Sustainable Finance Risk - Greenwashing and Controls Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Risk Management	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The accelerating shift towards a Sustainable Economy presents both immense opportunities and significant risks for the global financial sector. Sustainable Finance, driven by increasing investor demand for ESG Integration and climate-conscious policies, has become a multi-trillion-dollar market. However, this rapid growth, coupled with fragmented regulatory standards, has led to a major systemic threat: Greenwashing. This risk involves misleading claims about the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) credentials of financial products, services, or institutions. Unchecked greenwashing undermines market integrity, erodes Investor Confidence, and exposes firms to severe legal, regulatory, and Reputational Risk. This course provides essential, practical training to identify, mitigate, and control greenwashing risk within the complex and evolving global regulatory landscape.

Sustainable Finance Risk - Greenwashing and Controls Training Course is specifically designed to equip financial and compliance professionals with the Advanced Due Diligence and governance frameworks necessary for maintaining Regulatory Compliance and ensuring Authentic Sustainability commitments. Participants will master the critical tools for navigating the 'alphabet soup' of standards, including the EU Taxonomy, SFDR, and the latest global Green Claims regulations. By focusing on robust internal controls, verifiable data, and transparent communication, the course empowers attendees to safeguard their firm’s reputation, prevent costly ESG Litigation, and confidently lead the charge toward a genuinely Net-Zero Transition. The ultimate goal is to move beyond mere compliance to embed a culture of Ethical Finance and Impact Investing into core business strategy.

Programme Curriculum

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Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

1. Define and Differentiate key terms like Greenwashing Typologies, Impact-Washing, and Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) compliance.
2. Analyze the Regulatory Landscape of sustainable finance, including the EU Taxonomy, CSRD, and global Green Claims Codes.
3. Identify and assess the spectrum of Greenwashing Risks inherent in investment products and corporate communications.
4. Master the application of Double Materiality Assessment in sustainability reporting and disclosure to prevent misleading claims.
5. Develop and Implement Robust Anti-Greenwashing Controls and ESG Governance frameworks within a financial institution.
6. Evaluate the role of ESG Data Quality and Third-Party Verification in validating sustainability claims and mitigating risk.
7. Structure and Review financial products for alignment with credible global standards.
8. Understand the increasing risk of ESG Litigation and the best practices for defensive record-keeping and public disclosure.
9. Explore the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ESG data analysis to enhance risk monitoring and fraud detection.
10. Assess the emerging risks related to Biodiversity Loss and Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) to avoid 'Nature-Washing'.
11. Formulate internal policies for transparent Supply Chain Due Diligence to ensure authenticity of product-level green claims.
12. Apply practical frameworks for Transition Finance to brown assets while maintaining credibility and avoiding "Transition-Washing."

13. Cultivate a culture of Responsible Communication and Ethical Finance to ensure long-term Investor Trust and regulatory adherence.

Target Audience

1. Compliance Officers and Risk Managers
2. Sustainability/ESG Analysts and Heads of ESG/CSR.
3. Investment/Portfolio Managers.
4. Legal Counsel advising on disclosure, regulation, and ESG Litigation matters.
5. Marketing and Communication Professionals.
6. Internal/External Auditors and Assurance Providers.
7. Product Development Teams for financial instruments
8. Senior Leadership and Board Members.

Course Modules

Module 1: The Foundation of Sustainable Finance Risk

- Defining Greenwashing and its impact on Market Integrity and Stakeholder Trust.
- The "Sins" of Greenwashing.
- Understanding the drivers of greenwashing.
- Case Study: The DWS/SEC investigation and the subsequent financial penalties and reputational damage for overstating ESG integration.
- Key Global Regulations and Frameworks.

Module 2: The EU Regulatory Architecture and Green Claims

- Deep dive into the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation.
- The EU Taxonomy as a Classification Tool.
- The EU Green Claims Directive and its mandate for verifiable, comparable, and transparent environmental claims.
- Case Study: Analysis of how Article 8 funds have been scrutinized for lacking true sustainability alignment
- Compliance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and its relation to greenwashing risk.

Module 3: Anti-Greenwashing Controls and Governance

- Implementing a robust ESG Governance structure with clear roles and accountability
- Developing and enforcing an internal Green Claims Policy for all communications, marketing, and product documentation.
- The role of the Compliance Function in continuous monitoring, surveillance, and training on regulatory updates.
- Case Study: Utilizing a 'Four Eyes' principle model for signing off on all sustainability-related disclosures and advertisements to mitigate human error.
- Integrating greenwashing risk into the Enterprise Risk Management framework and internal audit plans.

Module 4: Due Diligence for Green Financial Products

- Green Bond and Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles.
- Conducting Sustainability Due Diligence on underlying assets to confirm compliance with green thresholds.
- Avoiding Impact-Washing by focusing on material, measurable, and verifiable positive outcomes

- Case Study: Reviewing an SLL where the Sustainability Performance Targets were deemed too easy to achieve, leading to accusations of 'greenwishing'.
- The importance of External Review and Second-Party Opinions for enhancing product credibility and market confidence.

Module 5: Data, Metrics, and Verification

- Challenges of ESG Data Quality and the risk of the "Garbage In, Greenwash Out" paradox.
- Leveraging technology, including AI/Machine Learning, for enhanced data aggregation, analysis, and anomaly detection.
- The role of Assurance and Independent Verification for material non-financial disclosures.
- Case Study: Examination of a firm that faced scrutiny for relying on unaudited, self-reported ESG data from portfolio companies, resulting in a misstated carbon footprint.
- Understanding sector-specific metrics and reporting standards.

Module 6: Reputational Risk and Stakeholder Engagement

- Analyzing the role of NGOs, activists, and media in exposing perceived Greenwashing and the rapid escalation of Reputational Risk.
- Developing a transparent and proactive Crisis Communications Strategy for sustainability-related incidents.
- Best practices for engaging with Stakeholders on ESG performance and targets.
- Case Study: A major corporate scandal where a perceived greenwashing incident led to a multi-billion dollar drop in market capitalization and a significant decline in customer loyalty.
- Differentiating between credible Transition Plans and vague 'Net-Zero' commitments that risk 'Green-Hushing' or 'Green-Crowding'.

Module 7: Emerging ESG Litigation and Enforcement Trends

- Analyzing global enforcement actions by regulators against misrepresentations in ESG funds and corporate reports.
- Understanding the legal basis for ESG Litigation
- Strategies for maintaining robust Record-Keeping and audit trails to defend against litigation claims.
- Case Study: The legal challenges faced by a large asset manager over the alleged mislabeling of an ESG-focused investment product under the SFDR, resulting in a class-action lawsuit.
- The rise of 'Shareholder Activism' and resolutions targeting climate and sustainability disclosure deficiencies.

Module 8: Nature, Biodiversity, and Future Risks

- Introduction to the growing risk of Nature-Washing and the financial materiality of Biodiversity Loss.
- The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures framework and its integration into risk management.
- Understanding the interconnectedness of climate, nature, and social risks
- Case Study: Evaluating the risks faced by a bank lending to a company involved in deforestation, leading to 'Nature-Washing' accusations and regulatory intervention.
- Preparing for new regulations concerning the 'S' aspects of ESG and avoiding Social-Washing.

Training Methodology

This course employs a participatory and hands-on approach to ensure practical learning, including:

- Interactive lectures and presentations.
- Group discussions and brainstorming sessions.
- Hands-on exercises using real-world datasets.
- Role-playing and scenario-based simulations.
- Analysis of case studies to bridge theory and practice.
- Peer-to-peer learning and networking.
- Expert-led Q&A sessions.
- Continuous feedback and personalized guidance.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: **info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org** **or call** +254769199797

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Online	$1,000
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$1,500
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$0

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	25 Sep 2026	Physical	$0

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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