

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND SPACE: THE CASE OF GREENING INFRASTRUCTURE

Claire Jolly
Head of Unit, OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

ESA Digital Workshop - Space for Finance: How Space Technology can support the Digitalisation and Greening of the Financial Sector, 29 April 2021





Presentation overview

"Sustainable finance can be understood as the **financing as well as related institutional and market arrangements** that **contribute to the achievement of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth**, through supporting directly and indirectly the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals"

G20 Sustainable Finance Study Group (2018), Sustainable Finance Synthesis Report

Key points of the presentation:

What are public policy goals and trends concerning sustainable finance?



How are these being implemented and what are the consequences for data collection, monitoring and evaluation?



Implications for the space sector?



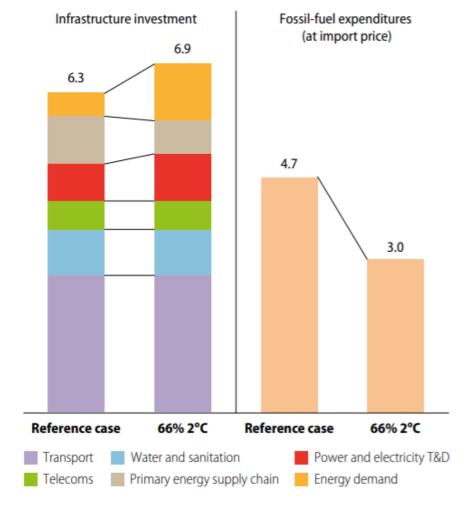
Overall context for sustainable finance: The infrastructure investment gap

Investment needs for infrastructure are estimated to be around **USD 6.3 trillion annually** between 2016 and 2030 (OECD, 2017).

If accounting for the additional needs to reach a 2°C temperature goal, the estimate increases by 10% to USD 6.9 trillion

Yet annual investments are **well below this level** at USD 3.3-4.4 trillion

It is critical to **scale up financial flows** in support of climate
adaptation and sustainability



Cited in OECD (2017), Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth, https://doi.org/10.1787/978 9264273528-en.

Sources for estimates: IEA (2017) for energy supply and demand; IEA (2016a) for road and rail infrastructure; OECD (2012) for airports and ports; McKinsey (Woetzel et al., 2016) for telecoms. The water and sanitation estimate is an average of estimates from: Booz Allen Hamilton (2007), McKinsey (Woetzel et al., 2016) and OECP (2006).



Selected policy initiatives at the international level

G20 Sustainable Finance Study Group (2016-)

- Identify major gaps and barriers in mobilising sustainable finance
- Outline key actions and milestones for G20 members

OECD Centre for Green Finance and Investment (2016-) Contribute to the development of effective policies, institutions and instruments for green finance and investment

G7 and UNEP Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S)

Network (2017-)

• Accelerate the expansion of sustainable finance by enabling financial centres to exchange experience, drive convergence, and take action on shared priorities

European Green Deal (2019) and Sustainable Europe Investment Plan

• Create an enabling framework for private investors and the public sector to facilitate sustainable investments

Implementation?

- Definitions
- Taxonomics
- Data and monitoring of corporate efforts



- Social
- Governance (ESG)





Data-related opportunities and challenges





Digital technologies (AI, data processing) open up new opportunities
Standardisation and consolidation of reporting frameworks

Increasing availability of data

Considerable remaining challenges, in terms of:

- Accessibility of reliable data in usable formats
- Coverage and comparability of data
- User capabilities and skills to process and analyse data

Source: FC4S (2021), Sustainable Finance Market Update Series



Implications for the space sector?

ESG criteria - major index providers

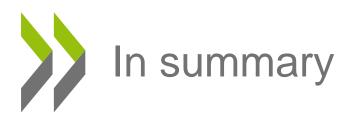
Pillar	Thomson Reuters	MSCI	Bloomberg
Environmental	Resource Use	Climate Change	Carbon Emissions
	Emissions	Natural resources	Climate change effects
	Innovation	Pollution & waste	Pollution
		Environmental opportunities	Waste disposal
			Renewable energy
			Resource depletion
Social	Workforce	Human capital	Supply chain
	Human Rights	Product liability	Discrimination
	Community	Stakeholder opposition	Political contributions
	Product Responsibility	Social opportunities	Diversity
			Human rights
			Community relations
Governance	Management	Corporate governance	Cumulative voting
	Shareholders	Corporate behaviour	Executive compensation
	CSR strategy		Shareholders' rights
			Takeover defence
			Staggered boards
			Independent directors
Key metrics and submetrics	186	34	>120

Space-based observations

- (Sometimes) unique source of data for specific indicators
- However, multiple challenges to be resolved
 - Affordability of temporal/spatial high res products
 - User skills
 - Reliability of data (ground calibrations)

Cited in Boffo, R., and R. Patalano (2020), "ESG Investing: Practices, Progress and Challenges", OECD, www.oecd.org/finance/ESG-Investing-Practices-Progress-and-Challenges.pdf

Sources: : Refinitiv, MSCI, Bloomberg, FTSE; OECD assessment



Massive infrastructure investments needed towards 2030 to reach SDG objectives

Private efforts and contributions will be key part of response, with a number of initiatives launched at the national and international level since 2015

Space-based observations have a role to play in monitoring environmental performance, but there are multiple caveats:

- Affordability and availability of adequate data (at the appropriate temporal/spatial resolution)
- Ground calibrations are needed for data quality and reliability
- User skills