



Sustaira Releases Evaluation Criteria Framework for ESG & Sustainability Software


BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS , UNITED STATES , February 15, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today, Sustainability and ESG solution provider, Sustaira releases an insightful evaluation framework for ESG & Sustainability Software, consisting of 60+ criteria. With a growing demand for organizations to aggregate, track, measure, and disclose ESG and Sustainability data, combined with the challenges of doing so, organizations are seeking guidance on where to start. To enable Sustainability, ESG, Finance and IT leaders to make an informed decision on which software and platform to adopt for their Sustainability and ESG needs, Sustaira shares the common Evaluation Criteria that are considered and is guiding organizations through how to look at the ESG domain challenges and what to look for in solutions, going beyond software.

Outlined by analyst firm Gartner and Forrester, companies will need to focus on Sustainability and ESG in 2023 and beyond. Business leaders are becoming aware of their duty to meet Sustainability and ESG goals and intertwine those goals with software. This is highlighted by advisory firm Verdantix, predicting that 2023 will see

ESG Software Evaluation Criteria 1. Functional Criteria & capabilities		Sustaira	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
ESG Reporting				
KPI Dashboards and Visualizations		✓		
ESG Digital Twin		✓		
ESG Disclosures, such as GRI and others, incl. Carbon Disclosure Management		✓		
Integration possibilities with Rating Agencies Disclosures and Reports		✓		
Forecasting		✓		
Intelligence Dashboards / Data and Analytics		✓		
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) insights		✓		
Other/Comments				

ESG Software Evaluation Criteria 2. Technical Criteria & Capabilities		Sustaira	Vendor 2	Vendor 3
ESG Data Governance				
ESG Data Quality Control		✓		
ESG Data Management		✓		
ESG Data Collection, Verification, Validation and Gap Resolution		✓		
Testing		✓		
Audit Trail		✓		

Evaluation Criteria Framework for ESG & Sustainability Software

Sustaira Evaluation Guide for ESG & Sustainability Software		
Functional Criteria & Capabilities		
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) insights <i>Does the solution offer users insights into their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion data?</i>	Yes! The Sustaira platform has an application template dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion , including dashboards and charting for easy visualization of metrics around things such as raises, promotions, performance, and control in relation to race, ethnicity and gender. Get a clear view of equity and diversity in your organization and even set alerts to notify you if your organization trending in the wrong direction, and well as kudos for meeting goals and/or trending in the correct direction. The DEI Application is meant to be building block and can act as inspiration for a new project or a starting point for a custom DEI app for your organization. For unique projects or projects that require extensive specialization, Sustaira's expert team uses an agile methodology and works alongside your team to deliver a totally custom application that 100% fits your needs.	
Technical Criteria & Capabilities		
ESG Data Governance		
ESG Data Quality Control <i>To what extent is IT in control, enabling and collaborating with the business, i.e. is there an IT governance dashboard and quality monitor for IT?</i>	Yes! Sustaira has Enterprise Data Quality Control functionalities, given one of the core technologies we use is Siemens low-code platform Mendix. Mendix application models have been mapped by experts from SIG on the ISO/IEC 25010:2011 standard for software quality. The AQM service measures key aspects of app maintainability against a set of parameters and rates your application against a database of thousands of projects on a scale of one to five.	
ESG Data Management <i>How does Sustaira collect and manage climate and sustainability data? Where do the emissions factors come from?</i>	Yes! Sustaira has Enterprise Data Management functionalities, given one of the core technologies we use is Siemens low-code platform Mendix. For more details see link . For Sustaira, data aggregation and collection is made easy through the use of APIs. Sustaira and all its applications are meant to be a smart layer of applications and software that fits your goals or initiatives, and it sits on top of your current systems – not as a replacement – but as a way to bring everything together. Organizations can choose to directly integrate with current systems or even the systems of external stakeholders whether that be, customers, suppliers, students, citizens, you name it. Sustaira emission factors are currently sources from the EPA emission factors found on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol website.	
ESG Data Collection, Verification, Validation and Gap Resolution <i>How does the solution collect, verify and validate data? does it offer capabilities around 'gap data' 'gap resolution'?</i>	Yes! The underlying software that Sustaira leverages has the ability to set validation and verification rules and protocols and the Sustaira platform is preconfigured to prevent errors or missed inputs. The platform is using survey and workflow capabilities to prevent data gaps in our system. Data collection can take place in a variety of ways, including surveys, API and web services integration, Excel uploads, and many more. Validation rules can be set at the User Interface, Data logic and Data Model level.	
Testing <i>Does the solution test each module or application for bugs regularly? Is the user able to share feedback regarding any bugs or fixes they may encounter?</i>	Yes! The Sustaira platform is tested regularly and features a feedback support button to submit any bugs, issues or questions throughout the platform and any application.	
Audit Trail <i>Does the solution offer an accessible audit trail?</i>	Yes! The Sustaira platform has the ability to show an audit trail to ensure that users can see where data came from, when it was changed, which user made changes, and more. This can go as deep as the customers would like to go given the configurations can be set individually per app or instance.	

Sustaira's Evaluation Guide for ESG & Sustainability Software

increased maturity in corporates' commitment to ESG and sustainability, with expanding budgets for ESG and sustainability services and software. Organizations in every industry, at every size, must comply with changing regulatory requirements, prompting them to move away from the traditional, error-prone, spreadsheet-based approach. This is a growing pressure from the changing regulatory ESG disclosure requirements, such as the SEC regulations, TCFD, ISSB, CSRD, GRI, CDP, and more. Environmental impact is now one of the top three concerns for investors, following profit and revenue.

The core challenge for many organizations to comply with these rapidly growing regulations and stakeholders' requirements, is that their ESG and sustainability data is siloed and disparate, both internally and externally. This results in manual, error prone processes, thus leading to inefficient reporting and disclosures. These challenges compound into an inability to gather real time ESG insights, turn data into measurable actions, and demonstrate positive impact.

As a result, the need for agile ESG software in this domain is rapidly accelerating and organizations are left with a decision to make. To help address this, Sustaira has released a valuable ESG & Sustainability Software Evaluation Criteria based on hundreds of conversations with ESG and Sustainability leaders, research published by analysts Gartner, Forrester and Verdantix, a powerful network of ESG and Sustainability consultants, direct customer experiences, and expertise in (low-code) software solutions. Sustaira also released a comprehensive evaluation guide of Sustaira's capabilities based on this ESG Evaluation Criteria Framework. More in depth information is provided and can be found here:

<https://www.sustaira.com/evaluation-criteria-framework-for-esg-sustainability-software>

Sustaira has segmented the evaluation criteria into three main groups that consist of various subcategories. Those main groups are:

Functional Criteria and Capabilities

Technical Criteria and Capabilities

Organizational Criteria and Capabilities

Functional Criteria and Capabilities are the considerations an organization makes regarding features and functionality in the ESG solution itself. This includes topics such as ESG Goals & KPI Tracking, carbon accounting methodologies and calculations, dashboard and visualizations, (Co)creation of completely new ESG apps, including Excel migrations, and many more. The evaluation framework includes Functional criteria and capability considerations in the following subcategories:

Rich ESG Portfolio with single views

ESG Program Management

ESG Data acquisition / aggregation

Functional (co)creation & customization flexibility

ESG Actions, Results and Rewards

ESG Reporting

Technical criteria and capabilities are considerations regarding technical specifications within the solution itself. This includes topics such as integration capabilities, tiered user access, integration and architecture, and more! The evaluation framework includes Technical criteria and capability considerations in the following subcategories:

Integration / Openness of ESG Platform

Customization Capabilities and Agility

Internationalization

Reusability

Security & Compliance

Deployment and Architecture Flexibility

Organizational criteria and capabilities are considerations regarding the solution provider and its ecosystem. Considerations such as market approach, certifications, pricing and product vision are all included. The evaluation framework includes Organizational criteria and capability considerations in the following subcategories:

Enablement and Support Model

Does the solution and company have a partner network? Is it global?

How will a user adopt the solution and what best practices do they offer to succeed?

Futureproof

How open is the platform in terms of costs and capabilities? Can you extend the platform and export?

How does the solution implementation process work?

These evaluation criteria are essential to making an informed decision and a key tool to use when evaluating and comparing solutions. Not only will users need to consider what features and functionalities are required versus nice-to-have for their purposes, but also technically how this solution will fit their existing and future IT landscape. Lastly, when adopting a new solution, users also embark on a journey with their provider. Making sure the organization offers support, flexibility, and stability, ensures that your adoption will be beneficial for both parties.

For those wanting to join the journey with Sustaira or learn more, be sure to download Sustaira's Evaluation Criteria Framework for ESG & Sustainability Software at this link:

<https://www.sustaira.com/download-esg-software-evaluation-criteria> This framework is an easy to use checklist that organizations can reference to do comparisons. Another way to get started is through the comprehensive evaluation guide of Sustaira's capabilities based on this ESG Evaluation Criteria Framework. That can be found here: <https://www.sustaira.com/sustaira-esg-sustainability-software-evaluation-guide> If you have an interest in one of our ESG app templates or have ideas for new initiatives, please contact us directly.

About Sustaira

Sustaira is the Sustainability & ESG Software Platform for all your web and mobile solutions. Imagine a world where cutting edge technology and Sustainability domain expertise are

combined. At its core, Sustaira offers the all-in-one Sustainability App platform, app templates, and custom web and mobile initiatives. This technology is then paired with low-code App delivery and implementation services. Lastly, organizations have the option through a Sustaira's ecosystem and network for Sustainability and ESG Consulting. Sustaira is going beyond goal setting, data gathering and reporting. Sustaira makes it actionable, accountable, scalable, and rewarding. As a 360-degree software platform, Sustaira is on a mission to accelerate Sustainability and ESG initiatives by enabling and empowering Sustainability Directors to make their organizations more Sustainable. Faster. Sustainability starts with Sustaira.

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