Navigating the sustainable landscape with LSEG

The financial industry is in a powerful position to ensure the sustainability and decarbonisation of economies, but the data and tools market participants use must be fit for purpose. Investments must have the appropriate labelling systems to ensure investors know what they are investing in and if the security or activity is 'green'.





We take sustainable finance regulation seriously

LSEG is closely involved in shaping and monitoring the EU Sustainable Finance Action Plan and the regulatory implications for the market.

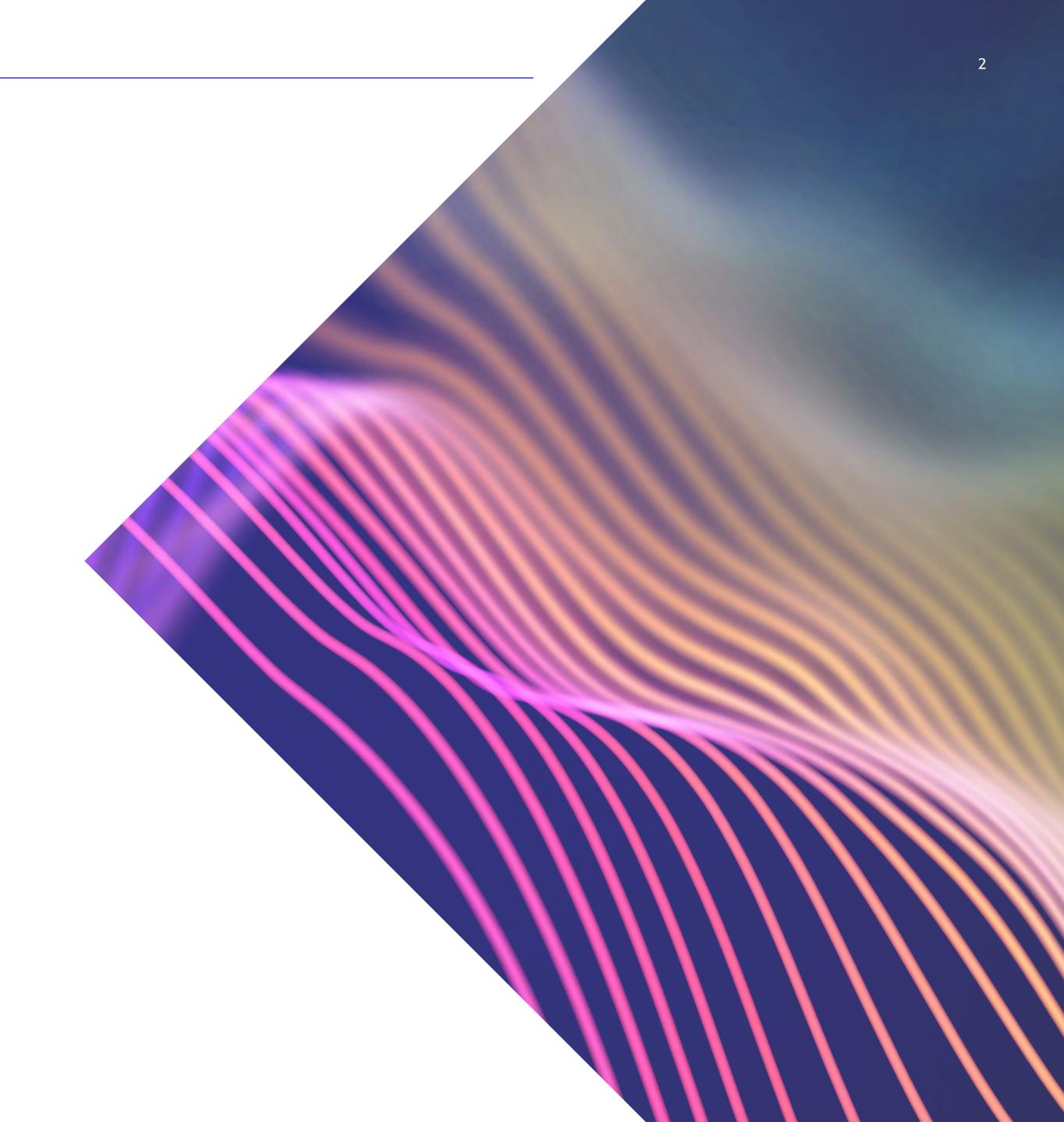
LSEG is a <u>member of the Commission Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance</u>, advising the European Commission on the agenda and sustainable finance regulation.

The EU sustainable finance landscape

To meet clients' sustainability preferences, financial participants are only able to recommend financial instruments meeting one of the following three criteria:

- Financial instruments that pursue, fully or in part, sustainable investments in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy Regulation
- Sustainable investments as defined in the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) (Article 2, point (17))
- Financial instruments that consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors,
 where qualitative or quantitative elements demonstrating that consideration are
 determined by the client or potential client

In this brochure we take a look at some of the major sustainable finance regulation affecting the European Union.



Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation

The Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) introduces environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosure standards for financial market participants, advisors and products.

SFDR was developed under the EU regulation on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector and aims to:

- Strengthen protection for end investors
- Improve disclosures to investors from a broad range of financial market participants and financial advisors
- Improve disclosures to investors regarding financial products
- Ensure transparency and easy comparability of products

The SFDR empowers the European supervisory authorities to develop regulatory technical standards (RTS) governing the content, methodology and presentation of ESG disclosures at both an entity (firm) level and a product level.

Who is affected?

SFDR applies to financial market participants and financial advisors, with disclosure requirements at both entity and product levels. It is intended to apply to most financial products marketed to the EU, including those managed by non-EU firms.

What are the implications?

Institutional investors and asset managers in the EU now have disclosure obligations around ESG factors. Market participants must disclose:

- Sustainability risk policies on investment strategies
- Adverse sustainability impacts
- Remuneration policies consistent with sustainability risk integration





How can LSEG help?

The data

Based on the draft RTS published in February 2021, LSEG has solid coverage across the Principle Adverse Impact (PAI) indicators in the three tables. We have consulted the guidelines provided in Annex 1 to ensure we align with how we capture our own data points; anything that doesn't match the required definition is either classed as a partial match or no match.

	Total indicators		Partial match	
Table 1 (Mandatory): Principal adverse sustainability impacts statement	18	14	2	2
Table 2 (Opt-in): Additional climate and other environment-related indicators	22	10	7	5
Table 3 (Opt-in): Additional indicators for social and employee, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters	24	17	6	1
Grand total	64	41	15	8

^{*}Subject to change based on LSEG data coverage.

Based on the final regulatory text and requirements, LSEG will cover any data gaps for the mandatory indicators first and evaluate coverage requirements for the remaining opt-in tables.

Find full details in the <u>SFDR – principal adverse impact indicator coverage</u>.

Funds

We provide SFDR metrics within the LSEG Lipper funds database to determine which funds are classed as meeting SFDR criteria.

This functionality is available using Lipper for Investment Management in both Eikon® and Workspace® and allows you to run reports, compare specific data points across funds, and benchmark performance and attributes against competitors, based on SFDR flags across Articles 6, 8 and 9.

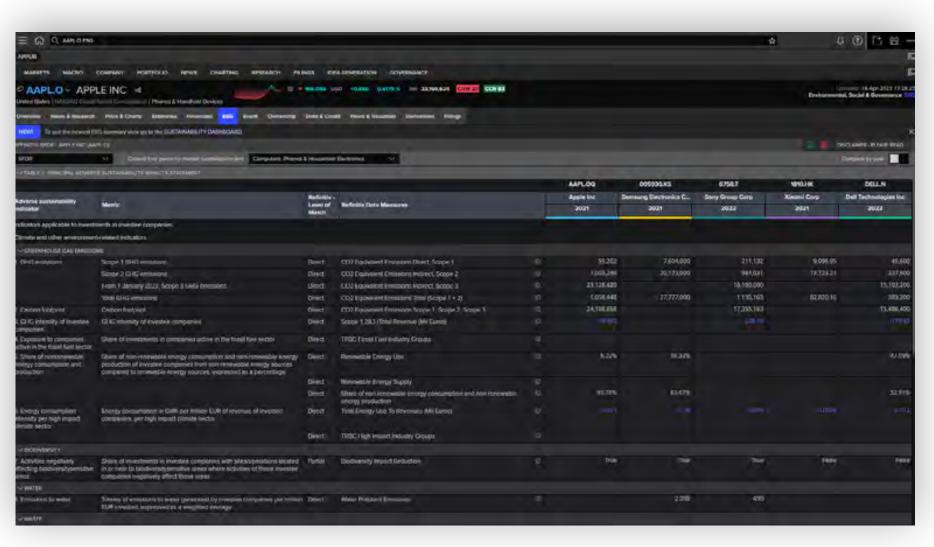
Within the LSEG suite of products you can retrieve fund data, filter down to the universe you are interested in (including SFDR article criteria) and view which article the fund relates to.



Solutions

Desktop – Company profiles

In the Company Profile app, you can find details about your chosen company on SFDR tables 1, 2 and 3, allowing you to perform audits at the company SFDR indicator level. The SFDR view provides details on the four closest peers by market capitalisation across country or industry, giving you a better view on a company's performance and allowing you to click through to the original source for each data point.



SFDR view in Company Profile app

Portfolio analytics

The SFDR template in the Portfolio Analytics app in LSEG Eikon and LSEG Workspace provides portfolio-level aggregation of the RTS Level 2 metrics based on the Annex 1 guidelines for both the current and previous year.

Since company reporting on the given indicators varies in availability, we offer two options for missing data to help with best effort. The first uses calculated estimates by providing the LSEG Business Classifications industry group level medians for securities in the portfolio that do not have disclosed data. Statistics will be provided to help explain what percentage of each metric was based on reported versus estimated.

The second option allows customers to request information from a company that has not disclosed certain metrics and allows the company to provide this data via the <u>LSEG contributions tool</u>.



Feed

Additionally, LSEG offers a feed solution consisting of company-level data such as ESG, financial fundamentals and business sector information the LSEG Business Classifications. Sovereign-level information covers greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and many other metrics, as well as fixed income data. The feed is available via Datastream Data Loader and includes all raw data needed to perform the calculations for each metric.

The feed comes with redistribution rights to disclose the outcomes of the metrics calculations on websites and in compliance with the periodic and pre-contractual disclosure requirements.

The SFDR article flags are also available via the Lipper Global Data Feed and via API, allowing you to ingest SFDR fund data into your investment decisions, analysis and models.

Regulation and reporting

We have partnered with Clarity AI to create an SFDR reporting tool for investors, which enables you to create ready-to-use SFDR reports for compliance purposes at scale via API.

SFDR Reporting Professional powered by Clarity AI combines LSEG ESG, fundamentals and sovereigns data with Clarity AI modelled and controversies data to provide unmatched coverage. The tool covers both mandatory and optional SFDR PAIs for over 50,000 companies, and creates an easy path to accurate reporting on funds, portfolios and constituents.

The solution, could help you meet your reporting requirements.

EU Taxonomy

The green taxonomy is considered the backbone of the European Commission's green finance package. The taxonomy offers a robust scheme for identifying and classifying investment opportunities, ensuring investors can 'reorient capital flows towards sustainable investment, in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth'.

The EU Taxonomy, the foundational piece from the action plan on financing sustainable growth, is a classification tool to help investors and companies consistently determine whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable or not.

The Taxonomy provides specific, quantitative thresholds on environmental performance for economic activities to be considered compliant with what the EU considers as environmentally sustainable.

The EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities is based around six environmental objectives:

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaption
- Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
- Transition to a circular economy, waste prevention and recycling
- Pollution prevention and control
- Protection of healthy ecosystems

By considering the six objectives above, the EU Taxonomy has been created to help 'investors, companies, issuers and project promoters navigate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient economy'.

Under EU Taxonomy, investments marketed as financing the transition to climate mitigation objectives will require a description or explanation in terms of the Taxonomy criteria.



Who is affected by the EU Taxonomy?

From the end of 2021, EU financial institutions have been required to report alignment of their portfolios with the Taxonomy. There is a need to report "as reported" data but corporates are not all required to report this data, therefore regulation is allowing the use of derived data. Hence, investors can use sound estimates that are based on equivalent metrics reported by the corporates. Financial institutions are also expected to actively engage with the companies in their portfolios, to obtain as much relevant and required information about their alignment with the EU Taxonomy as possible.

Companies in scope of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) are required to report on the activities (portion of revenues, capital expenditures and operational expenditures where relevant) that are aligned to the EU Taxonomy. The focus is on shifting financial flows towards a sustainable economy, which will have major implications for many sectors, not only the financial industry. The expectation is that this will greatly accelerate the transition to sustainable economic and social growth in the future.

How can LSEG help?

LSEG is helping market participants fulfil their compliance obligation and evaluate their portfolio against the Taxonomy.



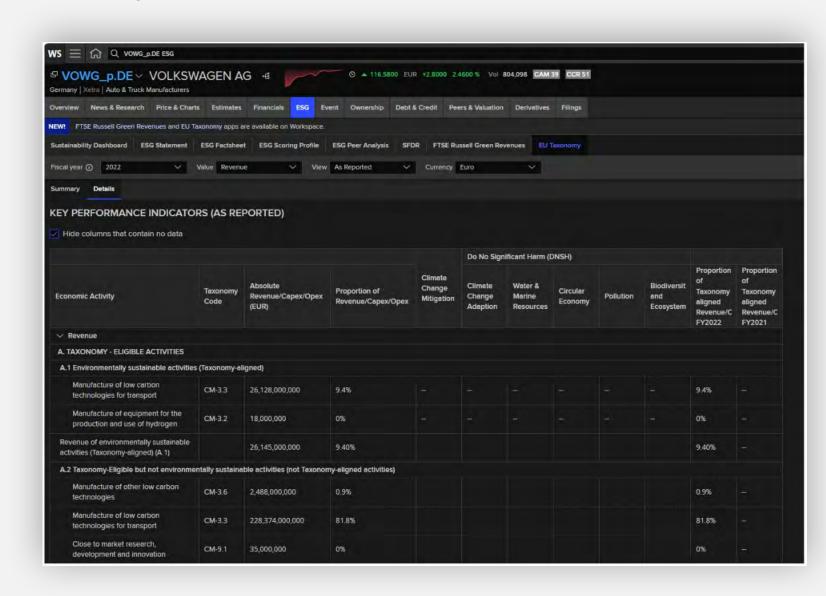
The data

Our EU Taxonomy solution carries both Company "As Reported" and our own proprietary "Derived" EU Taxonomy data.

As Reported

As of January 2023, companies within scope of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) - 1,800 organisations - are mandated to disclose the percentage of Revenue, Capital Expenditure and Operating Expenses which are Eligible and Aligned to the EU Taxonomy Regulation, for Fiscal Year 2022.

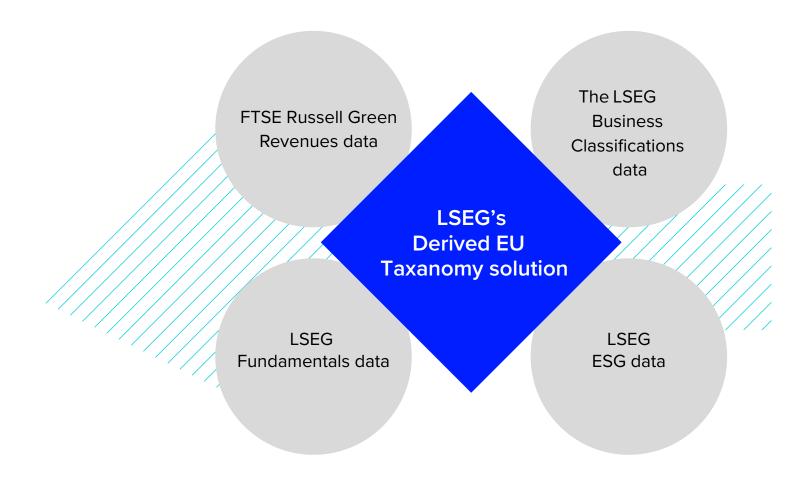
The solution gives clients the ability to review a given Organisation's disclosure according to the Annex II template.





Derived

Underpinning our Derived EU Taxonomy solution is a combination of LSEG and FTSE Russell data.



The FTSE Russell Green Revenues data model is applied to nearly 99% of total global market capitalisation, capturing over 20,000+ public companies across 49 developed and emerging markets, with 10 sectors, 64 subsectors, and 133 micro sectors, with 10+ years of history. It is a taxonomy used to define and measure the industrial transition to a green economy. The model comprehensively assesses all companies with revenue exposure to green business activities and is the starting point for our EU Taxonomy solution.

The LSEG Business Classifications data is the most comprehensive, detailed and up-to-date sector and industry classification available, covering 250,000 securities in 130 countries to five levels of granularity. The data is important in the EU Taxonomy solution as it is mapped to NACE codes, allowing us to translate the business classification back to the taxonomy.

LSEG Fundamentals data is our most comprehensive, accurate and timely Fundamentals offering. The data covers active and inactive companies traded in over 120 countries.

LSEG ESG data is designed to help you make sound, sustainable investment decisions, covering 90% of global market capitalisation across over 750 metrics. Several of these measures are used within our solution, around emissions and a substantial number of controversy-type indicators, for the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) and Minimum Social Safeguards aspects of the EU Taxonomy.

LSEG dataset taxonomy alignment assessment

Dataset	Taxonomy alignment	
FTSE Russell Green Revenues data	Eligibility	
The LSEG Business Classifications	Eligibility	
LSEG fundamentals	Eligibility	
LSEG ESG/fundamentals data	TSC	
LSEG DNSH metrics (25)	DNSH	
LSEG ESG data	MSS	

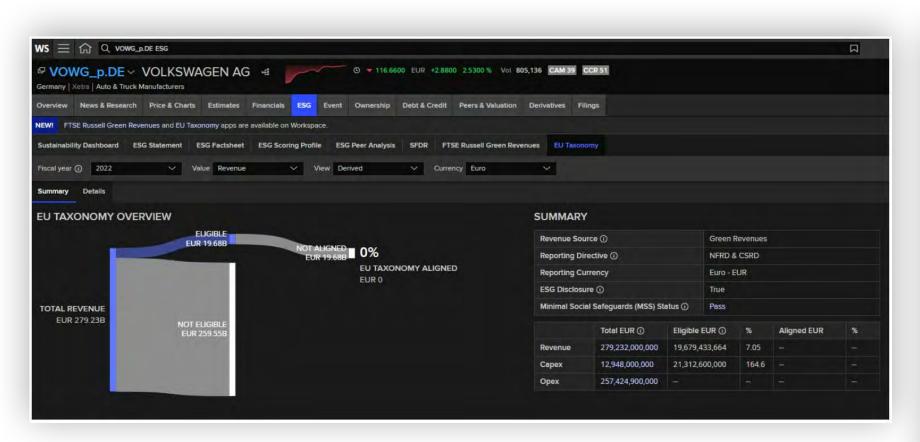
Our derived EU Taxonomy data utilises equivalent information including "as reported" company data, allowing us to assess a given company's Eligibility and Alignment for a universe of 36k organisations, which is fully transparent and auditable.

The solution

With our EU Taxonomy data, available via bulk feed and LSEG Workspace, we allow financial market participants to identify and report on the percentage of their portfolios that is eligible or aligned to the EU Taxonomy objectives, and therefore identify exposure to climate transition risks and opportunities for investment in companies undertaking green activities.

Derived Data generation:

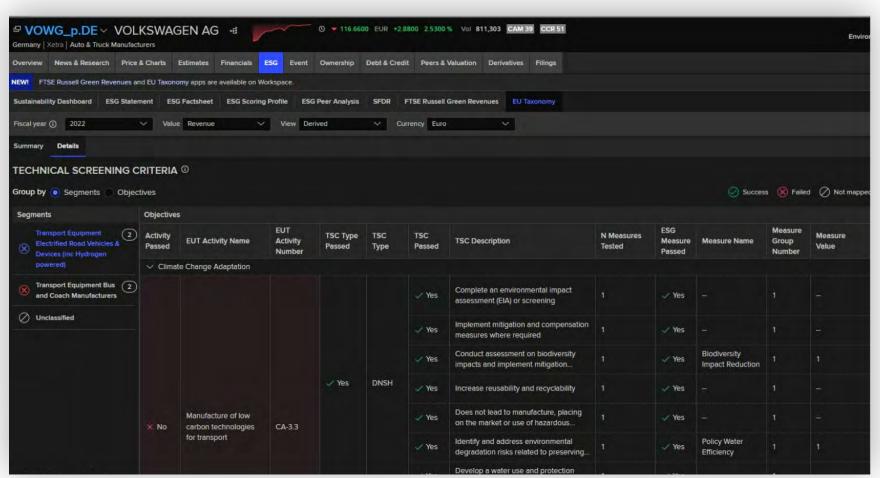
- Step 1: Calculate Total Eligible revenue based on Green Revenue, when not available we use LSEG Business Classification and Fundamentals Revenue/CAPEX/OPEX to assess % classified as sustainable.
- Step 2: We use Technical Screening Criteria to assess whether it qualifies for substantial contribution to one of the 6 EU Taxonomy Objectives.



Step 3: We then assess both Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) and Minimal Social Safeguards (MSS) against 30 of our mapped ESG measures.

Step 4: Total Aligned Revenue/CAPEX/OPEX is calculated.

The entire process is based on company-reported data, which is auditable and has traceable equivalent information.



Example of data output

Glossary:

This infographic below shows the end to end process for deriving EU Taxonomy aligned revenue, Capex and Opex. The methodology below is LSEG's proprietary "equivalent information" derived approach.

For more information see **EU Taxonomy methodology document**.

- TSC – Technical Screening Criteria

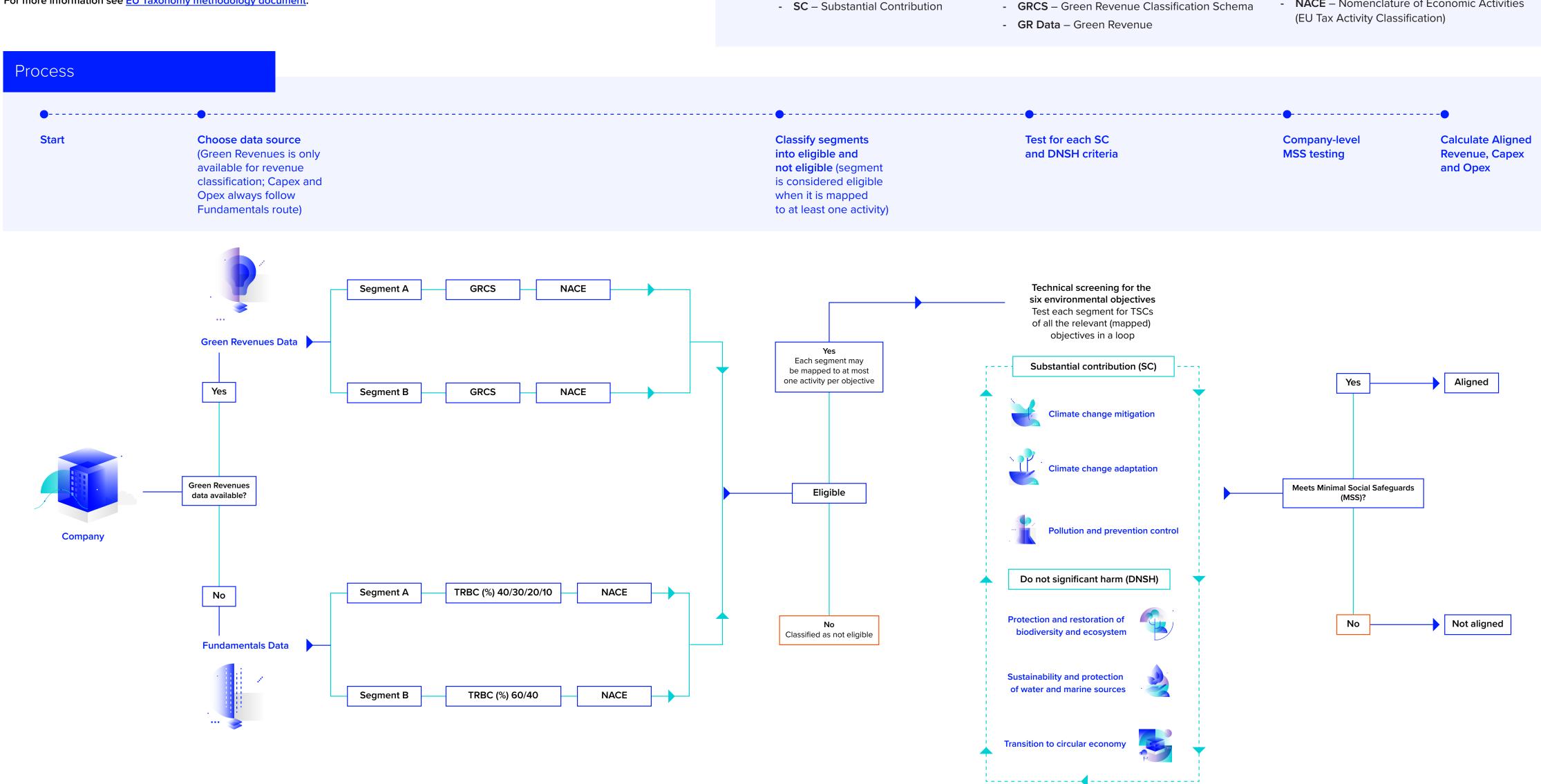
- TRBC – LSEG's Business Classifications - **DNSH** – Do no significant harm

- GRCS - Green Revenue Classification Schema

- MSS – Minimum Social Safeguard

- Fundamentals Data – LSEG's company Fundamentals Data

- NACE – Nomenclature of Economic Activities



LSEG's EU Taxonomy Data Solution methodology document sets out in detail, the LSEG data model. The Intellectual Property rights are owned by LSEG.
Data contained in the methodology may be used solely internally for Client's information, and not for any other purpose, including but not limited to redistribution to external parties or their end customers, unless authorised by LSEG.

