

# Driving ESG Success: How a Modern Platform Powers Sustainability & Compliance

## Client Background

A leading global financial services holding company with over **\$3 trillion+ in assets under management** operates across life insurance, health insurance, asset management, retirement savings, and reinsurance markets. With **more than 15+ subsidiaries** and **32,000+ employees worldwide**, the company serves millions of customers across North America, Europe, and Asia through a broad and diversified portfolio of brands.

## ESG and Sustainable Journey

### Climate and Environmental Commitments

The firm is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in its operations well before 2050, and by 2050 for its financed emissions. It regularly discloses emissions data—including Scope 3 emissions linked to investments—with plans to expand reporting as data quality and availability improve.

In 2024, the organization reported its first preliminary carbon footprint for its investment portfolio, focusing on listed fixed income, equities, and commercial real estate. Although unaudited and considered preliminary, this disclosure marked a critical milestone in advancing ESG transparency and measurement.

## The Challenge

The firm's business assessment identified critical needs to support both regulatory compliance and value creation across its operations. It set an ambitious goal: by the end of 2025, deploy a fully operational ESG technology platform to:

- Deliver efficient, operationally resilient reporting at entity and group levels
- Centralize ESG data ingestion and validation from providers like Sustainalytics and CDP
- Provide front-office dashboards to embed ESG insights into active investment decisions.

*"In December 2024, we selected Northern Trust and Equity Data Science (EDS) as our preferred enterprise technology partners from a competitive field—including Microsoft and SAP—to implement a high-quality, robust sustainability and carbon footprint solution."*

## The Solution

EDS, in partnership with Northern Trust, helped the company transition from a proof-of-concept to a production-grade ESG platform—outpacing established enterprise players like Microsoft and SAP. The Solution addressed four key business areas:

	Business Need	Northern Trust / EDS Solution
Enabling Enterprise-Wide ESG Regulatory Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Standardize ESG metric reporting (including climate, aligning with PCAF standards and EU SFDR PAI metrics) across multiple consolidation levels</li><li>Advance the European Asset Management strategy through centralized reporting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Delivered a single, operationally resilient calculation and reporting platform Advance the European Asset Management strategy through centralized reporting</li><li>Supported multi-hierarchy, multi-currency needs to drive efficiency, minimize risk, and ensure reliable ESG calculations</li></ul>
Centralizing ESG Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consolidate ESG data ingestion and validation from multiple external vendors</li><li>Streamline a fragmented ESG data infrastructure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Implemented a centralized ESG data management system</li><li>Future-proofed operations for scalability and evolving global regulations</li></ul>
Tracking and Monitoring ESG Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Track progress toward net-zero goals and monitor portfolio sustainability</li><li>Avoid dependence on expensive, stand-alone engagement tracking systems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduced an integrated reporting platform with built-in engagement tracking</li><li>Enhanced oversight and reduced costs</li></ul>
Supporting Front-Office ESG Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Equip front-office teams with ESG data access and analytics tools</li><li>Reduce manual processes and expand ESG insights across portfolios</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provided real-time ESG insights for investment teams</li><li>Introduced portfolio-level carbon budgeting tools to embed sustainability into investment workflows</li></ul>

## Accelerating ESG Capabilities: Key Benefits at a Glance



### Consolidated ESG Data

Combines internal and external (Sustainalytics, FactSet, CDP, Bloomberg, SBTi) into a single auditable ESG platform

## Compliance & Efficiency Gains



### Built-in SFDR & PAI Reporting

Simplifies regulatory compliance -0.4 FTE efficiency savings



### Automated Data Controls

Reduces manual corrections -0.2 FTE savings

## Real-Time Insights



### Snowflake Integration

Daily data feeds into EDS. Enables real-time ESG analysis and scenario modeling



### Early ESG Readiness for 2025

Supports early testing through Snowflake connectivity

## Cost Savings



### Eliminates Standalone Tools

Replaces tools like Esgaia - €10K annual savings



### Avoid Costly IT Builds

No 3-5 month IT projects needed - €70K-120K savings per new data source

**“Equity Data Science successfully advanced this ESG initiative from a preliminary proof-of-concept to a production-grade solution—outpacing industry heavyweights like Microsoft and SAP. EDS stands out as a modern, customizable, and rapidly evolving platform that meets complex data and analytics needs.”**

**- \$3 Trillion+ Leading Global Financial Services Holding Company**

## The Result

By partnering with EDS, the Company is achieving:

- Full alignment with regulatory standards (PCAF, OSFI B-15, TCFD, SFDR), reducing compliance risk and increasing transparency
- Streamlined ESG data workflows via EDS’s intuitive interface and integration capabilities, cutting manual work and operational burden
- A scalable, production-grade platform that meets current and future ESG goals without heavy customization or outside consulting
- Enhanced stakeholder and investor trust through auditable methodologies for Scope 1, 2, and 3 disclosures
- Empowered investment teams to seamlessly integrate ESG insights into day-to-day decision-making, strengthening portfolio resilience

## Conclusion

With EDS, the organization taps into a world-class ESG solution that delivers compliance confidence and strategic advantage—positioning the firm as a forward-thinking leader in sustainable investing.

**Let us know how we can help you.**

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