

PRESS RELEASE

The results of the 11th WISAG Sustainability Radar show how the property sector is dealing with the EU taxonomy

Ready for a green future?

Frankfurt am Main, 17 May 2023 – The use of renewables and smart meters are the most popular ways to make new or existing properties sustainable. However, relatively few participants in the study feel sufficiently prepared to take the step into a green future. At the time of the survey, most companies in the property sector were still in the middle of drawing up a strategy to improve the carbon footprints of their properties. Budgets and the lack of specialists are the most serious challenges standing in the way of environmental targets. These are the key findings of the 11th Sustainability Radar, the results of which have now been published by WISAG Facility Service Holding SE.

The theme of the online survey of strategists and operational stakeholders in the property sector was ‘EU taxonomy: where does the property sector stand?’ The sobering conclusion: still on the starting line. Barely one quarter of the participants in the study feel sufficiently prepared to improve the sustainability of buildings in line with requirements. For one, just 15 per cent of the participants are already taking tangible action to reduce their CO₂ emissions. The majority are still working to draw up a strategy.

Measures and obstacles on the road to a green property

Companies that are already pursuing a sustainability strategy are prioritising the optimisation of existing buildings. Renewable energy and smart meters are the most popular ways to make new or existing properties sustainable. The participants believe that an interdisciplinary approach is needed first and

foremost on the road to green properties, i.e. close collaboration between owners and investors, asset managers, property managers, facility managers etc. The participants also see a wide range of ways to make properties sustainable in the field of facility management. They attribute the greatest potential to energy optimisation. The lack of specialists and insufficient budgets are the greatest obstacles impeding the development of sustainable properties.

‘The results suggest that there is still no clear orientation or shared understanding of relevant ESG criteria – potentially also because regulations are (still) not clear enough or there are no standards. Yet, the study also shows that the stakeholders are trying lots of things and sorting themselves out. As such, I am optimistic that the sector is heading in a good direction overall and that the development of sustainable properties will gain momentum’, says Jens Schmidt, Head of Sustainability and ESG Management at WISAG Facility Service Holding SE. ‘It is ultimately a combination of different measures that is prudent when it comes to aligning properties with the taxonomy. At the end of the day, the sector is aware of this too. The Sustainability Radar also shows that it is taking the need to make its properties green seriously and prioritising it’, continues Jens Schmidt.

The survey for the 11th Sustainability Radar was carried out from mid September to early November 2022.

WISAG has published a detailed synopsis with all the results of the 11th Sustainability Radar at www.nachhaltigkeitsradar.de



The 11th Sustainability Radar examined how strategists and operational stakeholders in the property sector are dealing with the EU's Taxonomy Regulation in practice. Source: WISAG

Strategists: Is your company sufficiently prepared to implement the EU's Taxonomy Regulation in your property portfolios?

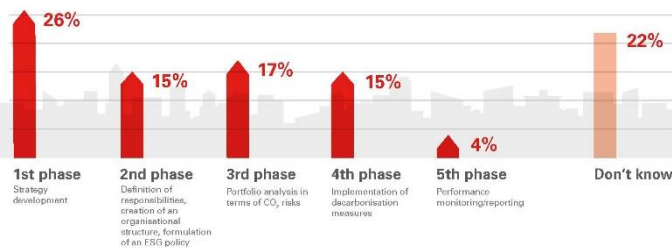
Agreement of the participants (in per cent); only one answer could be given. Any deviations from 100 per cent are due to rounding.



Barely one quarter of the participants in the study, among the strategists in the property sector, feel sufficiently prepared to improve the sustainability of buildings in line with requirements. Source: WISAG

Strategists: One key goal of the EU taxonomy is to decarbonise property portfolios: what phase of implementation are you currently in?

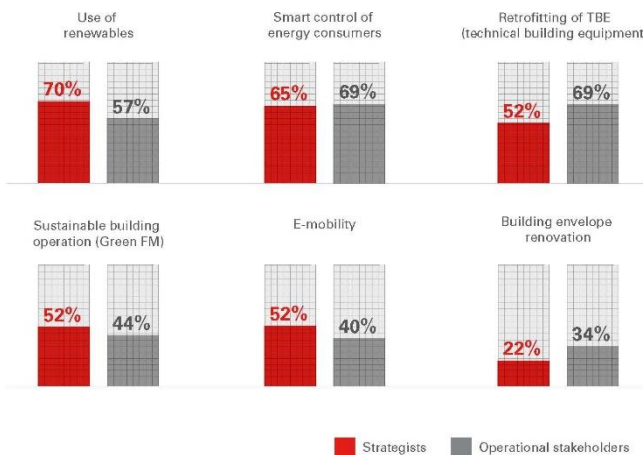
Agreement of the participants (in per cent); only one answer could be given. Any deviations from 100 per cent are due to rounding.



Only 15 per cent of participants are already taking tangible action to reduce CO₂ emissions. The majority are still working to draw up a strategy. This question was for the strategists in the property sector. Source: WISAG

What building blocks are chosen to decarbonise properties?*

Agreement of the participants (in per cent); more than one answer could be given.



Renewable energy and smart meters are the most popular ways to make new or existing properties sustainable. The renovation of technical building equipment ranks in second place in the eyes of the operational stakeholders. Source: WISAG

Press service:

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About the property specialist WISAG Facility Service:

WISAG Facility Service primarily provides technical and infrastructural services for properties: Facility Management, Building Engineering, Commercial Cleaning, Security & Service, Catering, Garden & Landscaping Services, and Consulting & Management. Each of the service divisions is a key provider in its sector. Clients' property management requirements vary by industry, so WISAG offers specialised solutions and service packages for sectors such as healthcare and social services, retail and logistics, hotels and housing.

With approximately 19,800 clients, 31,000 employees and sales of €1.223 billion in 2021, the property specialist is one of Germany's leading facility service providers. The company is part of the WISAG Group, whose almost 50,000 employees operate at more than 250 sites in Germany and abroad.

Contact WISAG:

WISAG Facility Service Holding SE
Stephanie Waltke
Corporate Communications
Herriotstrasse 3, 60528 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0)69 505 044 711
E-mail: stephanie.waltke@wisag.de
Website: www.wisag.de