

EXPLORE BUSINESS: Environmental, Social and Governance: **Tackling the Climate Crisis**

Teacher Guide



Wharton
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

GLOBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Explore Business with Wharton

The Wharton Global Youth Program's *Explore Business* mini-sites are gateways to conversations, readings, and activities that help high school students think about trends transforming the world of business. The *Explore Business* content, meant to engage students whenever and wherever they are prepared to learn, is drawn directly from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, a world leader in business education.

CONTINUING WITH WHARTON'S NEWEST SERIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE OR ESG

Our latest series of mini-sites explores ESG, which stands for **Environmental, Social and Governance**. ESG is the lens through which people are evaluating companies' efforts to do more than just make a profit, particularly in the areas of contributing positively to the environment, addressing governance discrepancies, and supporting social causes.

OUR FIRST ESG TOPIC: TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Erika James, Dean of the Wharton School, hosted the 2021 *Beyond Business* session "ESG: Tackling the Climate Crisis" on LinkedIn Live in October 2021. She welcomed guests Sarah Light, a Wharton legal studies and business ethics professor who specializes in corporate sustainability; Benjamin Keys, a Wharton finance and real estate professor; and David Swift, chief operating officer of impact investment group Engine No. 1, based in San Francisco, California.

Who We Are

The [Wharton Global Youth Program](#) mobilizes the extensive opportunities of the Wharton academic community to educate, inform and inspire pre-college students to *Explore Business* practices, analyze the world's complex challenges, and take the needed steps to become leaders who will transform the global economy.

HOW STUDENTS CAN EXPLORE ESG: TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The activities on this mini-site all connect to the “ESG: Tackling the Climate Crisis” discussion and provide opportunities for high school students to *Explore Business* in different ways. They include:

- The complete hour-long “ESG: Tackling the Climate Crisis” video conversation involving Dr. Erika James, Dr. Sarah Light, Dr. Benjamin Keys and executive David Swift.
- A link to a published summary of this discussion.
- Portions of the main video discussion divided into seven themed video segments.
- Guided questions for each video segment in PDF format.
- Links to Wharton Global Youth Video Glossary terms and online business journal articles related to each video segment, included in the guided-question PDFs (**great for starter activities or extended learning on ESG and climate change**).
- A Choice Board in PDF format that allows students to choose different ways to learn about the concepts introduced in the video.

EXPLORING ESG WITH YOUR STUDENTS

High school educators are encouraged to review all the materials related to “ESG: Tackling the Climate Crisis” and incorporate individual or collective activities into your classroom discussions and assignments, both in person and during online learning. *Explore Business* is meant to be a complement to your curriculum, built with expertise and insights from the world-class Wharton School community. Wharton is a leader in business education. You should fit all or parts of our ongoing discussions into your daily, weekly or monthly lessons however it works best for your schedule.

For insight on how another high school business educator has used our *Explore Business* mini-sites with his students, visit our [Essential Educator blog](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

The second Wharton *Beyond Business* lecture on ESG addresses "[Redefining Corporate Governance](#)," which explores how corporate boards can maximize a company's social impact, while balancing the needs of its stakeholders. More comprehensive resources on cutting-edge business topics for your students!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After engaging with the *Explore Business* ESG discussions, students should be able to:

- Define ESG factors and identify the role environmental criterion should play in corporate decision-making.
- Understand how business, government and investors are responding to the call to address ESG factors in the face of the climate crisis.
- Recognize that climate change is impacting business in different ways, with effects on companies, as well as industries like real estate.
- Understand transparency and disclosure in business and how they are helping to advance ESG goals and lessen investor risk.
- Become familiar with key business and finance concepts through the lens of academic research and business experience.
- Think about ways to apply these new ideas and discussions to their own lives and experiences.

MORE MINI-SITES

Be sure to discover all our great resources in [our first Explore Business series](#) examining the intersection between race and business!

