Institutional Investors' Views and Preferences on Climate Risk Disclosure

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JRC Summer School on Sustainable Finance
July 1, 2019

Importance of Climate Risk Disclosures

- Financial market efficiency relies on timely and accurate information regarding firms' risk exposures.
- An increasingly important risk exposure is related to climate change.
 (Litterman 2016; Krueger, Sautner, and Starks 2019)
 - * Natural disasters.
 - * Government regulation.
 - * Technological risks.
- Many regulators and investors argue that climate risk disclosure is currently insufficient.

Importance of Climate Risk Disclosures

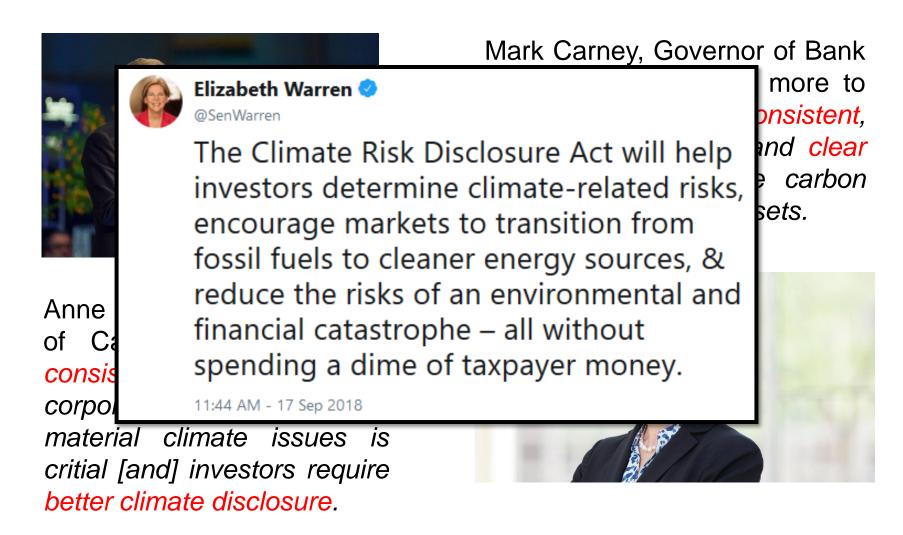


Anne Stausboll, former CEO of CalPERS, argued that consistent and comparable corporate disclosure of material climate issues is critial [and] investors require better climate disclosure.

Mark Carney, Governor of Bank of England, called for more to be done to develop consistent, comparable, reliable and clear disclosure around the carbon intensity of different assets.



Importance of Climate Risk Disclosures



Investor's Views on Climate Risk Disclosures

- Addressing shortcomings in current disclosures takes many different forms:
 - * Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.
 - * CDP on behalf of investor signatories.
 - * Mandatory disclosure of CO₂ emissions in the U.K. since 2013.
 - * France requires institutional investors to report carbon footprints of their portfolios since 2016.
- Little systematic evidence exists on how institutional investors view climate risk disclosures.
- Theoretically ambiguous what importance/value investors attribute to climate risk reporting.

Investor's Views on Climate Risk Disclosures

- Reporting on nonfinancial information can have benefits and costs.
 (Christensen, Hail, and Leuz 2019)
 - + Improve stock liquidity (Verrecchia 2001).
 - + Reduce cost of capital (Plumlee et al. 2015, Matsumura et al. 2018).
 - + May allow for better pricing and hedging of climate risks.
 - Disclosure may reveal sensitive information to competitors (Ellis et al. 2012).
 - Detailed information may be costly to produce.
 - Reputational costs.
- We directly survey institutional investors about their views and preferences about climate-related disclosures.

Survey Development and Delivery

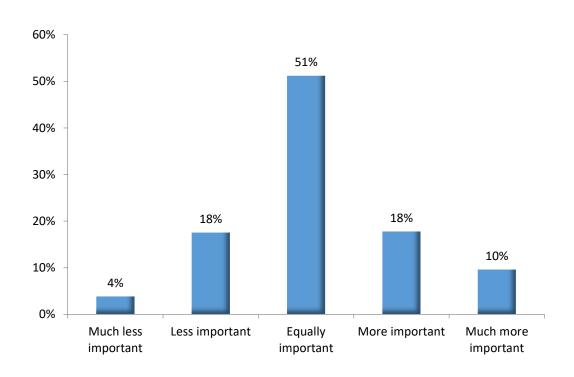
- An online and a paper version of the survey through 4 delivery channels, total of 439 responses.
 - 1. Paper version at four institutional investor conferences: 72 responses
 - 2. Online version to 1,108 individuals in senior functions at institutions: 320 responses
 - 3. Emailed invitations to institutional investors that cooperate with a major asset owner through CERES and IIGCC on climate risk topics: 28 responses
 - 4. Personal contacts at different institutional investors: 19 responses
- Caveat: Potentially biased towards investors with more sophisticated climate-risk policies are larger.
- But they are more likely to shape corporate climate policies, guide future policies and practices.

Respondent Characteristics

Respondent Position (N=428)	Percentage	Investor horizon (N=432)	Percentage
Fund/Portfolio manager	21	Short (less than 6 months)	5
Executive/Managing director	18	Medium (6 months to 2 years)	38
Investment analyst/strategist	16	Long (2 years to 5 years)	38
CIO	11	Very long (more than 5 years)	18
CEO	10	Region (N=429)	Percentage
CFO/COO/Chairman/Other executive	10	United States	32
ESG/RI specialist	10	United Kingdom	17
Other	2	Canada	12
Institutional investor type (N=439)	Percentage	Germany	11
Asset manager	23	Italy	7
Bank	22	Spain	5
Pension fund	17	The Netherlands	4
Insurance company	15	France	3
Mutual fund	8	Others (<3%)	9
Other institution	15	Investment structure	Mean
Assets under management (N=430)	Percentage	ESG share (N=415)	40.6%
Less than \$1bn	19	Equity share (N=400)	47.00%
Between \$1bn and \$20bn	32	Fixed-income share (N=402)	43.10%
Between \$20bn and \$50bn	23	Passive share (N=419)	38.20%
Between \$50bn and \$100bn	16		
More than \$100bn	11		

B1: How important do you consider reporting by portfolio firms on climate risk compared to reporting on financial information?

Much less	Less	Equally	More	Much more
important	important	important	important	important
П	П	П	П	П



Ranking of climate risk considerations when making investment decisions relative to:

Financial risk
Operating risk
Governance risk
Social risk
Other environmental risk
(pollution, recycling, etc.)

		Importan	ce climate risi	k disclosure	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Climate risk ranking	-0.30***				
	(-4.37)				
Regulatory climate risk		0.30***			
		(4.05)			
Physical climate risk			0.71***		
			(6.58)		
Technological climate risk				0.53***	
				(6.57)	
Temperature rise expectation	on				0.34**
					(2.93)
Medium horizon	-0.22	-0.11	-0.2	-0.2	0.08
	(-0.52)	(-0.21)	(-0.33)	(-0.48)	(0.16)
Long horizon	-0.1	-0.14	-0.37	-0.22	-0.03
	(-0.20)	(-0.23)	(-0.50)	(-0.36)	(-0.05)
Assets under management	0.21***	0.23**	0.18*	0.23**	0.25**
	(2.70)	(2.41)	(1.93)	(2.52)	(2.43)
ESG share (x100)	0.83	0.88*	0.66	0.7	0.98**
	(1.54)	(1.80)	(1.56)	(1.56)	(2.37)
Passive share (x100)	-0.01	0.07	-0.11	0.01	-0.22
	(-0.03)	(0.18)	(-0.24)	(0.03)	(-0.49)
Independent Institution	-0.05	-0.15	-0.07	-0.19	0.01
	(-0.17)	(-0.62)	(-0.29)	(-0.81)	(0.04)
HQ Country Norms	1.28	1.59	2.48***	2.12**	1.46
	(1.34)	(1.50)	(3.14)	(2.16)	(1.00)
Respondent Position FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distribution Channel FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs.	361	370	370	370	326
Pseudo R ²	0.06	0.05	0.09	0.07	0.05

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Financial materiality of 3 components of climate risks.

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Investigate how climate change expectations help explain the importance of climate risk reporting.

Perhaps surprisingly, we do not find that investor horizon matters for the perception of the importance of climate risk reporting.

Investors with more AUM believe climate risk reporting to be more important.

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More *ESG-oriented* investors and investors *from more climate-conscious countries* generally regard climate risk reporting as more important.

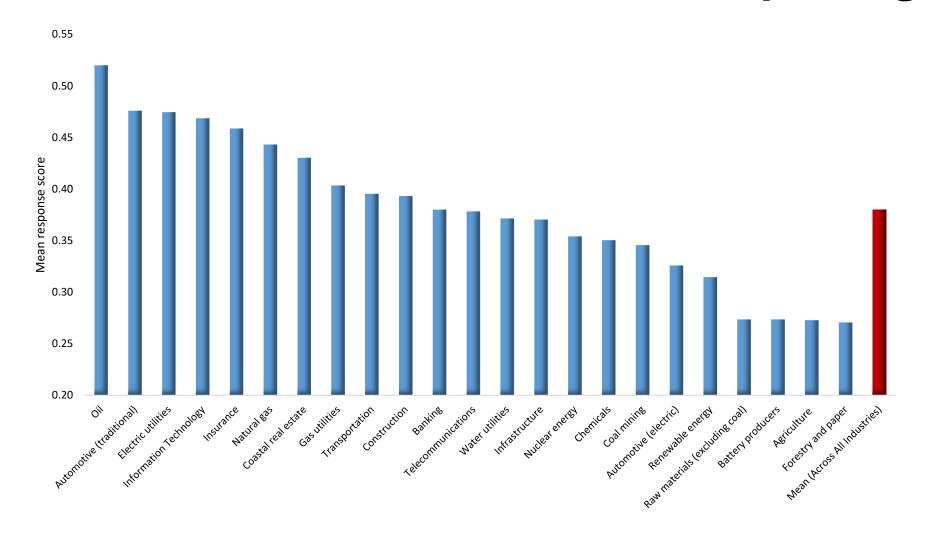
Investors' Views on Current Disclosure Practice

		% with 5 ("strongly agree") score	Mean score
√iews on	climate risk disclosure	(1)	(2)
(1)	Management discussions on climate risk are not sufficiently precise	20.8%	3.78
(2)	Firm-level quantitative information on climate risk is not sufficiently precise	19.4%	3.77
(3)	Standardized and mandatory reporting on climate risk is necessary	26.9%	3.91
(4)	There should be more standardization across markets in climate-related financial disclosure	27.4%	3.92
(5)	Standardized disclosure tools and guidelines are currently not available	21.3%	3.64
(6)	Mandatory disclosure forms are not sufficiently informative regarding climate risk	17.8%	3.70
(7)	Investors should demand that portfolio firms disclose their exposure to climate risk	27.6%	3.90

Investors' Views on Current Disclosure Practice

			Stand. and				
	Management	Quant.	mandatory		Disclosure	Disclosure	Demand
	discussions	information	reporting	More	tools not	forms not	more
	imprecise	imprecise	necessary	standardization	available	informative	disclosure
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Climate risk materiality	0.65**	0.47**	0.55***	0.81***	0.59*	0.51***	0.90***
	(2.34)	(2.28)	(3.73)	(3.98)	(1.90)	(2.60)	(3.88)
Medium horizon	0.83	-0.37	0.64	0.14	0.58	-0.58	-0.65
	(0.95)	(-0.46)	(0.79)	(0.15)	(0.84)	(-0.83)	(-0.72)
Long horizon	1.08	0.12	0.75	0.18	0.57	-0.69	-0.99
	(1.26)	(0.16)	(1.00)	(0.34)	(1.04)	(-0.88)	(-1.20)
Assets under management	0.11	0.02	-0.13	-0.08	0.23*	0.15***	-0.04
	(1.20)	(0.16)	(-1.44)	(-0.85)	(1.81)	(3.46)	(-0.94)
ESG share (x100)	1.67***	1.01**	1.47***	0.45	1.19**	1.14***	0.32
	(3.73)	(2.14)	(3.15)	(0.96)	(2.21)	(2.78)	(0.52)
Passive share (x100)	-0.46	0.41	0.67	-0.00	0.63	-0.65	0.80
	(-0.71)	(1.04)	(1.01)	(-0.01)	(1.32)	(-0.99)	(1.26)
Independent institution	0.29	0.11	-0.30	-0.42	0.53**	0.33	-0.14
	(0.51)	(0.35)	(-1.55)	(-1.25)	(2.20)	(1.23)	(-1.04)
HQ Country Norms	2.49	-1.38	-0.16	-0.80	0.55	0.35	0.06
	(1.38)	(-0.82)	(-0.12)	(-0.53)	(0.32)	(0.20)	(0.04)
Respondent Position FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distribution Channel FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs.	369	369	369	369	369	369	369
Pseudo R ²	0.13	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.15

- An important role for climate risk disclosure is in correcting potential mispricing that may be present in the equity markets.
- Hong, Li, and Xu (2019) document that markets underreact to climate-related risks and argue for the value of more climate risk disclosures to mitigate this.
 - * Lack of disclosure leads to inefficient markets.
- Daniel, Litterman, and Wagner (2017) develop a model in which uncertainty about the effect of CO₂ emissions on temperature rise is resolved over time.
 - * Climate risk disclosures can help remove these uncertainties.
- We ask investors whether they believe current equity valuations correctly reflect risks related to climate change.



Demand more disclosure is 1 when investors believe there is a lack of disclosure related to climate risks.

	Clima	te risk under	pricing	Climo	ate risk misp	ricing		
	Average across all sectors			Averag	Average across all sectors			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
Demand more disclosure	0.20***			0.16***				
	(4.29)			(3.28)				
Quantitative information imprecise		0.24**			0.24***			
		(2.84)			(4.79)			
Management discussions imprecise			0.22***			0.19***		
			(3.53)			(3.98)		
Climate risk materiality	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02		
	(-0.43)	(-0.14)	(-0.16)	(0.73)	(0.64)	(0.70)		
Medium horizon	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07	0.01	0.01	-0.02		
	(-0.27)	(-0.30)	(-0.54)	(0.12)	(0.06)	(-0.15)		
Long horizon	-0.00	-0.04	-0.06	0.03	-0.01	-0.02		
	(-0.04)	(-0.39)	(-0.54)	(0.28)	(-0.05)	(-0.18)		
Assets under management	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.00		
	(1.59)	(1.34)	(1.36)	(0.06)	(0.00)	(-0.17)		
ESG share (x100)	0.29***	0.28***	0.26**	0.19***	0.18**	0.16*		
	(3.60)	(3.09)	(2.48)	(3.01)	(2.52)	(2.03)		
Passive share (x100)	-0.02	-0.00	0.01	-0.05	-0.03	-0.02		
	(-0.21)	(-0.05)	(80.0)	(-0.49)	(-0.34)	(-0.18)		
Independent institution	-0.03	-0.04	-0.05	-0.03	-0.04	-0.04		
	(-0.47)	(-0.58)	(-0.82)	(-0.49)	(-0.59)	(-0.82)		
HQ Country Norms	-0.20	-0.16*	-0.29*	-0.30*	-0.26	-0.37**		
	(-1.63)	(-1.82)	(-2.10)	(-2.11)	(-1.68)	(-2.25)		
Respondent Position FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Distribution Channel FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Obs.	343	343	343	343	343	343		
Adjusted R ²	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.03		

Demand more disclosure is 1 when investors believe there is a lack of disclosure related to climate risks.

Quant. Information imprecise is 1 when investors believe the quantitative information is of poor quality.

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Climate risk materiality	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
	(-0.43)	(-0.14)	(-0.16)	(0.73)	(0.64)	(0.70)
Medium horizon	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07	0.01	0.01	-0.02
	(-0.27)	(-0.30)	(-0.54)	(0.12)	(0.06)	(-0.15)
Long horizon	-0.00	-0.04	-0.06	0.03	-0.01	-0.02
	(-0.04)	(-0.39)	(-0.54)	(0.28)	(-0.05)	(-0.18)
Assets under management	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.00
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Management discussions imprecise is 1 when investors believe soft information related to climate risks are lacking.

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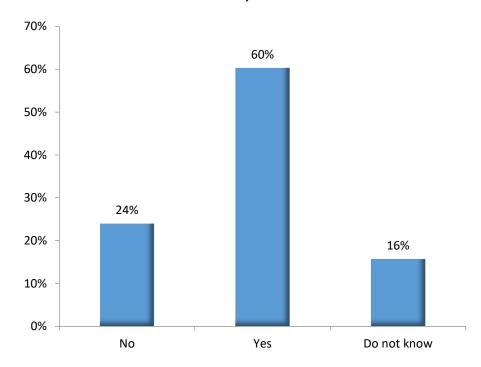
Demand more disclosure is 1 when investors believe there is a lack of disclosure related to climate risks.

Quant. Information imprecise is 1 when investors believe the quantitative information is of poor quality.

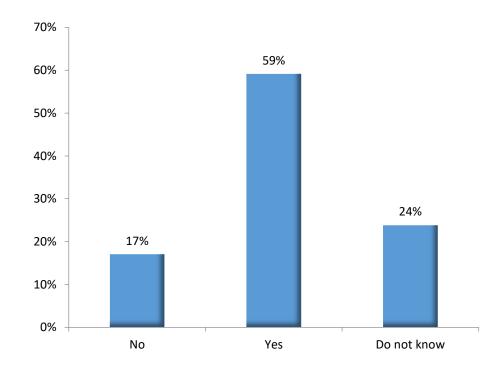
Management discussions imprecise is 1 when investors believe soft information related to climate risks are lacking.

	Clima	te risk under	pricing	Climo	ate risk misp	ricing
	Avera	Average across all sectors			ge across all	sectors
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Demand more disclosure	0.20***			0.16***		
	(4.29)			(3.28)		
Quantitative information imprecise		0.24**			0.24***	
		(2.84)			(4.79)	
Management discussions imprecise			0.22***			0.19***
			(3.53)			(3.98)
Climate risk materiality	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
	(-0.43)	(-0.14)	(-0.16)	(0.73)	(0.64)	(0.70)
Medium horizon	-0.03	-0.04	-0.07	0.01	0.01	-0.02
	(-0.27)	(-0.30)	(-0.54)	(0.12)	(0.06)	(-0.15)
Long horizon	-0.00	-0.04	-0.06	0.03	-0.01	-0.02
	(-0.04)	(-0.39)	(-0.54)	(0.28)	(-0.05)	(-0.18)
Assets under management	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.00
	(1.59)	(1.34)	(1.36)	(0.06)	(0.00)	(-0.17)
ESG share (x100)	0.29***	0.28***	0.26**	0.19***	0.18**	0.16*
	(3.60)	(3.09)	(2.48)	(3.01)	(2.52)	(2.03)
Passive share (x100)	-0.02	-0.00	0.01	-0.05	-0.03	-0.02
	(-0.21)	(-0.05)	(0.08)	(-0.49)	(-0.34)	(-0.18)
Independent institution	-0.03	-0.04	-0.05	-0.03	-0.04	-0.04
	(-0.47)	(-0.58)	(-0.82)	(-0.49)	(-0.59)	(-0.82)
HQ Country Norms	-0.20	-0.16*	-0.29*	-0.30*	-0.26	-0.37**
	(-1.63)	(-1.82)	(-2.10)	(-2.11)	(-1.68)	(-2.25)
Respondent Position FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Distribution Channel FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obs.	343	343	343	343	343	343
Adjusted R ²	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.03

- We asked investors whether:
 - * They disclose or plan to disclose the carbon footprints of their portfolios (as mandated in France by Article 173 since 2016).



* They plan to engage or plan to engage portfolio firms to report according to the recommendations of TCFD.



Investors who believe climate risks are more material are more likely to take the matter in their own hands.

	Carbon footprint	TCFD
	(1)	(2)
Climate risk materiality	0.31***	0.23*
	(3.71)	(1.69)
Medium horizon	-0.72*	-0.21
	(-1.87)	(-0.44)
Long horizon	-1.03*	-0.24
	(-1.79)	(-0.61)
Assets under management	0.28*	0.04
	(1.73)	(0.23)
ESG share (x100)	1.07***	2.36***
	(2.81)	(2.95)
Passive share (x100)	1.00	0.23
	(0.95)	(0.46)
Independent Institution	0.29	-0.08
	(1.15)	(-0.35)
HQ Country Norms	0.62	6.75***
	(0.36)	(4.81)
Respondent Position FE	Yes	Yes
Distribution Channel FE	Yes	Yes
Obs.	306	275
Pseudo R ²	0.07	0.11

Investors who believe climate risks are more material are more likely to take the matter in their own hands.

Larger and more ESGoriented investors are more likely to disclose carbon footprints and engage portfolio firms.

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Perhaps surprisingly, investors with longer horizons are less likely to disclose carbon footprints.

Conclusion

- A large majority of institutional investors believes that climate risk reporting is important and financially material.
- Investors view disclosure to be more important for assessing physical and technological risks, and less so for regulatory risks.
- A wide-spread belief that climate risk disclosure is of poor quality both in quantitative and qualitative forms.
- Many investors see mispricing of climate risks, especially when they find climate risk disclosures insufficient.
- Most investors plan to engage portfolio firms to follow TCFD recommendations in reporting and plan to disclose carbon footprints of their portfolios.