

**RENEWABLE ENERGY
ESSENTIAL TO
SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGIES, ALONG
WITH DOCUMENTATION
AND REPORTING**

Nearly 200 leaders in our global network took their time to give us very valuable insights and feedback about our collective sustainable future.

We are still analysing all the data, but we wanted to share with you some of the initial findings and reflections.

THE 3 KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Renewable energy is, perhaps unsurprisingly, becoming a very important sustainability solution
2. Renewable energy use need to be based on recognised documentation standards
3. Strong support for robust and consistent reporting standards



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The survey responses show that large companies see renewable energy as central to their sustainability strategy. They require global solutions, which is highlighted in the significantly high score on relevance for European, US and international solutions.



RENEWABLE CERTIFICATES

Documentation and management of the portfolio of renewable products are important enablers in delivering on the sustainability strategies. The respondents welcome advisory services and new, more sophisticated ways of acquiring sustainability solutions.



REPORTING STANDARDS

Following COP26, the pressure on businesses will increase even further, and credible ESG reporting will distinguish real action from green washing. The survey gives us interesting insights into which reporting frameworks are emerging as mainstream.

“What we have learned from this survey is critical for taking the right action, and we all know that the time for action is now. We are very encouraged by your positive feedback both on the measures we are developing and the way we are working. Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback and I hope you find this summary useful. Please be in touch if you wish to discuss any of the findings or to talk about your own sustainability strategy.”

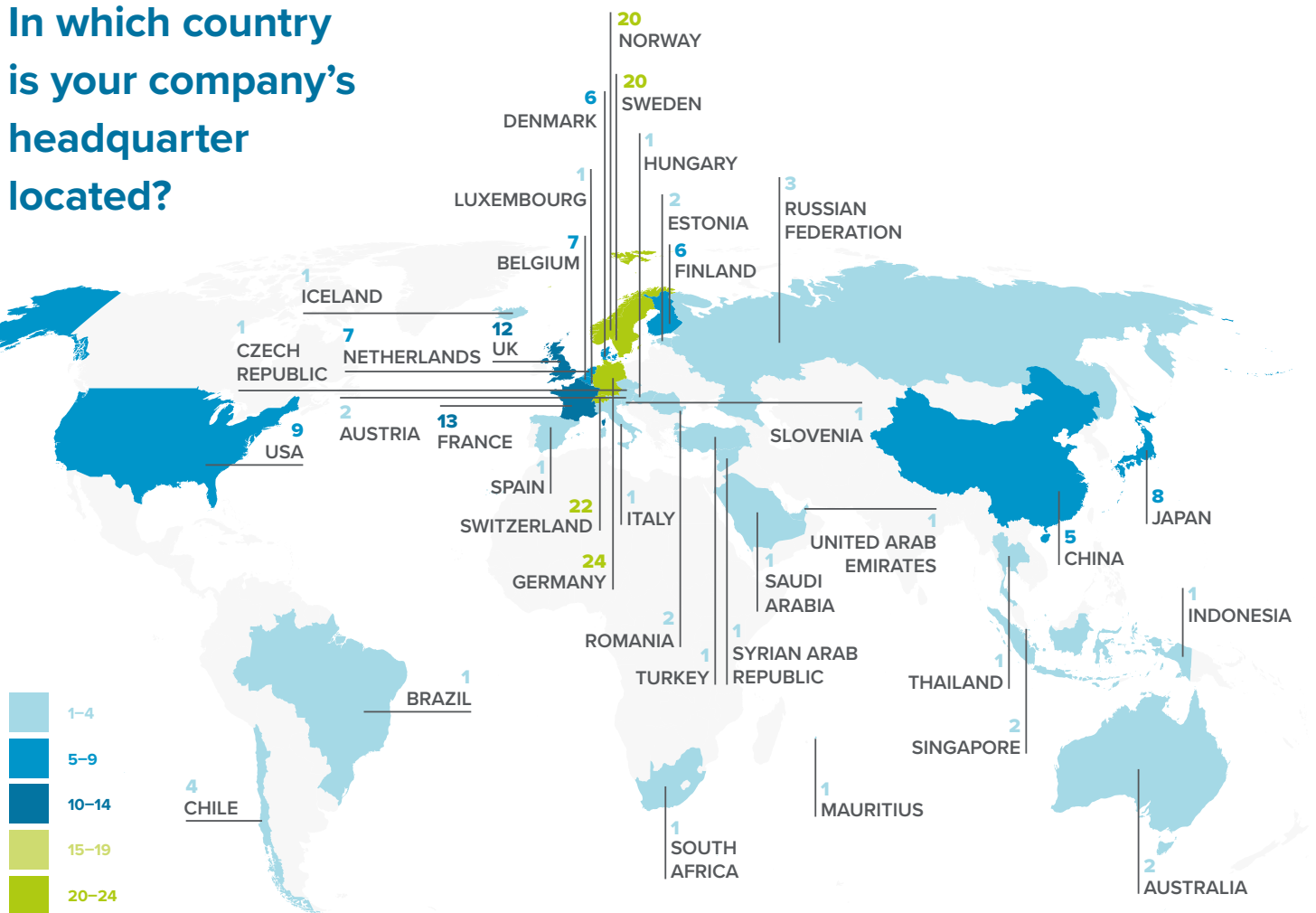
TOM LINDBERG, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ECOHZ

A TRULY GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

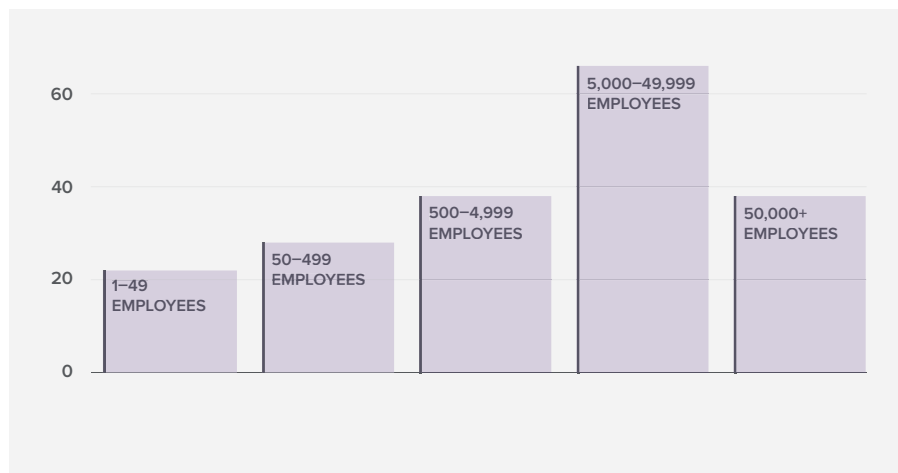
The ECOHZ Renewable Energy Insights Survey 2021 provides a truly global perspective on renewable energy. The survey was open from September 28 to October 26; no incentive was offered for providing answers. The average time to fill in this survey was seven minutes and the completion rate was as high as 87%.

All the invitees were from ECOHZ's own mailing lists. Nearly **200 people** completed the survey, from over **20 countries** around the world, providing a significant base to draw conclusions from. More than half of the respondents work in companies with more than **5,000 employees**, and nearly half of the participants group work in sustainability and ESG reporting functions.

In which country is your company's headquarter located?



How many employees in total work at your company globally?





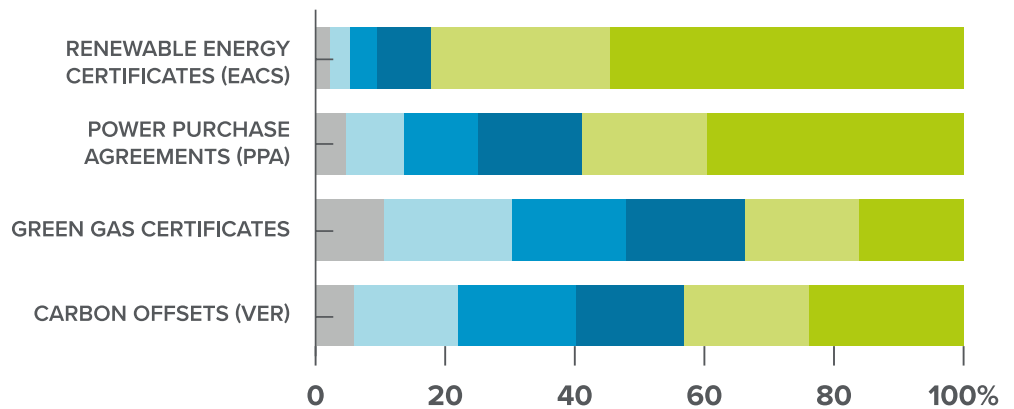
On the question, *“Please rate how relevant each area of advisory is to you in relation to procurement of sustainability,”* we noted a high interest in many new options for advisory services. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) seem to be the most sought-after advisory service, together with Sustainability Reporting and Net Zero roadmaps. It is clear that companies are looking for effective ways of implementing their sustainability strategies, and that they need advisory support to develop the right strategies.

Respondents called for more insights and future perspectives on the renewable energy market. In response to the question, *“Please rate how relevant each capability is to you in relation to procurement of Renewable Energy Certificates,”* we learned that digital solutions for purchasing, reporting and delivery would be desired. Ideally it would include a one-stop-shop capabilities and Scope 3 supply chain solutions.

“There is a need for guidance on setting up corporate ESG management host platforms. In other words, not the standard but the actual IT solution.”

Respondent Comment

How relevant is each sustainability solution to you?





RENEWABLE CERTIFICATION

There is clearly a movement towards diversification, globalisation and the choice of different sustainability solutions. Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs) received the highest score for relevance in our survey. But it is interesting to see that Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) also get a high score, and that Green Gas certificates and Carbon Offsets also are well known, and highly regarded in terms of relevance.

“Updates on EAC market throughout the year to understand trends. Quicker indicative quotes. Continue to be able to secure low volumes. Ensure good country coverage for country specific EACs. Have access to quality labelled EACs.”

Respondent Comment

“Continue digitalisation of all services.”

“Digitalisation is critical at this stage to make it easy for suppliers and companies to contract and make purchases easily”

Respondent Comment

It is striking that respondents gave a high score on all regional solutions when we asked them to rate the relevance of EACs. This suggests the renewable energy market is going global. The European Guarantees of Origin scored highest, with REC and I-REC certificates also having high scores.

The responses to the question, *“Please rate how relevant each solution of renewable electricity is to you”*, suggest that there is still a job to do in explaining the difference between the various solutions. There were no significant differences voiced between buying EACs separately or packaged with supplier power contracts. Neither was there a strong preference for specific qualities or labels.



REPORTING STANDARDS

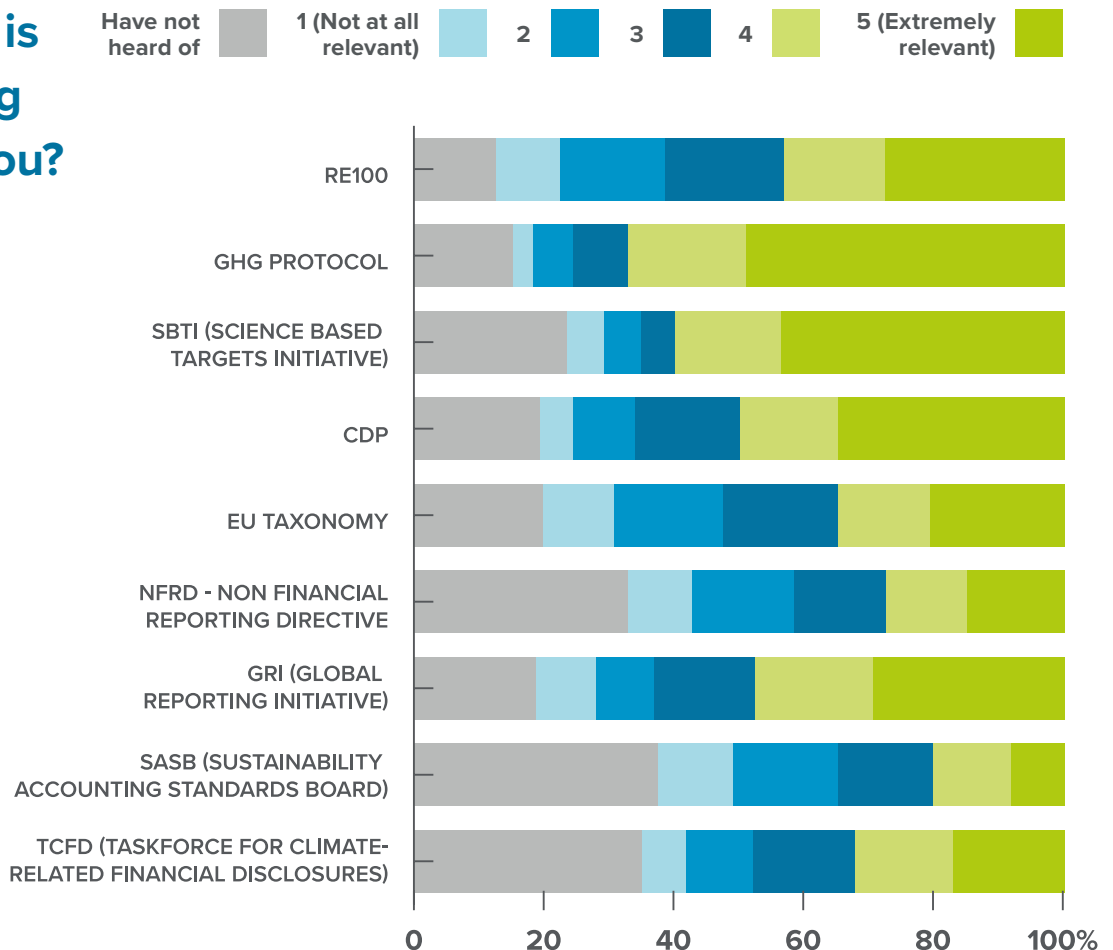
The survey also gives a very clear indication that reporting standards are becoming mainstream. The two most prominent ones are the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG-P) and the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). The findings in the survey suggest that businesses are taking reporting increasingly seriously.

Among a range of available standards and sustainability reporting frameworks, nearly half of the respondents say that the GHG-P is "extremely relevant". The respondents further ranked SBTi and CDP as most relevant, ahead of other standards. The comments we received and the responses suggest there remains some confusion around which reporting frameworks to focus on, and therefore a standardisation will be required.

"We do align several sustainability areas with SDG and UN Global Compact, such as sustainability risks mapping and stand-alone sustainability report - Communication on progress"

Respondent Comment

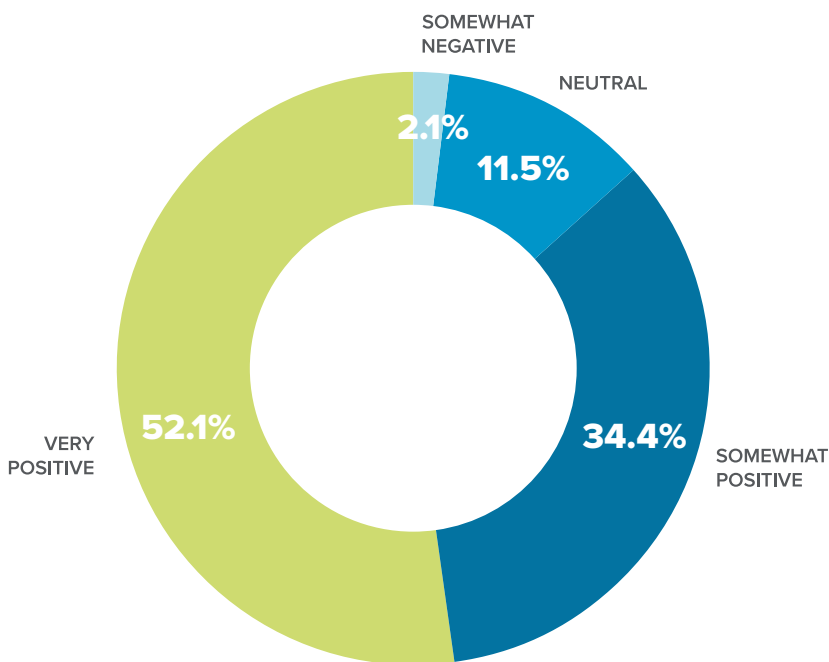
How relevant is each reporting standard to you?



ENCOURAGING FEEDBACK FOR ECOHZ

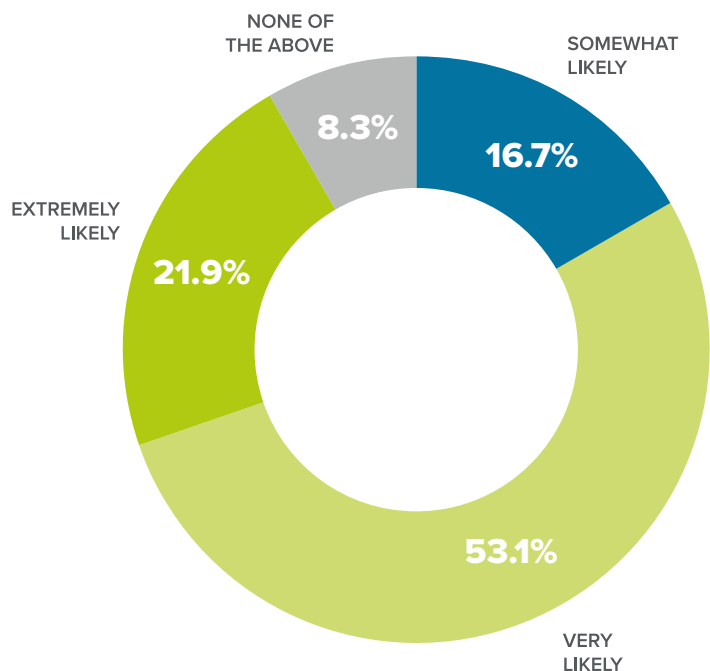
In connection with the survey, we also took the opportunity to ask those of you who are clients what you think of us and the services we provide. We learned that, among many suggested attributes, our clients consider us to be competent, trustworthy and responsive. These are attributes we ourselves consider very important in our line of business.

Equally, we were happy to see a response of 85% to the question *“Overall, how would you rate the quality of your customer service experience?”*. However, we are aware that we have to work very hard to ensure that we continue to provide the services you need in the way you want them, particularly as our sector is evolving rapidly.



Overall, how would you rate the quality of your customer service experience?

How likely are you to purchase products from ECOHZ again?



ECOHZ

ORIGIN MATTERS

We found all your comments and suggestions extremely helpful.

Thank you!

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