



GRI Sector Program

Program description

Program purpose

Addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, and inequality requires sector-level action. Nevertheless, many organizations struggle to report on their sector-specific impacts and lack clarity about which issues constitute the sector's most significant impacts from a sustainable development perspective.

A firm foundation providing authoritative information on sectoral impacts can help focus sustainability reporting on the issues that matter most from a sustainable development perspective, thereby strengthening the foundation for sustainable decision-making.

Furthermore, the Sector Program can help surface emerging issues for future development of the Standards, thereby enabling the GSSB to deliver on its commitment to improve the GRI Standards. The Sector Program will help to complete the reporting framework provided by the GRI Standards.

Sector program process

The process for developing Sector Standards is expected to involve:

- conducting preliminary research on issues of relevance to a given sector, leveraging the sector work of other organizations, and providing inputs to draft development;
- forming a multi-stakeholder, expert project working group, technical committees, or peer review groups;
- surveying the group for identification of significant impacts and stakeholder expectations, and analyzing survey results;
- vetting identified issues and their descriptions through a multi-stakeholder process (draft development), using a combination of virtual and in-person group meetings as well as one-on-one meetings, as warranted;
- exposure of draft Sector Standards to public comment and incorporation of public feedback;
- finalization and release of the Sector Standard.

The project cycle is expected to repeat, incorporating lessons learned, for subsequent sectors. As part of the GSSB's commitment to continue revising and developing GRI Standards, Sector Standards will continue to evolve to align with new and revised Topic and Universal Standards and to reflect developments and emerging issues within sectors. In turn, the evolution of the GRI Standards will be driven in part by information from the GRI Sector Program.

The Standards Team will make proposals to the GSSB for the development of new or the revision of existing Standards. The GSSB will consider and prioritize these proposals during the regular reviews of the GSSB work program as per the Due Process Protocol.

Program scope

The GSBS approved the GRI List of prioritized sectors in 2020. The list provides a naming system that uses ‘common denominator’ names (e.g., mining, oil and gas, agriculture) that are intended to be recognizable to all stakeholders, regardless of the classification systems they use. This list of sectors is refined periodically in response to the conclusions of Sector Standards projects and other inputs. The latest available list is the [GRI Sector Program – List of prioritized sectors Revision 4, approved by the GSSB](#) in November 2025.

Compact Sector Standards

In 2026, the GSSB approved the development of Compact Sector Standards. A condensed version of a full Sector Standard, to help organizations navigate today’s reporting landscape and deliver sector-relevant guidance more quickly across additional sectors.

Compact Sector Standards:

- Retain the core structure of the Sector Standards
- Focus on likely material topics for the sector
- Exclude detailed sector-specific reporting
- Follow the same multi-stakeholder and GSSB Due Process requirements as Sector Standards

Compact Sector Standards are developed in clusters, but the outputs are individual compact Sector Standards for each sector. The clusters will be formed to maximize synergies in the development of multiple compact Sector Standards at the same time. To this end, sectors with similar impacts, production processes, value chains, and other potential synergies will be grouped together.

Additionally, work programs of globally relevant standard setters, market demand, and developments in the reporting landscape will be considered when forming the clusters. The severity of impacts and different degrees of maturity in reporting can also be factors in including a sector in a cluster. For more information about the Compact Sector Standards, click [here](#).