

Sustainability in Action 2026



Key Findings for UK Businesses

Sweep and Capgemini surveyed over 500 sustainability leaders across 5 major economies to understand how businesses are managing the low-carbon transition. Here are our topline findings from UK businesses.



The backdrop

The UK now has one of the clearest regulatory roadmaps of any market surveyed: the government's UK Sustainability Reporting Standards landed in early 2026, closely mirroring the global ISSB baseline, with mandatory reporting expected to follow in phases. The UK's net zero by 2050 target keeps the direction of policy unambiguous. At the same time, storms, flooding and volatile energy prices are turning climate risk into a live financial issue rather than a future one.

UK businesses are responding with real conviction. But many are discovering that their sustainability data isn't yet ready to back it up.

United Kingdom: Key Findings

01

UK businesses show the strongest sustainability conviction of any market surveyed



95% of UK respondents agree their business must transform to survive in the low-carbon economy, the joint highest rate in the entire survey alongside Norway, and ten points above the global average of 85%.

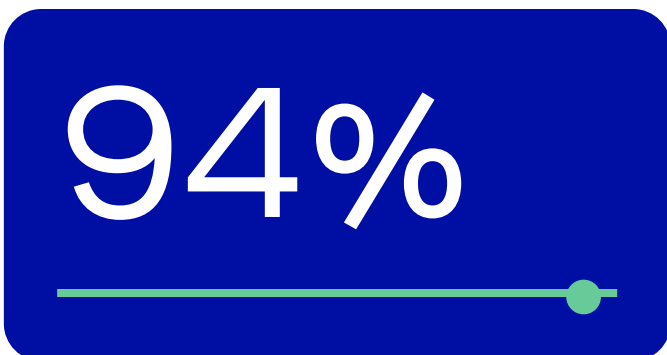


Domestic policy changes, including the rollout of UK SRS, have driven increased sustainability investment for 86% of UK organisations.

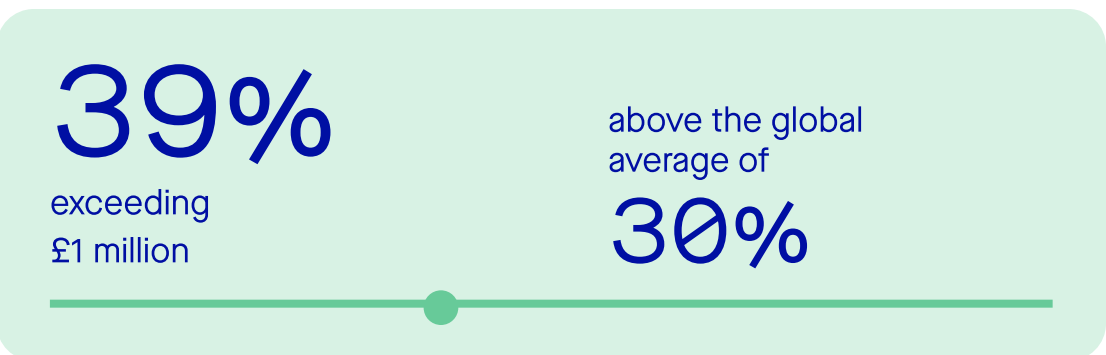
UK business leaders are not waiting to be told what to do. With the regulatory direction now clear, they are moving earlier and faster than the global average, treating sustainability transformation as a matter of competitiveness rather than compliance alone.

02

Climate risk is inflicting the heaviest financial toll of any market



94% of UK businesses have experienced climate-related supply chain disruption in the past 24 months.



39% of UK businesses report financial impacts exceeding £1 million, well above the global average of 30% who report losses at this level, making the UK one of the hardest-hit markets financially.

47% globally report significant financial impacts above \$1 million

Supply chain disruption, extreme weather events and resource volatility are landing on the P&L now.

For a market this exposed, resilience investment is fast becoming a board-level risk priority rather than a sustainability afterthought.

A data readiness gap threatens compliance as UK SRS reporting looms



92% of UK respondents say their ESG data is not comprehensive enough to inform sustainability strategy, 12 points above the global average of 80%.

Only 10% of UK respondents say more than 75% of their reportable ESG data is audit-ready, below the already low global average of 16%.

With phased mandatory reporting on the horizon, this gap between ambition and audit-readiness is a compliance risk that UK organisations cannot afford to leave unaddressed.

“Mandatory sustainability disclosures coming into force in the UK, Europe and other parts of the world are going to raise the bar for data quality and decision usefulness significantly - and quickly. It’s disappointing, although not surprising, that sustainability data is insufficient to inform strategy - and that it’s getting worse. The good news is that means more people are paying attention to it, and they are using better processes and systems to do so. It also means sustainability data is set to inform and drive action, the results of which will now be disclosed in a standardised and robust way.”



Hilary Eastman, member of UK Sustainability Disclosure Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), responsible for UK SRS



Methodology

REGIONAL SAMPLE



US

300



UK

200



France

200



DACH

200

Austria, Germany,
Switzerland



Nordics

100

Denmark, Finland,
Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Sweep and Capgemini commissioned Censuswide to survey senior leaders in the UK as part of a global study of 1,000 senior leaders across six markets. This report focuses on the UK findings, with comparative data from DACH (Austria, Germany and Switzerland), the Nordics (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), the US and France.

Respondents included Sustainability Managers, Chief Sustainability Officers, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Chief Technology Officers, Chief Data Officers, Chief AI Officers and Chief Procurement Officers. They represented five sectors: energy, life sciences, manufacturing, retail and transportation.



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[Read the full report](#)