

UK SRS Guide: What businesses need to know



SWEEP

Featuring insights from David Carlin, Climate Expert

GUIDE

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GHG EMISSIONS

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Disclosure coverage

58%

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The expert



David Carlin

International expert on the simplified ESRS
Founder of UNEP FI Risk Centre

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Introduction

The UK Sustainability Reporting Standards (UK SRS) will form the new baseline for climate-related and sustainability disclosures in the UK.

They are designed to create clearer, more consistent reporting and help organisations strengthen the quality and decision-usefulness of their climate information.

Is UK SRS mandatory?

UK SRS is expected to become mandatory once finalised, with the government confirming that the standards will be implemented following the consultation process. They will guide how UK companies disclose climate risks, governance, metrics, and transition planning as part of their annual reporting obligations.



UK SRS will guide how UK companies disclose climate risks, governance, metrics.

Who is covered?

Coverage will depend on the final rules, but UK SRS is expected to apply to:

- UK companies already within scope of existing climate reporting requirements
- Organisations required to report under TCFD-aligned rules
- Large companies likely to be brought into future phases as standards evolve

The intention is to ensure consistency with international reporting expectations while tailoring requirements to the UK market.

What are the timelines?

The standards are expected to be finalised in early 2026. Once published, they will take effect shortly after, aligning with statutory annual reporting cycles.

Companies should expect their first UK SRS-aligned disclosures to be required for the financial year following the standards' adoption.

What are the requirements?

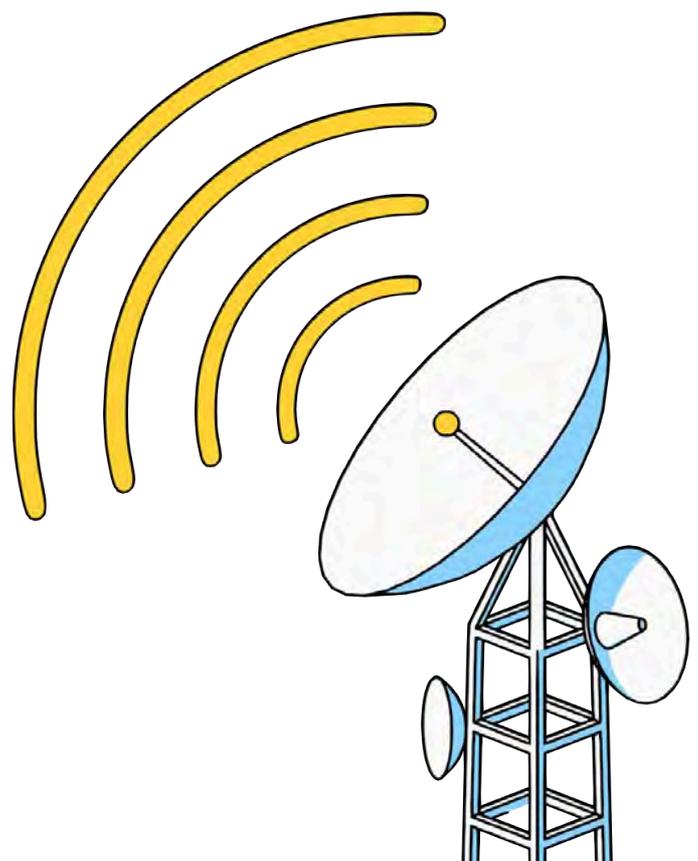
UK SRS is based closely on the ISSB global baseline and will require disclosures on:

- Governance of climate-related risks and opportunities
- Strategy and resilience, including transition planning
- Risk management processes
- Metrics and targets, including emissions reporting

The standards will also integrate and, in some cases, replace elements of existing UK reporting frameworks such as TCFD and SECR, creating a more streamlined and interoperable reporting system.

Key features of UK SRS

- Expected finalisation early next year
- Builds on ISSB and closely connected to TCFD
- Designed to align with UK corporate reporting requirements
- Subsumes elements of SECR and enhances climate-reporting expectations



01 Understand the timeline and prepare before finalisation

The consultation for UK SRS has closed, and the final standards are expected soon. While details may change slightly, most of what was proposed will likely remain.

Companies should not wait for the final publication to begin preparing. Early planning allows teams to understand emerging requirements, assess readiness, and build the foundations needed for smooth adoption.

Pre-implementation preparation should focus on understanding the expected structure of the standards and how they compare with existing reporting obligations. Taking early action reduces the risk of last-minute compliance challenges once the final standards are released.



“With consultations, there is a little bit of ‘what you see is what you get.’

Things can change, but unless there’s a political earthquake, you usually get about a 90% version. Many of the things in there are going to be key, so companies should be preparing now.”

David Carlin

Founder of the UNEP FI Risk Centre

02 Know the UK-specific differences and adjust processes accordingly

While UK SRS is closely based on ISSB, there are several important UK-specific adaptations. These include more flexible industry classifications, different language around sector guidance, and terminology tailored to the UK regulatory environment. Some reliefs available under ISSB may also differ, particularly around Scope 3, depending on the final version.

Understanding these differences early allows companies to avoid incorrect assumptions and ensures that existing sustainability processes are properly aligned. Most organisations will be able to leverage their ISSB or TCFD reporting work, but some adjustments will be necessary.



“It is very similar to ISSB, but there are subtle UK-specific differences.

Sector guidance shifts from ‘shall consider’ to ‘may consider,’ classifications are more flexible, and UK terminology applies for capital markets and subsidiaries. These are important to know as you look to align.”

David Carlin

Founder of the UNEP FI Risk Centre

03 Strengthen governance and get assurance-ready

Governance under UK SRS will follow the same principles as other climate-reporting frameworks: strong leadership, clear accountability, and appropriate incentives.

Companies that already report under TCFD or CSRD will recognise many of these elements, but assurance will become increasingly important under UK SRS.

While the final assurance roadmap is still developing, limited assurance is the most likely starting point.

Organisations should prepare by strengthening controls, documenting methodologies, and ensuring teams have the necessary skills to support assured disclosures.



“What is being discussed is how assurance will be mandatorily applied. The expectation is limited assurance to start. It takes knowledge not just to put statements together but to be the ones doing the assurance, so building capability is essential.”

David Carlin

Founder of the UNEP FI Risk Centre

04 Leverage existing frameworks to create efficiencies

Companies already reporting under SECR, TCFD, CSRD, ISSB, CDP or GRI can reuse much of their existing work for UK SRS. Because UK SRS is designed to be interoperable, organisations with mature reporting systems will be able to streamline processes rather than rebuild them.

Aligning methodologies across frameworks reduces duplication and creates consistency in governance, data management, and disclosure processes. This efficiency becomes even more valuable for multinational companies reporting in several jurisdictions.

UK SRS can be supported by:

- TCFD reporting already in place
- SECR and emissions data systems
- ISSB or CSRD alignment work
- CDP and GRI voluntary disclosures

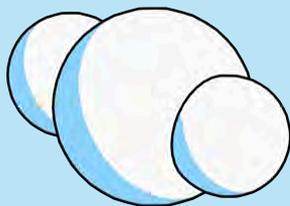
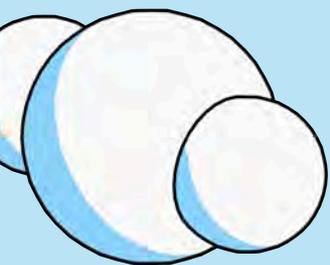




“The aim with interoperability is that all of these pieces fit together. If you’ve already done TCFD, SECR, ISSB or CSRD, much of that can be leveraged. The more aligned the systems are, the more efficient the reporting will be.”

David Carlin

Founder of the UNEP FI Risk Centre



05 Start with a gap assessment and understand your current position

Companies are in very different places on reporting maturity. Some already follow TCFD or ISSB closely, while others have done little formal sustainability reporting. The first step for UK SRS readiness is to understand where you stand today, what is already in place, and where the gaps lie compared to the expected standards.

A structured gap assessment helps determine which capabilities need strengthening – whether governance, skills, methodologies or data systems. This early visibility ensures an efficient and targeted implementation plan, reducing the risk of surprises once reporting becomes mandatory.



“Understanding where you’re at right now is crucial. Companies are in vastly different places. Mapping your current state versus the requirements is step one: knowing what gaps need to be filled is super important.”

David Carlin

Founder of the UNEP FI Risk Centre

How Sweep can help:

Sweep helps organisations prepare for UK SRS by turning fragmented sustainability data into audit-ready intelligence you can use across multiple frameworks.

With Sweep, you can:



Assess your readiness

Map your current position against UK SRS requirements and identify gaps with AI-assisted analysis



Report with confidence

Prepare for UK SRS, SECR, ISSB, and CSRD using one trusted dataset with complete audit trails and embedded regulatory expertise



Turn data into intelligence

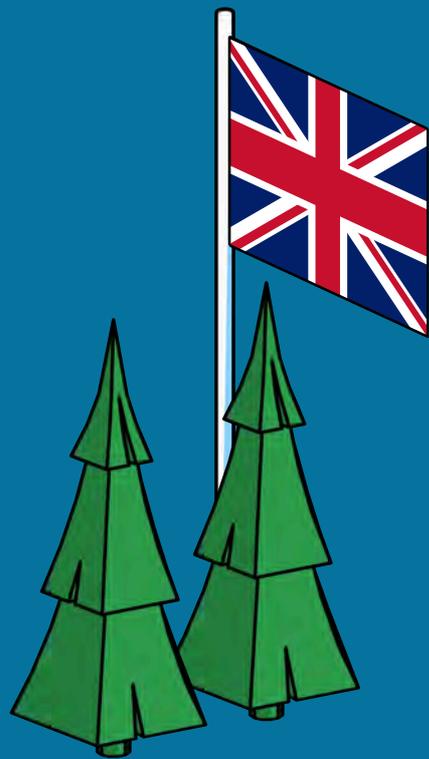
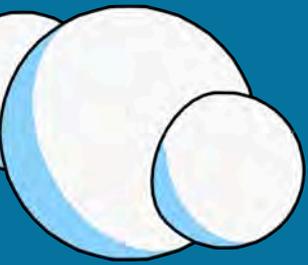
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