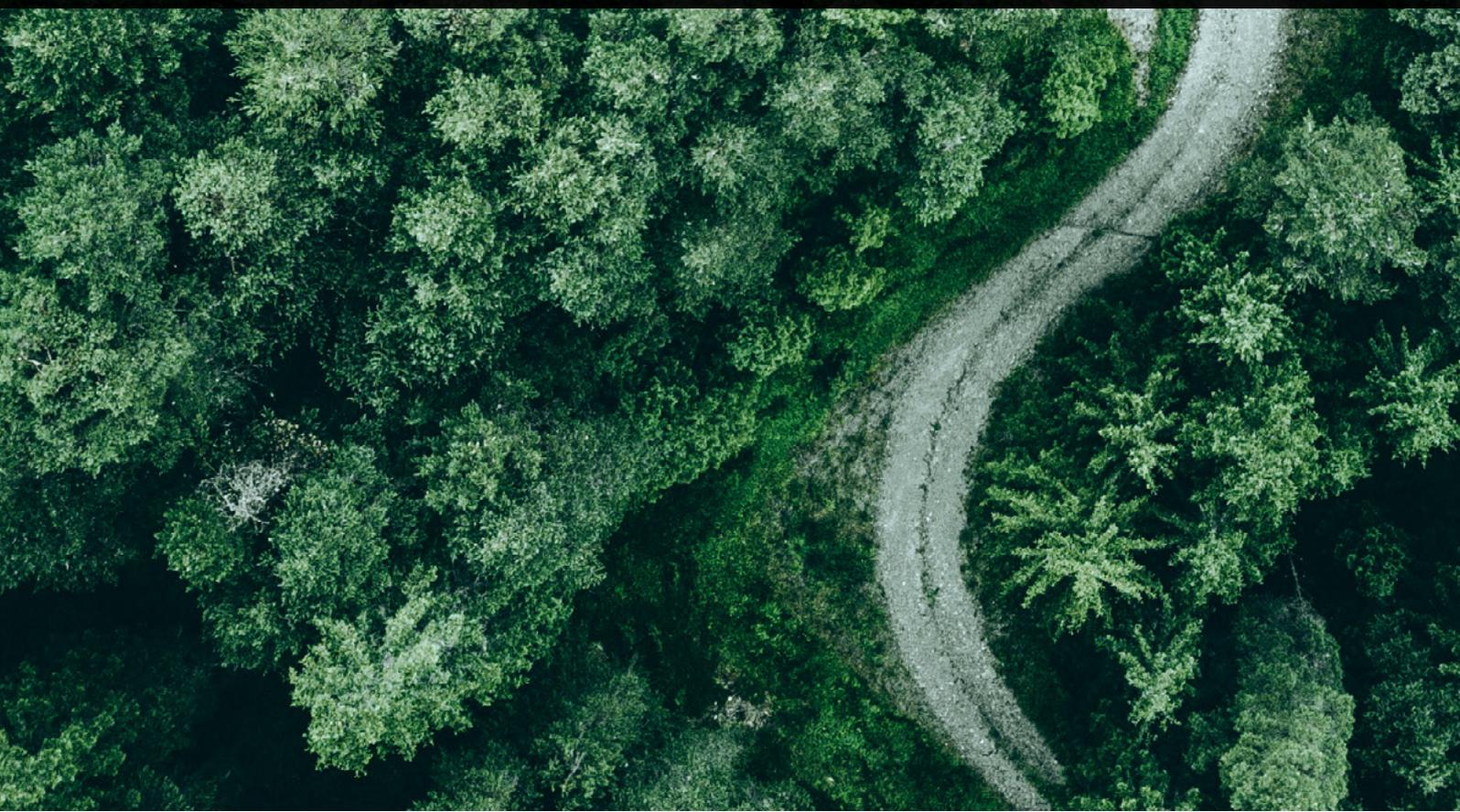


# The State of Sustainability Reporting in the UK

From complexity to clarity:  
Why forward-looking companies are  
turning to automation to streamline  
their sustainability reporting



## Table of Content

<b>01.</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>02.</b>	<b>Navigating Regulatory Pressures and Compliance Challenges</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>03.</b>	<b>Harnessing Sustainability Reporting for Competitive Advantage</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>04.</b>	<b>The Impact of Automation on Sustainability Reporting</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>05.</b>	<b>Key Strategies for Advancing Sustainability Reporting</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>06.</b>	<b>Closing Statement</b>	<b>10</b>

# Introduction

This report reveals how UK companies are tackling sustainability reporting amid evolving regulatory pressures. Based on insights from 150 senior decision-makers, it explores key trends, challenges, and the role of automation in transforming sustainability practices. The findings highlight the strategic importance of sustainability in business operations and the growing urgency for companies to adapt.

By highlighting both the challenges and the breakthroughs, this research offers practical insights into where UK businesses stand today and where they need to go next to turn reporting into a source of competitive advantage. This is especially relevant as UK businesses must now also prepare for the introduction of the UK Sustainability Reporting Standards (SRS), set to be finalised in September 2025.

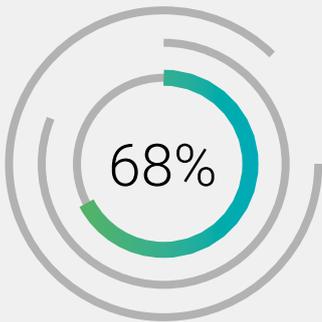


# 01 Methodology

The survey was conducted in **July 2025**, involving insights from **150 UK decision-makers** from organizations with dedicated ESG and sustainability reporting functions. The research focused on how UK businesses are **adapting to evolving sustainability regulations**, the **challenges they face** with reporting, and the **role of automation in streamlining these efforts**. The survey gathered insights on compliance, regulatory awareness, data visibility, and automation, providing a comprehensive view of the current state of sustainability reporting in the UK.



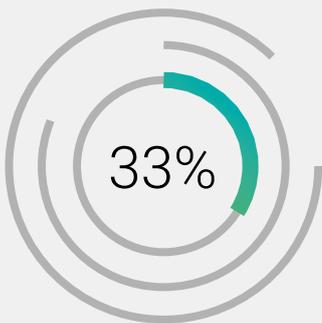
## Key Findings of the Report



of sustainability leaders in UK say **ESG is a driver of innovation and competitive advantage.**



of UK businesses find **keeping up with changing legal requirements their biggest challenge.**



of the companies in UK plan to **invest in automation for sustainability reporting.**

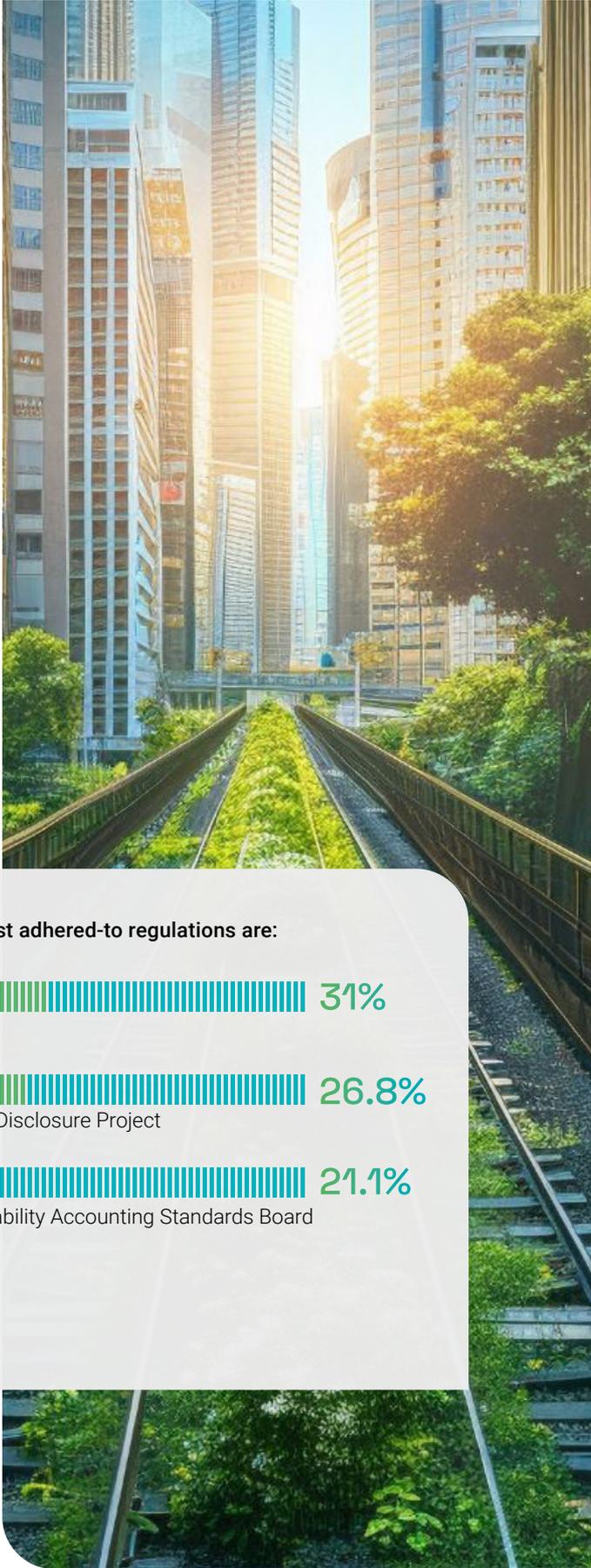


# 02 Navigating Regulatory Pressures and Compliance Challenges

The survey shows mixed opinions on the impact of new regulatory requirements, but a clear majority supports the introduction of mandatory reporting.

Growing regulatory requirements in sustainability present challenges for UK businesses. Companies are faced with adhering to a variety of national and international regulations, leading to fragmented reporting practices. Despite the existing uncertainties and potential burdens, many companies are still striving to adapt and are focusing on enhancing compliance. The topic of mandatory reporting is also a significant point of discussion, with the majority supporting a legal obligation to report.

The introduction of the EU Omnibus project has sparked mixed expectations among companies. While a quarter (25.2%) of UK businesses believe that the initiative will help reduce compliance burdens and simplify processes, the overall impact on businesses remains uncertain.

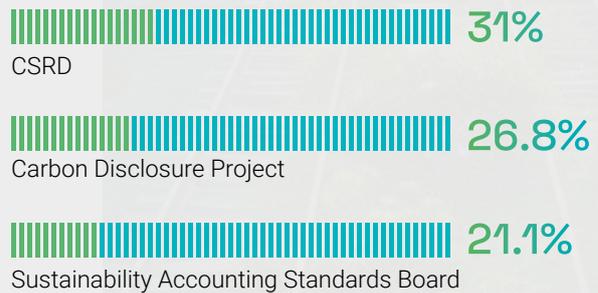


**50.4%** of companies see keeping up with changing requirements as their biggest compliance challenge. Meanwhile, **26.8%** identify gathering and verifying data for reporting, and **25.2%** point to the cost of compliance as the most significant issues.

**69%** of the majority of companies believe mandatory reporting is necessary to ensure consistency and transparency.

Of these: **2 in 5 (41.5%)** favour a tiered approach for smaller businesses and just **1 in 5 (20.3%)** oppose blanket mandates, citing innovation risks for specific sectors.

The most adhered-to regulations are:



# 03. Harnessing Sustainability Reporting for Competitive Advantage

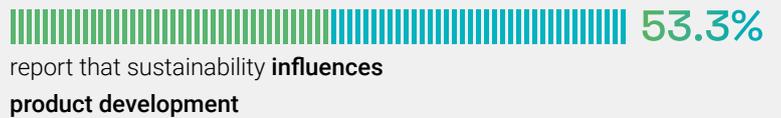
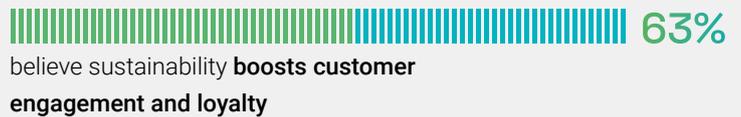
Although many businesses see sustainability as a competitive advantage, full transparency about their sustainability efforts is still lacking.

For many UK companies, sustainability is not just a regulatory requirement, but a strategic business advantage. There

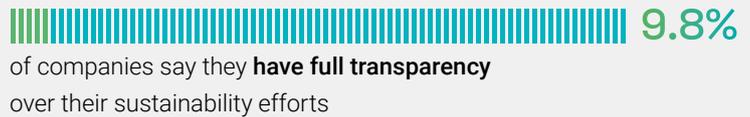
is a clear recognition that sustainability practices can drive innovation and open new business opportunities. However, the survey shows that many companies are still struggling to translate this recognition into concrete, visible results, especially in terms of transparency about their sustainability activities.



More than two-thirds of companies recognize the strategic value of sustainability as a competitive edge.



→ However only



# 04 The Impact of Automation on Sustainability Reporting

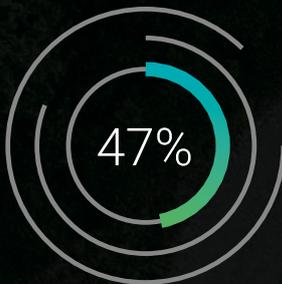
While many companies have implemented some automation measures, full automation remains uncommon.

Automation is rapidly becoming a critical feature in sustainability reporting, helping businesses streamline processes and manage complexity. It allows organizations to transition from fragmented, manual processes to more centralized and efficient models.

However, data quality and transparency continue to be the biggest challenges in sustainability reporting, particularly for UK companies. Many businesses still rely heavily on manual processes and internal expertise, with limited use of technology to support accurate, real-time, and scalable reporting. The

need for automation is clear, as companies recognize that improving data processing and real-time monitoring is key to achieving efficient and scalable reporting. Nonetheless, the lack of full transparency and ongoing difficulties with data collection remain significant hurdles.

As automation continues to evolve, it is transforming sustainability reporting from a compliance function into a strategic asset that can inform broader business decisions.



47% of companies have implemented some level of automation for reporting.



33% of companies plan to invest in automation.



2% of companies have fully automated their reporting.

## Companies identify the main blockers to automation as follows:



## Companies expect automation to bring the most benefits in:



# 05 Key Strategies for Advancing Sustainability Reporting

*To succeed, UK businesses must prioritize automation, improve data transparency, and integrate sustainability into their core business strategies.*

UK businesses are at a crossroads. While many recognize the importance of sustainability, there is a gap in execution. Automation and data transparency will be key to staying ahead of the regulatory curve. Early investment in technology and cross-functional collaboration is essential for long-term success.

Early investment in technology and cross-functional collaboration are key strategies for success. Moreover, a platform-based software solution can be a key advantage in quickly adapting to changing regulations, ensuring businesses stay prepared for future compliance challenges. Choosing a solution with a self-start approach and low implementation input can further accelerate adoption and deliver additional value and transparency across the entire supply chain.



of companies see **keeping up with changing requirements as their biggest compliance challenge**



gathering and verifying the **data for reporting**



the **cost of compliance**





## osapiens – one platform for sustainable growth

osapiens develops cloud-based software solutions that empower companies to drive sustainable growth across their entire value chain. With powerful data integration and real-time analytics, osapiens supports companies to consolidate, interpret and act on complex operational data and sustainability metrics.

The osapiens HUB – a scalable, AI-powered platform – combines over 25 solutions to enhance operational efficiency and sustainability in two core areas: **Transparency solutions** enable companies to map and monitor their entire value chain to mitigate supply chain risks and comply with regulatory requirements such as EUDR, CSRD and CSDDD. **Efficiency solutions** facilitate operational excellence by streamlining maintenance processes, optimizing asset performance, and enabling efficient planning, scheduling, and field service operations.

Headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, osapiens works with an international team of over 500 employees to support more than 2,000 customers worldwide.

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## one platform for sustainable growth



2000 + Customers  
60 + Countries  
500 + Employees  
60 + Nationalities

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