

# The Search for ESG Talent

The next generation of consumers expect businesses to have a point of view on societal and environmental issues, and to be doing the right thing for people, communities and the planet.<sup>1</sup>

With more focus than ever on progress over pledges, organizations must move beyond target-setting to accelerate meaningful advances against **Environmental** action, **Social** impact, and good **Governance** (ESG).<sup>2</sup>

94%

Nearly **8 in 10** organizations have already developed their ESG strategy, yet **94%** of companies **lack the necessary talent** to implement their goals.

## Sustainability Commitments are Shaping In-Demand ESG Roles

We surveyed hiring decision makers across 41 countries to learn about their strategic talent management plans to meet their ESG priorities.

Employers are now recruiting across E, S and G.

Roles that address Health & Wellbeing (**39%**) are as in-demand as Corporate Sustainability (**39%**) as companies respond to louder calls on prioritizing employee wellbeing.

### Environmental Roles

- 1 Environmental, Health & Safety (59%)
- 2 Corporate Sustainability (39%)
- 3 Recycling & Waste Management (37%)
- 4 Ecosystem & Biodiversity Management (33%)
- 5 Renewable Energy Generation & Maintenance (31%)

### Social Impact Roles

- 1 Health & Wellbeing (39%)
- 2 Talent & Leadership Development (31%)
- 3 Diversity & Inclusion (29%)
- 4 Workforce Planning (26%)
- 5 Talent Acquisition & Recruiting (23%)

### Governance Roles

- 1 Ethics & Compliance (27%)
- 2 Cybersecurity (25%)
- 3 Data Privacy & Protection (24%)
- 4 Enterprise Risk Management (22%)
- 5 Government & Public Affairs (18%)

**76%** of employers are hiring in one or more area across E, S and G roles.

43% Are Hiring in One Area

21% Are Hiring in Two Areas

12% Are Hiring in Three Areas

24% Are Not Hiring / Unsure

## ESG is an Expectation – Not an Aspiration

Less than half of businesses surveyed have long-term ESG goals, yet 64% of workers want to work for organizations that positively contribute to society.<sup>3</sup>

Despite demand, **22%** of employers are unsure or don't intend on developing an ESG strategy.

44%

Have already identified & developed long-term ESG goals

34%

Are in the planning stages

11%

Do not intend to develop an ESG strategy

11%

Unsure

## Accessing Talent is Key to Walk the Talk on ESG Commitments

Talented teams are needed to shift the needle on ESG priorities and companies are taking action to develop through building, buying, borrowing or bridging the right blend of talent.

### Borrow

Consider part-time, freelance, contract, and temporary workers to complement existing workforce. **27%** plan on leveraging the expertise of external consultants.

### Bridge

Assess whether workers can be reallocated to different areas of your business or whether they need help moving on and up to **new roles**.

### Build

Create communities of internal talent – Look within and provide opportunities for Education, Experience and Exposure by bringing together multi-functional teams. **52%** are already planning on upskilling their existing workforce and **39%** will be adding ESG responsibilities to current roles.

### Buy

Look to the external market to find the best talent that cannot be built in-house. **41%** of employers will be recruiting new, external talent.

Employers were able to choose multiple answers, therefore totaling more than 100%

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<sup>1</sup> Gen Z, Millennials Stand Out for Climate Change Activism, Social Media Engagement With Issue, Pew Research Center, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Closing the Sustainability Skills Gap: Helping businesses move from the pledges to progress, Microsoft 2022

<sup>3</sup> What Workers Want to Thrive at Work, ManpowerGroup & Thrive Global, 2022