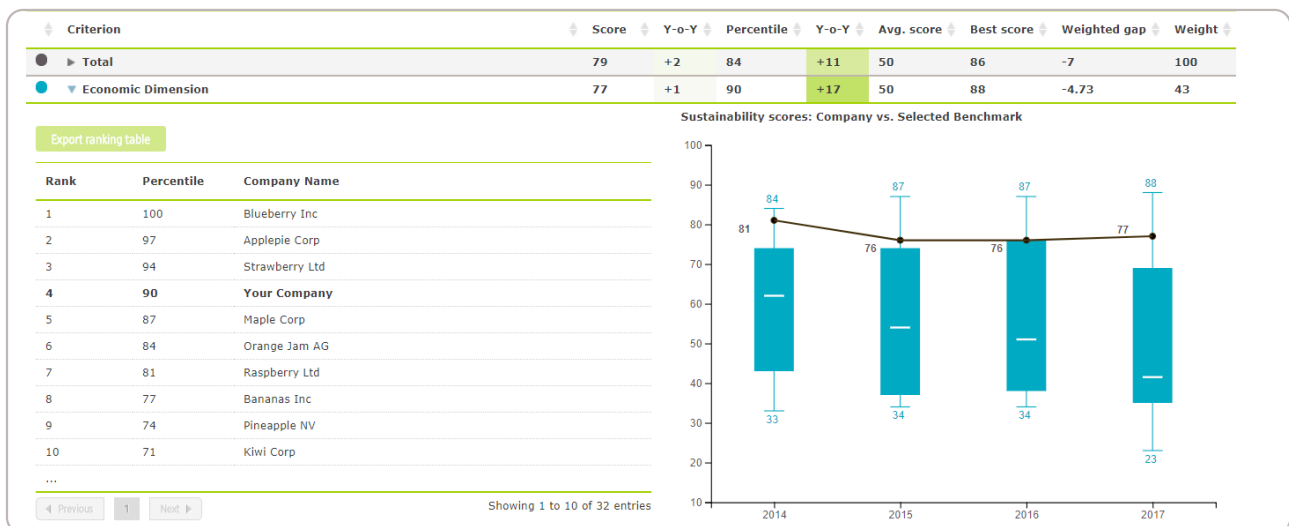
### Gain public recognition in the SAM Sustainability Yearbook

Each year, we publish the SAM Sustainability Yearbook based on information collected through the CSA. The top performing companies receive gold, silver and bronze award, respectively. Visit: <https://yearbook.robecosam.com>



### Sustainability Award Gold Class

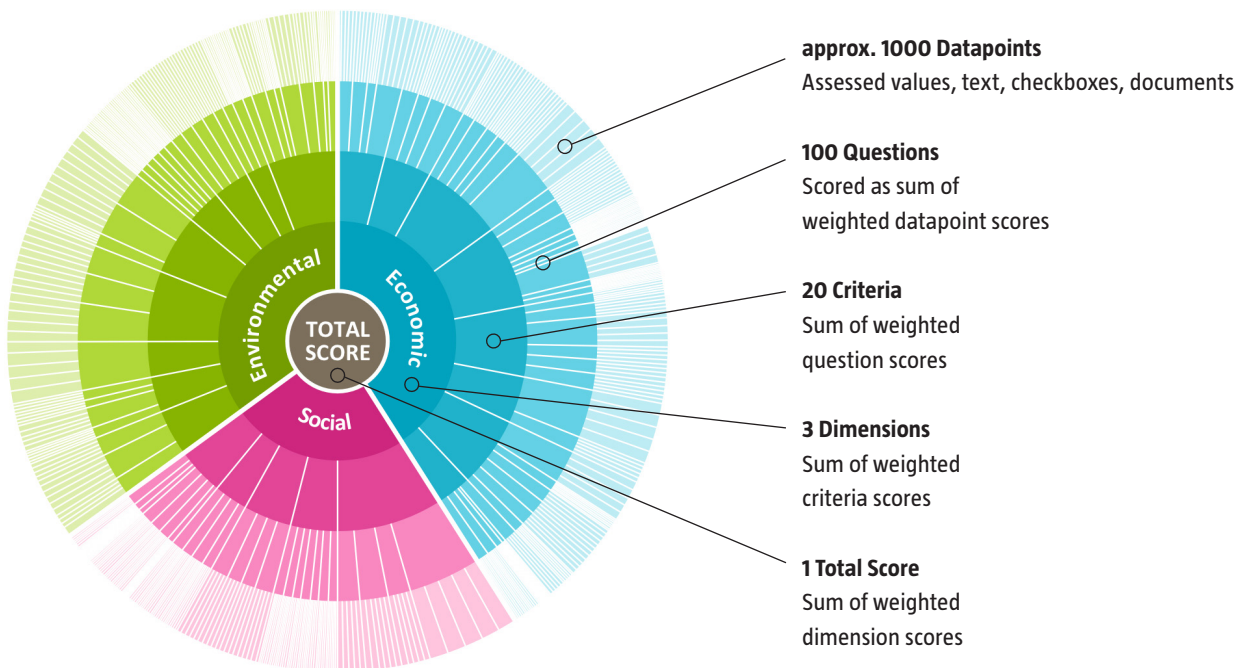
### Online benchmarking tools available for participating companies – showing results, ranking and multiyear trends



### How does the assessment work?

The SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment uses a consistent, rule-based methodology to convert an average of 600 data points per company into a total sustainability score.

The 61 industry-specific questionnaires each contain approximately 80-100 questions covering 20 different key themes across the economic, social and environmental dimension.



### Your CSA portal – secure, online and easy-to-use

The CSA is completed via our secure and user-friendly online questionnaire platform. Our convenient online reporting tool substantially facilitates reporting, and after the first year of participation and can be prefilled with previous answers in subsequent years.

Our user-friendly online reporting tool allows you to:

- access question-specific help functions
- easily attach supporting evidence
- quickly view questionnaire completion progress with clear color-coding scheme
- assign user rights to complete the questionnaire online
- control final questionnaire sign-off
- benefit from an online repository of your ESG approach and business case reference

### The CSA as your IR toolkit – stay ahead of the curve

Participation in the CSA helps ESG, IR and other departments such as procurement or HR to collaborate more closely in putting their company's ESG performance into context, explaining how challenges are addressed and how the company intends to create value in the long term.

The breadth and depth of the assessment across the economic, environmental and social dimensions gives companies a unique opportunity to highlight their sustainability strengths in areas that might not be covered by traditional sustainability reports. For the past 20 years, the CSA has addressed sustainability issues before they have entered the agenda of other investors or regulators. As a result, active participation in the CSA has helped many companies to future-proof their business and stand out as ESG leaders.

# Over 1200 companies are already generating business value from participating in the CSA. Join them now.

## Which companies are eligible for DJSI?

Each year over 3,500 of the world’s largest listed companies are invited to participate in the SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment free of charge. Invited companies fall into one or more of the following groups:

- 2,500 largest companies in the S&P Global BMI are invited for DJSI World
- 800 largest companies from 23 emerging markets are invited for DJSI Emerging Markets
- 600 largest companies in the S&P Global BMI from each region are invited for the regional indices
- Additional country-specific indices exist for Australia, Chile and Korea

## Which companies commission the CSA as a service?

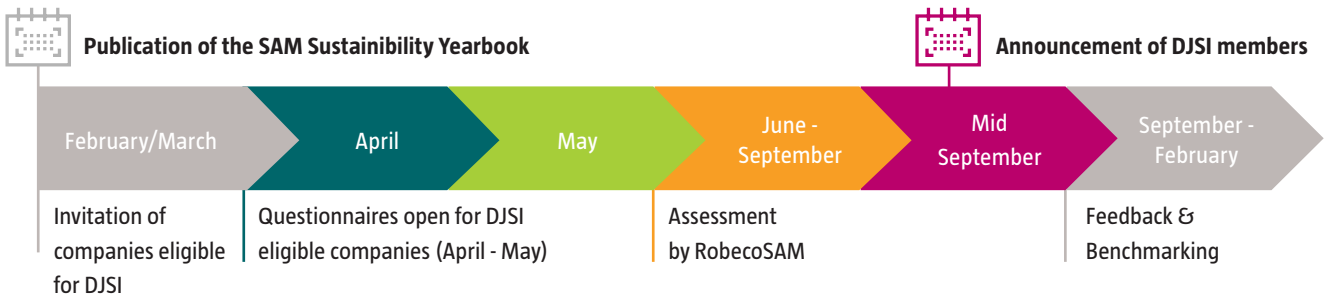
Large privately-owned businesses, companies preparing for a stock exchange listing, state-owned companies, and listed companies not invited for the CSA can decide to commission the assessment in order to have their corporate sustainability performance evaluated.

The sole difference between the standard DJSI process and the commissioned assessments are the assessment deadlines and the potential index inclusion.

## Assessment timeline

The timeline below is for companies invited to participate in the CSA on the basis of their eligibility for a Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). Companies that have not been

invited as part of the DJSI cycle are not bound by this timeline. In either case, CSA results will not be shared with any company before the official announcement of the Annual DJSI Review in mid-September.



## Contact Us

To learn how your company can benefit from a Corporate Sustainability Assessment:



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