

The ESG Report

ESG's impact on the fund industry

Tracking pension fund allocations



The ESG Report is developing a monitoring service to track institutional allocations to the main investment areas across the environmental, social and governance pillars.

In this issue we have analysed the ESG commitments of 350 of the world's largest pension funds. 128 pension funds, or 37% to those analysed, with combined assets of \$13 trillion, report on where their ESG allocations are going. A further 34% just report on what they are disinvesting from - without saying what they are investing in (if anything). And then there are 29% who make no reference to ESG at all.

The overwhelming majority of allocations made by institutions to ESG are going into the strategies that fall under the environmental pillar, according to research we published in The ESG Report last December, which analysed allocations to the social and governance pillars as well as the environmental one.

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Disinvestment disappointment



Disinvestment is the most common approach to ESG by pension funds, according to research conducted by the ESG Report. But does it do any good? Or is it no more the investing world's version of today's cancel culture and an attempt to be politically correct?

The ESG Report analysed what 350 of the world's largest pension funds are doing with regard to their ESG plans. Many of them have just made disinvestment announcements (34%) and have not stated where they are allocating, across areas covered by ESG investment strategies. However, nearly half of those who do say what they are allocating to are also disinvesting too. If all the disinvestment announcements are included (so those allocating to ESG investment schemes as well as those who are not) it comes to a majority of all the pension funds that have been analysed.

Disinvestment is popular with pension funds for two reasons.

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