Chart of the Week

Water Consumption

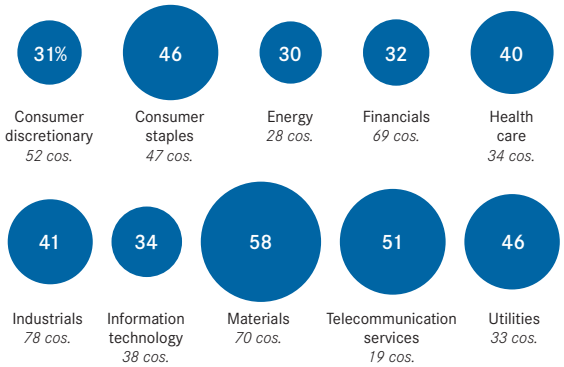
FROM *SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES: 2013 EDITION*

According to data from *Sustainability Practices: 2013 Edition*, 39 percent of S&P Global 1200 companies reported their total water consumption, compared to 20 percent of the S&P 500 and 12 percent of the Russell 1000. The sector analysis shows materials companies were most likely to report water consumption, with well over one-half of companies in this sector reporting on this practice. Notably, fewer than half of utilities companies reported their total water consumption, despite companies in this sector reporting by far the highest median water consumption of all sectors.

Water Consumption, Disclosure Rate by Index

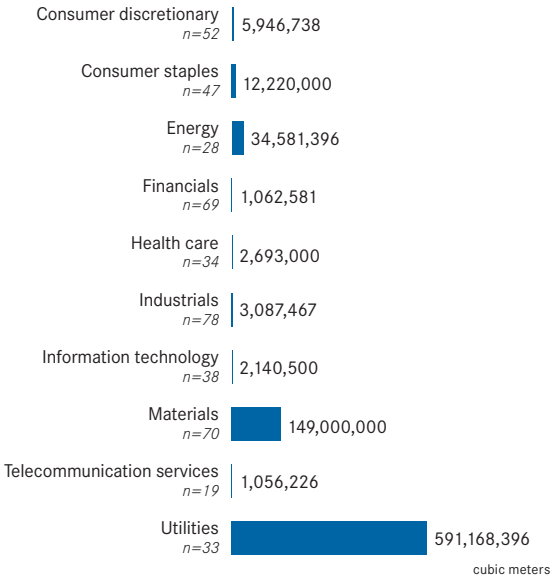
Source: The Conference Board/Bloomberg, 2013.

Water Consumption, Disclosure Rate by Sector



Sources: The Conference Board/Bloomberg, 2013.

Water Consumption, Median by Sector



Sources: The Conference Board/Bloomberg, 2013.

Why it matters…

- One of the anticipated effects of climate change on the ecosystem is the progressive desertification of certain geographic areas, magnifying the importance of water as a finite and vulnerable resource.
- Tracking and monitoring water consumption is an important first step in ensuring that businesses and communities can continue to enjoy available and accessible water resources.

For more information on this and over 70 other sustainability metrics, download *Sustainability Practices: 2013 Edition* at: www.conferenceboard.org/sustainabilitypractices or contact Matteo Tonello at matteo.tonello@conference-board.org

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