

# Project Objectives



The Bard MBA team partnered with Centerbridge Partners to enhance sustainable value creation by identifying repeatable, high-impact ESG initiatives, analyzing portfolio-wide sustainability trends, and developing standardized tools and systems to strengthen Centerbridge's sustainability reporting and analysis. The resulting framework enables portfolio companies to improve their reporting capabilities while also highlighting the financial benefits of adopting cost-effective sustainability practices. This work supports Centerbridge's goal of enabling value creation across the portfolio and scaling repeatable initiatives over time.

## Team Approach

Our team followed a structured process to understand industry best practices, analyze Centerbridge's ESG efforts, and build practical tools that enable reporting, prioritization, and scalable adoption across the portfolio.

### Step 1: Industry Analysis and Strategic Framing

We began by examining ESG trends and value creation strategies across the private equity industry to understand how firms unlock operational and financial benefits through sustainability. These insights informed a strategy for Centerbridge to further strengthen its sustainability reporting and analysis process.

### Step 2: Portfolio Analysis & Tool Development

We then analyzed approximately 400 ESG initiatives across Centerbridge's portfolio to uncover trends, gaps, and opportunities. Based on this analysis, we developed robust tools including a classification taxonomy that enabled deeper insights and clearer prioritization.

### Step 3: Prioritization, Enablement, and Scale

This enabled Centerbridge to identify repeatable high-impact initiatives and develop one-pagers and proxy calculators to support adoption. We also guided portfolio companies on using these tools, highlighting the benefits of ESG initiatives, ease of implementation, and ways to streamline data collection. Together, these efforts encourages adoption and positions Centerbridge to scale ESG practices across the portfolio.

## Key Insights & Impact

Findings that inform adoption and scale

### Portfolio Findings:

**Insight:** Identified which sectors are leading or lagging in ESG adoption.

**Impact:** Helps prioritize sector-specific outreach and resource allocation.

### Scalable Opportunities Identified:

**Insight:** Selection of specific ESG actions (e.g., LED or HVAC upgrades) that can be broadly applied. **Impact:** Guides focus toward initiatives with proven, repeatable value.

### ROI Highlights:

**Insight:** Quantified returns, e.g., short payback periods, cost/emissions savings, and employee engagement benefits.

**Impact:** Provides business case for adoption and increases internal buy-in.

### Deliverables:

**Insight:** Tools & resources – ESG taxonomy, one-pagers, cost-benefit calculators, and roadmap for implementation. **Impact:** Shows tangible value and positions team as enablers of implementation.

## Outcome

Centerbridge now has a repeatable ESG framework to support value creation across its portfolio. The tools and resources empower portfolio companies to adopt impactful sustainability initiatives aligned with business performance goals.



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