



Chart of the Week



SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES: 2012 EDITION

Political contributions

Of the 3,000 global companies analyzed, 11 percent reported the total amount of political donations. Among these companies, those in the utilities sector reported the highest median political donations.

Political Contributions, Disclosure Rate by Index

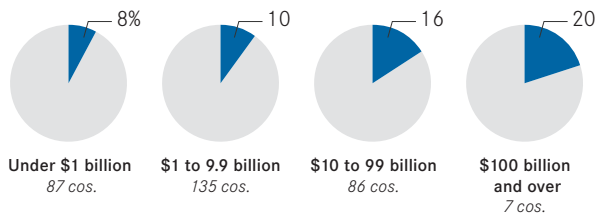
Thirteen percent of S&P 500 companies reported political donations.



Sources: The Conference Board/Bloomberg, 2012.

Political Contributions, Disclosure Rate by Revenue Group

Companies with higher annual revenue were most likely to report political donations.



Sources: The Conference Board/Bloomberg, 2012.

Political Contributions, Median by Sector

The utilities sector reported the highest median political donations.



U.S. dollars

Sources: The Conference Board/Bloomberg, 2012.

Why it matters...

- Institutional shareholders and proxy voting advisors have become increasingly vocal about the need for public disclosure of corporate political contributions.
- While many companies view participation in the political process as an important means of furthering their long-term strategic goals, such activity can also represent a significant risk, and companies should recognize that their contributions are likely to be closely monitored and scrutinized by their stakeholders.

For more information on this and over 70 other sustainability metrics, download *Sustainability Practices: 2012 Edition* at: <http://www.conferenceboard.org/sustainabilitypractices> or contact Matteo Tonello at matteo.tonello@conferenceboard.org

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