



Net Zero | Net Gain

Advice on the risks and opportunities from environmental, social and governance (ESG) sustainability and responsibility (S&R)

ESG matters present a growing legal and regulatory burden for firms, but also present immediate and long term value.

2022 will see the first sets of climate related financial disclosures as required by the Financial Conduct Authority. These requirements are initially focused on achieving the transition to a 'net zero' carbon economy. The UK Government has indicated that disclosure requirements will cascade from larger to smaller businesses over the next few years, with a broadening ESG scope. ESG factors will ultimately become central in the running of financial services and other private and public sector organisations. One example is the Environment Act 2021 and its provisions that require a 'net gain' in biodiversity from real estate asset development.

We help clients achieve their 'net gain' from addressing ESG issues, including in relation to:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in recruitment, retention, career progression and access to products and materials
- Verification of S&R credibility, including the assessment and deployment of ESG disclosures, ratings and taxonomies in particular to prevent 'greenwashing'
- Responsible and effective governance, which both derives from and fosters healthy and purposeful cultures.

Our expertise extends across the private and public sectors, including in relation to agriculture, energy, financial services, health, manufacturing, retail and transport.

Our recent work includes:

- Advice to **a range of FS market clients** on the effectiveness of board and governance functionality, including in relation to the Senior Managers and Certification Regime
- Advised **Manchester City Council** on the set up of the Civic Quarter Heat Network (CQHN), a sustainable energy project to power historic and listed buildings
- Advice to **Oxford City Council** on a high profile infrastructure project involving the launch of an electrical vehicle charging hub
- Advised on developing the Midlands Engine Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in partnership with the Midlands Engine
- Advised solar panel manufacturer **Eco2Solar** on the sale of a 49% stake in the business to E.ON
- Advised Sunday Times top 10 Green Tech to watch company, **Acleron Limited**, on its equity investment from BGF and Mercia Asset Management

Awards



Connect with us to learn more...



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