

ESG IN RETAIL

Driving stakeholder value with ESG

BDO guides consumer businesses as they navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving marketplace.

ESG programs for retail

In today's world, **environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** is a core pillar of value creation for organizations of all sizes. Due to an evolving set of expectations from stakeholders and pending regulatory requirements, ESG is no longer a discussion—it's a necessity.

In the retail sector, consumers' preferences have changed, and environmental and social values are being infused into buying decisions.

ESG issues specific to retail

Every industry has different driving forces behind the development of ESG Programs. The following issues are material to the retail sector:

1. Supply chain:

Global supply chains involve hundreds of stakeholders and a myriad of activities that are often opaque and complex from an ESG perspective. As a result, the retail industry will need to monitor its supply chain for ESG issues.

2. Emissions management:

Upcoming regulation on public companies to disclose and report on their Scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will put pressure on the entire supply chain to map out their carbon footprint.

3. Environmental risks:

The retail sector has a large number of environmental risks that need to be managed. The sector needs to gain resilience to regulatory change by planning for climate risks, carbon pricing, and anti-pollution policies like bans on single-use plastics.

4. Customer privacy and data security:




The interconnectedness of today's world means that a corporation's cyber policy, compliance, and risk metrics can have far-reaching impacts that can cascade throughout society. Customers want to know that their information is protected, and that data won't be shared or sold to other organizations or retailers.

5. Ethical business and fair labour practices:

The retail sector needs to manage human rights and child labour across its entire value chain.

How BDO's sustainability services can help

Our ESG specialists and services can support you regardless of where you are in your sustainability journey.

Strategy 	Implement and optimize 			Measure 
<p>ESG strategy and program development (full and light).</p> <p>Climate change strategy and risk.</p>	<p>Technology innovation and transformation.</p>	<p>Technology enablement.</p> <p>Program implementation and management.</p> <p>ESG technology selection and system implementation.</p> <p>Process risks and controls implementation.</p> <p>GHG emission and carbon management.</p>	<p>Social performance measurement.</p> <p>Governance performance management.</p> <p>Supply chain risk and traceability management.</p> <p>Sustainable finance.</p> <p>M&A sustainable finance: M&A ESG due diligence, ESG investment portfolio, integration, and impact assessment.</p>	<p>ESG target setting.</p> <p>ESG reporting.</p> <p>ESG assurance.</p> <p>Third-party assurance.</p>



What our leading specialists say

"Investing in an ESG program is more important now than ever. The retail sector needs to be aware of changing consumer preferences and increased pressure to measure and report on ESG metrics to demonstrate impact on issues that matter. Forming an effective, sustainable ESG strategy and leveraging technology to support your ESG journey will optimize growth and set your organization for long-term success."

– Pierre Taillefer, National Sustainability & ESG Leader, BDO Canada

Benefits of investing in ESG programs for retail:



Early integration of an ESG program strategically positions your organization for long-term success.



Customer acquisition and retention.



Access to capital.



Supply chain optimization considering ESG imperatives.



Operational efficiency and innovation.



Partnership opportunities and community impact.

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT

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ABOUT BDO

BDO is a leading provider of professional services, delivering a range of assurance & accounting, tax, and advisory services. Complemented by continuously advancing technology expertise, ESG focus, and 100+ years of being connected to local communities, we're proud to cultivate ongoing relationships with clients and employees across Canada and beyond.

Our people-first approach to our talent experience has earned us multiple awards, including a spot among [Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2022](#).

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