

2026 C-suite Sustainability Report

Sustainability in focus

Life Sciences & Health Care insights

Deloitte.

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Global summary

In its fifth year, Deloitte Global’s 2026 survey of more than 2,100 C-suite leaders suggests corporate sustainability has entered a more disciplined phase. Sustainability remains a top priority on the business agenda, but there has been a notable shift: organizations are moving from broad sustainability ambition to more focused execution embedded across the organization, with greater attention to ROI, resilience, and technology as an enabler.

Sustainability remains a top business priority, and most organizations continue to increase their sustainability investments

- Thirty-nine percent of respondents rate sustainability as a top three business priority.
- Seventy-eight percent of respondents reported increasing their sustainability investments in the last year.
- A majority of respondents (83%) see sustainability as a source of competitive advantage.

Corporate sustainability has moved from aspirational to operational

- Almost half of respondents (47%) describe their approach as embedding sustainability considerations across the organization.
- The average number of sustainability actions has decreased from 5.0 out of 12 options in 2025 to 3.4 out of 12 in 2026. The result is a more focused sustainability agenda.
- The most cited obstacles organizations report facing in their sustainability efforts include competing demands on time, resources, and

capital; difficulty measuring environmental impacts; a lack of sustainable solutions or insufficient supply; and a need to focus on near-term business challenges and demands from investors and shareholders.

Sustainability’s business benefits accompany value discipline

- Seventy-seven percent say sustainability investments deliver greater ROI than other business investments.
- Large majorities say their strategic sustainability initiatives have had positive effects on revenue generation, cost reduction, risk and resiliency, brand and reputation, and regulatory compliance and governance.

Technology remains a top enabler of sustainability execution

- Implementing technology solutions to advance sustainability is the most-commonly cited action.
- Organizations report applying technology across a range of use cases, including internal

performance monitoring, supply-chain environmental data, risk modeling, external reporting, sustainable product development, and operational efficiency.

- More than 70% say artificial intelligence (AI) use for sustainability remains in pilots, experimentation or ad hoc stages. The most common barriers to scaling AI for sustainability include data quality, governance, integration with legacy systems, and unclear ROI.

Resilience is becoming a sustainability focal point

- Organizations report sustainability-related physical risks as the greatest sustainability matter currently impacting them.
- Around 20 – 25% of respondents on average said their organization was minimally prepared to deal with their greatest sustainability-related physical risk.
- Nearly half say their visibility into supply chain environmental performance doesn’t extend beyond their immediate suppliers.

Many pathways exist to sustainable value creation

- There is no particular mix of actions identified across organizations that can reliably be associated with value creation or impact. Rather, organizations appear to be building more tightly-focused portfolios of initiatives that suit their business needs and ambitions.
- To find their own unique path, leaders should:
 - Define what sustainability is meant to deliver for the business
 - Build a focused portfolio and make difficult choices about where to invest
 - Move resilience from strategic vision into operating routines
 - Build the sustainability data foundation as AI scales
 - Measure the full range of value created
- The challenge remains turning sustainability ambitions into disciplined action that creates long-term value for the enterprise and meaningful impact for the broader transition to a more sustainable world.

Deloitte Global’s 2026 survey of more than 2,100 C-suite leaders shows that sustainability remains a top business priority. Organizations continue to invest in sustainability, and most respondents see sustainability as a source of competitive advantage. A wide range of sustainability matters are impacting organizations, and stakeholder pressure has ebbed over the last five years.

Top 3

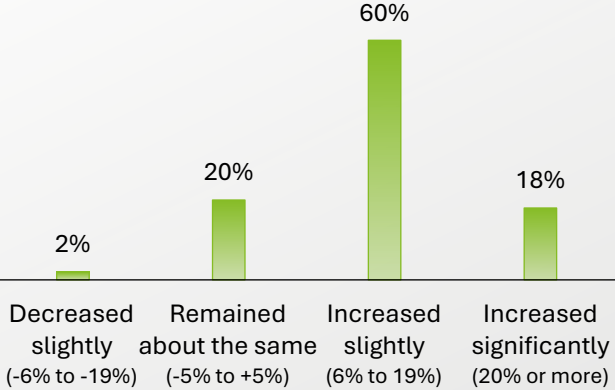
Organizations’ most pressing matters to focus on over the next year



■ Ranked in the top 3

78%

have increased sustainability investments in the last year

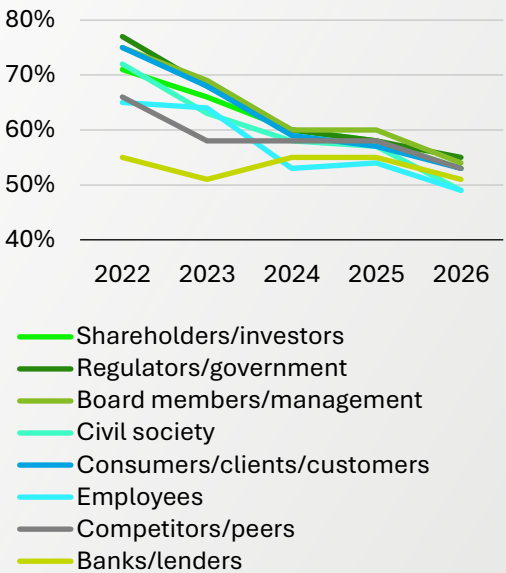


83%

agree sustainability initiatives create competitive advantage for their organization

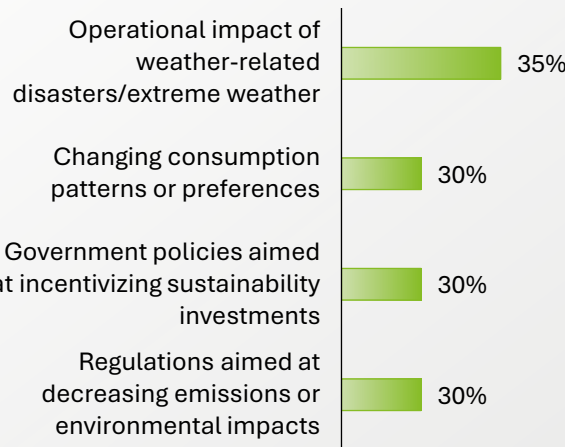
Stakeholder Pressure

Pressure felt from stakeholders around sustainability efforts (to a moderate / large extent)



Impacts

Top sustainability matters already impacting business



63%

of organizations expect effects of climate change to have a high/very high impact on strategy and operations over the next three years

Industry summary

Deloitte Global’s survey of 422 Life Sciences & Health Care (LSHC) executives finds that sustainability carries substantial strategic weight in the industry and is associated with broad business value. With the approach to sustainability more commonly focused on embedding it into the business, the management challenge centers on execution, prioritization, and capability building.

Sustainability holds a prominent place on the business agenda

- Sustainability ranks at the top among near-term priorities with 45% citing it in the top three compared to 39% globally, and slightly ahead of technology adoption and innovation at 44%.
- Investment remains strong, with 81% increasing sustainability spending over the past year.
- Eighty-eight percent say sustainability creates a competitive advantage, similar to global.

Sustainability is becoming more embedded in operations

- Half (50%) say sustainability is embedded throughout the organization, compared with 24% focused primarily on incremental operational change and 22% on business-model transformation.
- The leading obstacles faced by sustainability efforts include difficulty measuring environmental impact, competing demands on resources, and access to sustainable solutions or inputs. Cost and limited policy support rank lowest among barriers cited.

Sustainability creates value across multiple business dimensions

- Eighty-two percent report greater ROI from sustainability than from other business investments on average, supporting a strong direct financial case.
- Reported benefits extend beyond financial return, with 81-88% seeing positive effects across cost, revenue, brand, resilience, and regulatory compliance and governance, higher than the global range of 78-81%.
- Indirect or intangible impact ranks as the most influential investment consideration, suggesting executives are considering sustainability through a broader enterprise-value lens.

Technology is a top enabler of sustainability execution, while AI scaling requires progress across several capabilities

- Implementing technology solutions is the most common sustainability initiative at 35%, ahead of resilience-focused reconfiguration, sustainable products and services, and environmental measurement.

- Leading technology applications include supply-chain environmental monitoring (49%), internal performance tracking (48%), and risk management (47%).
- AI maturity is mixed: 32% report AI embedded across multiple sustainability use cases at scale, while 50% remain in targeted pilots. Data availability ranks first among barriers, but skills, ROI, funding, legacy integration, and governance follow closely, pointing to a multi-capability scaling challenge rather than a single constraint.

Resilience and physical risk are focal points, while deeper supply chain visibility remains limited

- Supply-chain disruption from extreme weather ranks as the industry's leading physical sustainability risk, ahead of energy availability, facility disruption, insurance exposure, and water shortages.
- Life sciences and health care organizations report relatively strong preparedness across the physical risks measured, exceeding global levels across the seven categories.
- Environmental visibility lessens deeper in the supply chain: 32% report reliable visibility through Tier 2 suppliers, while 24% have reliable visibility beyond Tier 2.

The management task is to strengthen the decisions and capabilities behind an already broad sustainability agenda

- Life sciences and health care organizations report strong investment, broad integration, and value across several business dimensions. The management questions are where deeper change is justified, which execution constraints deserve priority, where technology can strengthen decisions, and where climate exposure calls for deeper visibility.



Key findings and insights

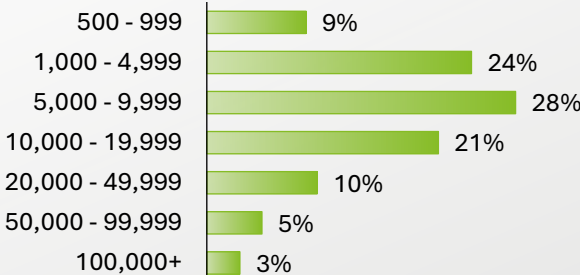


Methodology and LSHC business profile

422 executives in life sciences and health care organizations were surveyed

The global findings are based on a survey of 2,156 C-suite executives, conducted by KS&R Inc. on behalf of Deloitte Global, and was administered in a double-blind manner during May and June 2026, ensuring impartiality and confidentiality for both respondents and researchers. The survey polled respondents from 29 countries: 39% from Europe; 17% from North America; 27% from Asia-Pacific; 7% from Middle East and Africa; 10% from Central and South America. Each of the major commercial industry sectors were represented in the sample. Additionally, Deloitte Global conducted select, one-on-one interviews with C-suite executives globally.

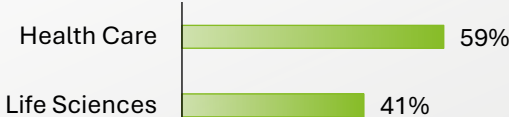
Number of employees



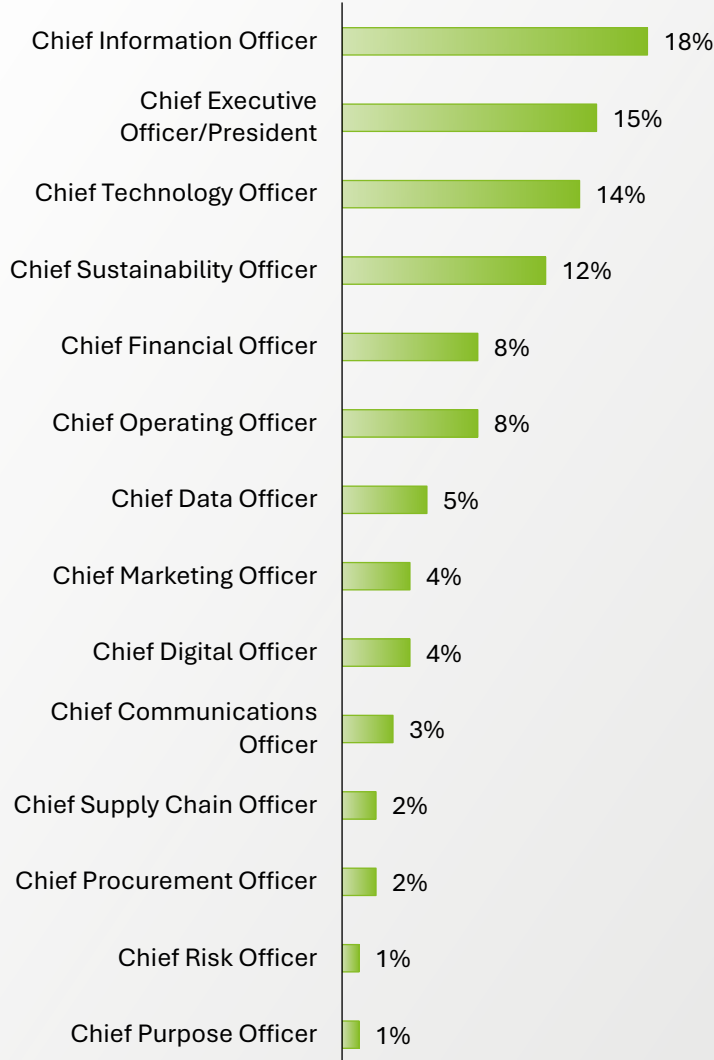
Annual Revenue (US\$)



Sector



Job title





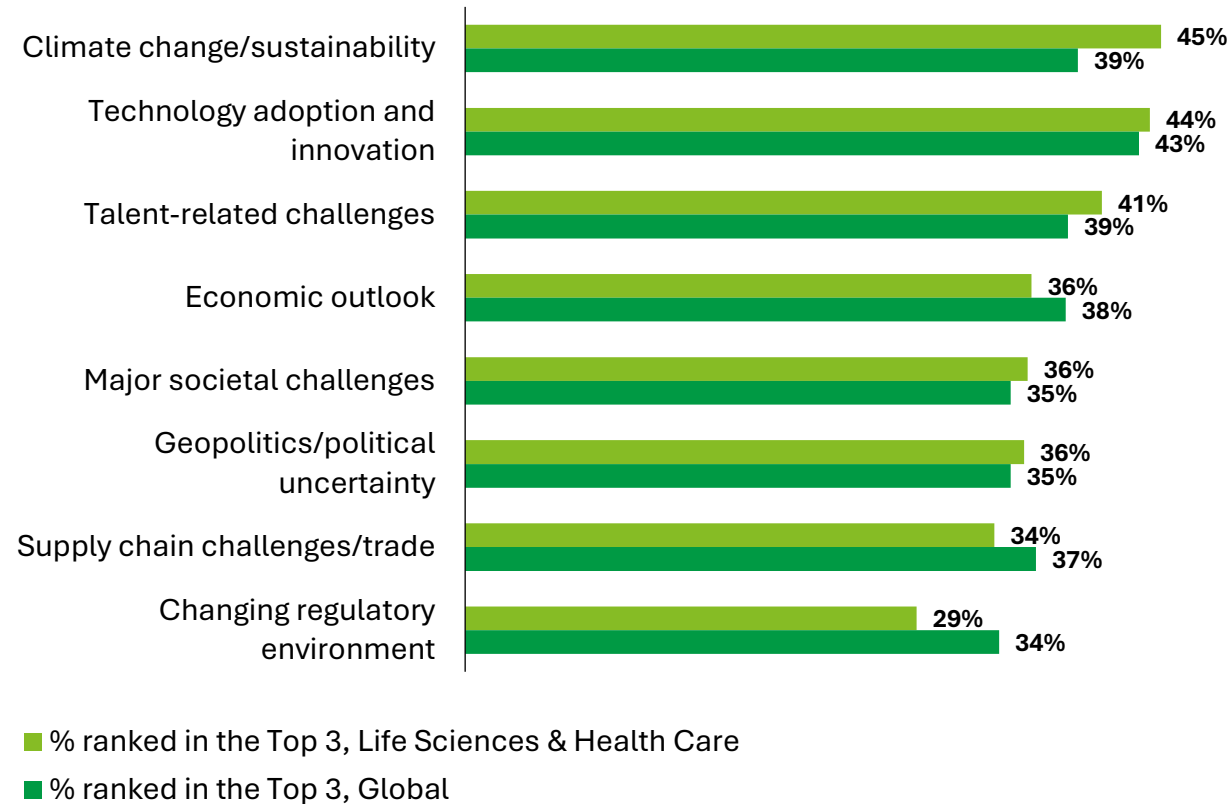
Overview



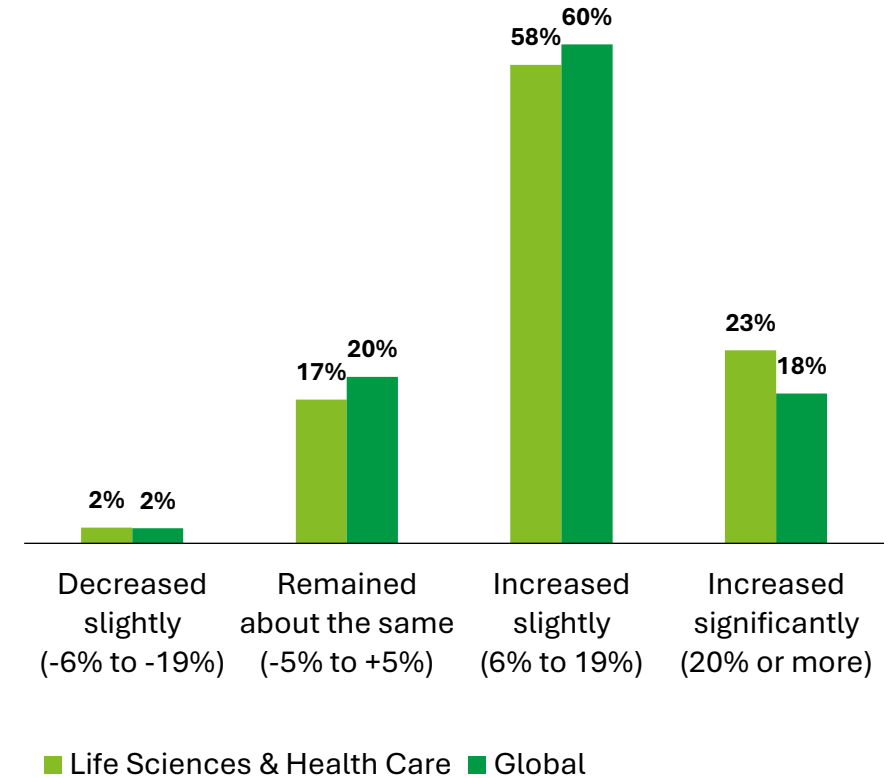


Sustainability as a business priority

What does your organization see as the most pressing matters to focus on over the next year? (rank in order of importance)



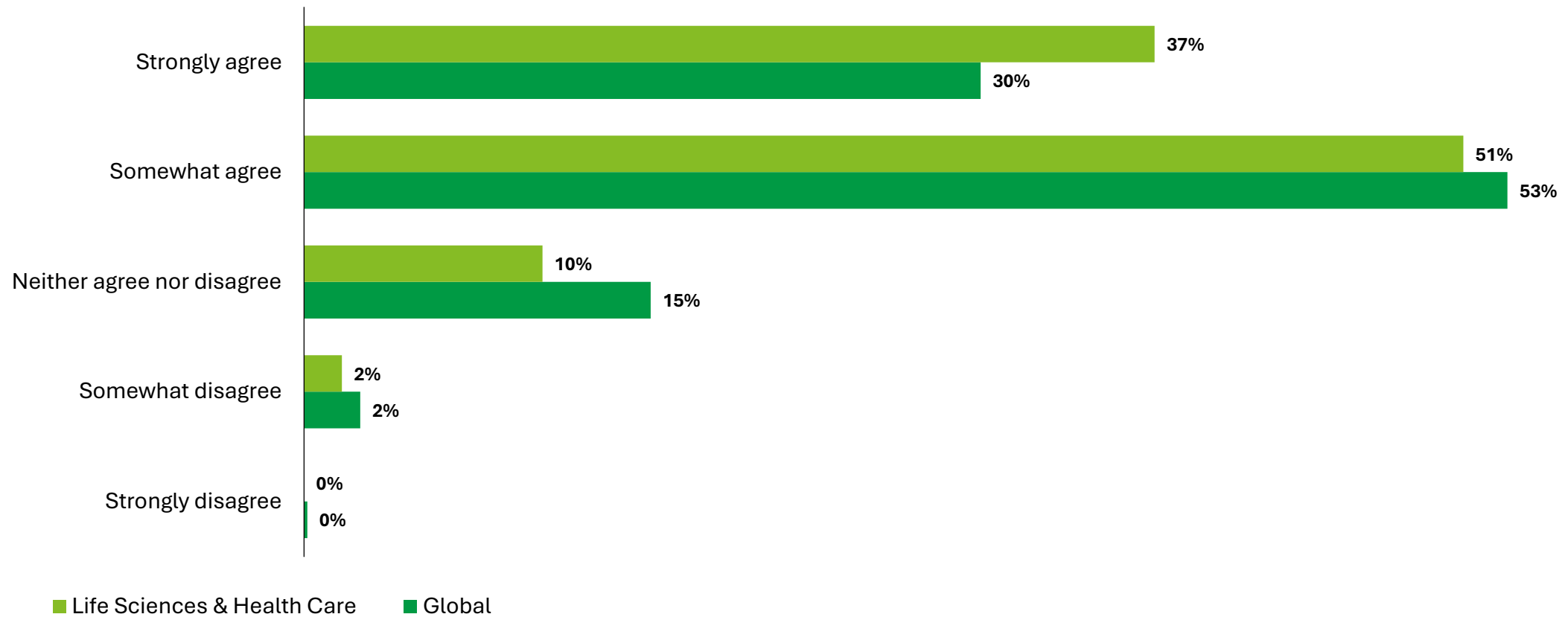
How have your organization's sustainability investments changed over the last year?





Sustainability as a competitive advantage

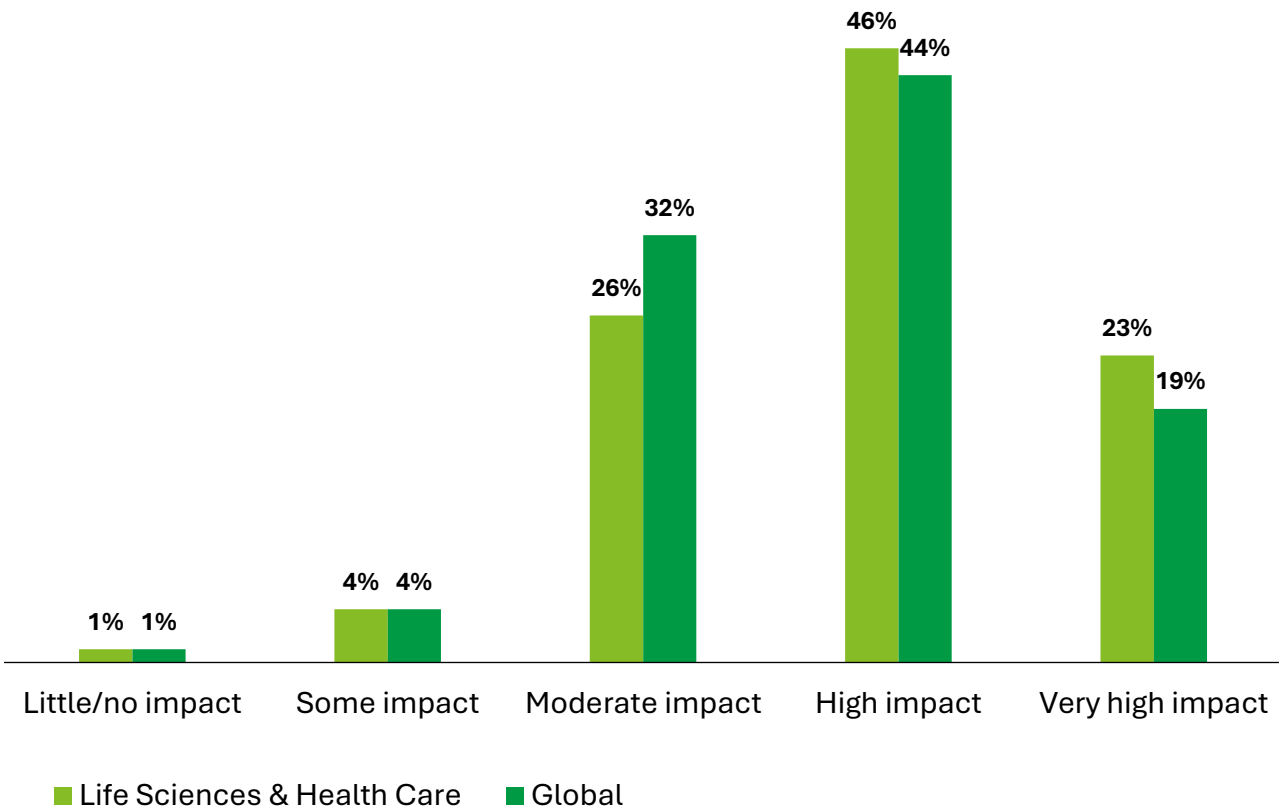
To what extent do you agree with the statement: “Our organization’s sustainability initiatives create a significant competitive advantage for our business.”





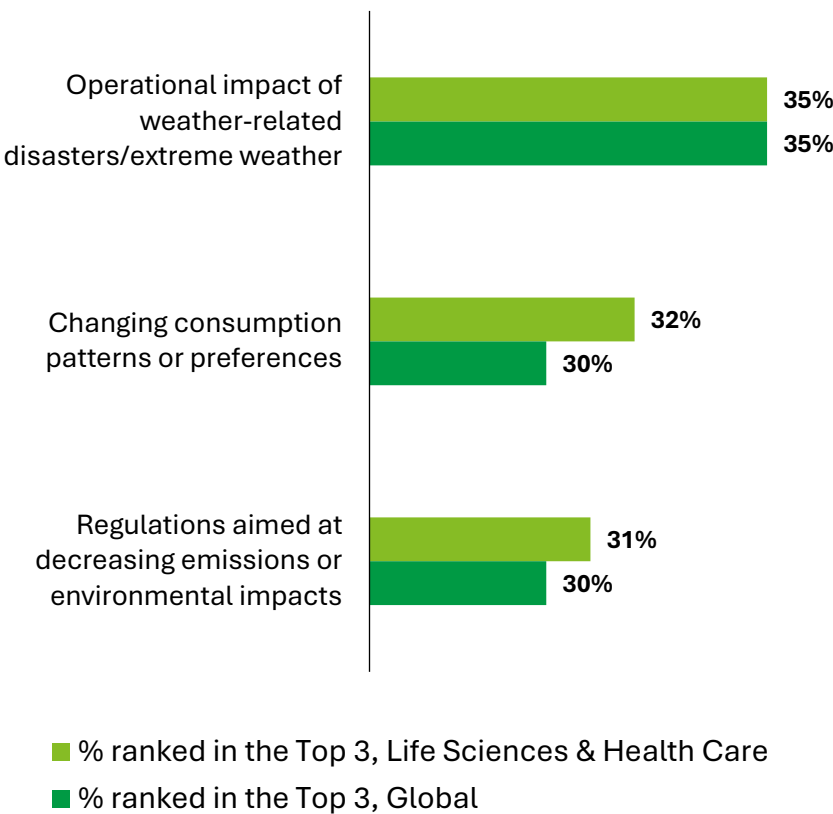
Sustainability-related impacts on business strategy and operations

To what degree do you expect the effects of climate change to impact your organization’s strategy and operations over the next three years?



Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

What are the top three sustainability matters that are already impacting your business? (select top three)

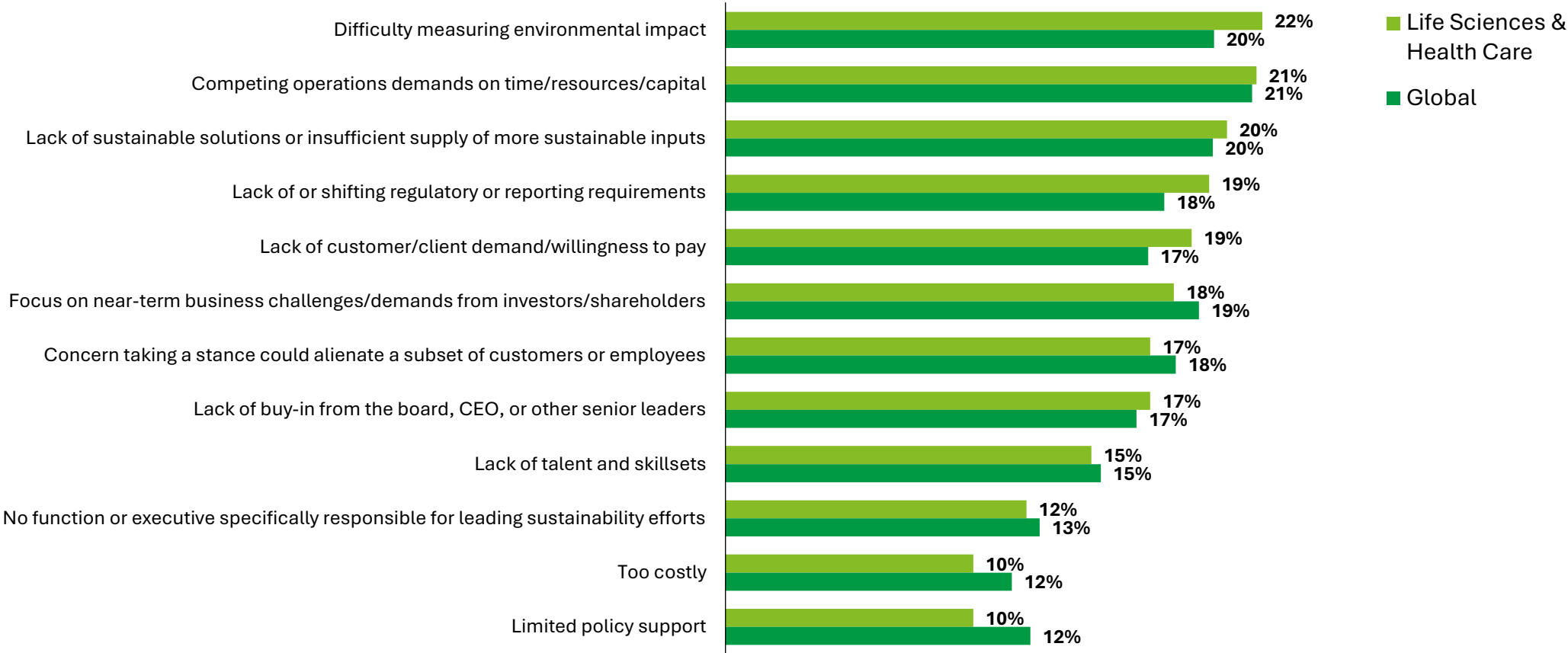




Obstacles to sustainability action

What are the top two obstacles to deploying sustainability initiatives at your organization?

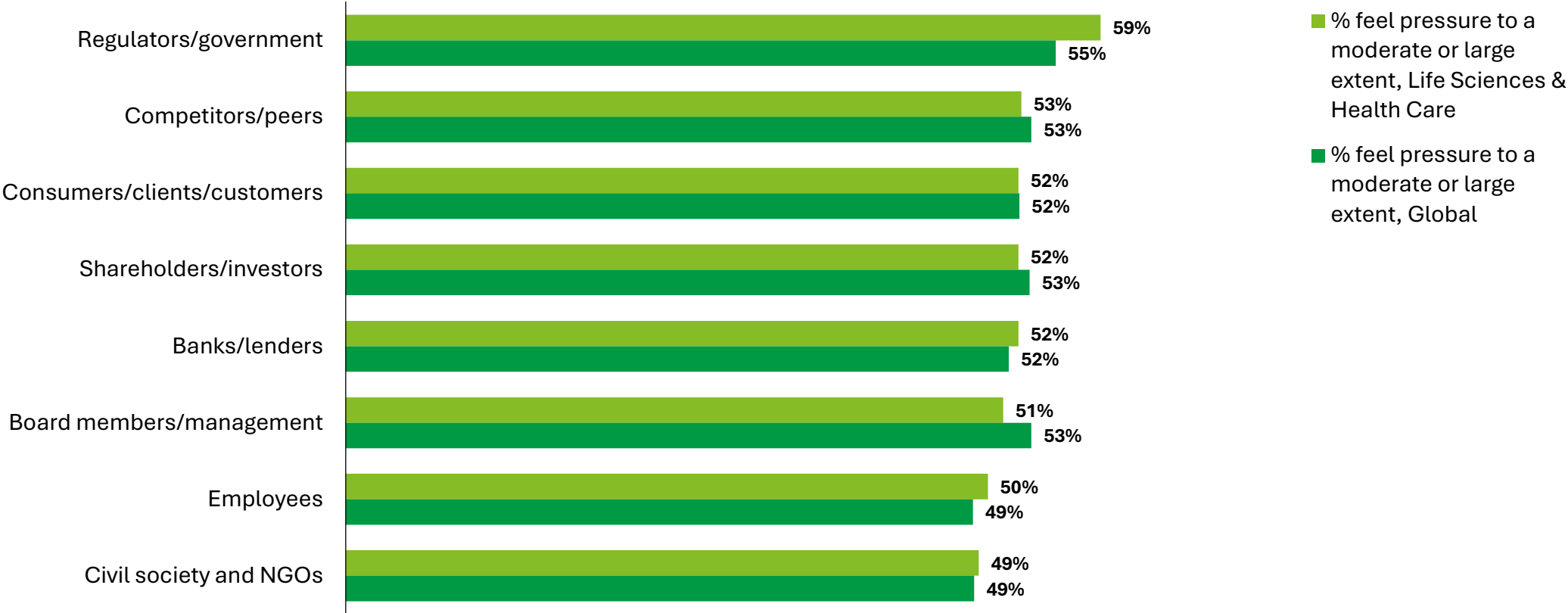
(select top two)





Stakeholder pressure on sustainability

To what extent does your organization feel pressure from stakeholders to increase or decrease its efforts in addressing sustainability? (% feel pressure to a moderate or large extent)



Operational discipline and value

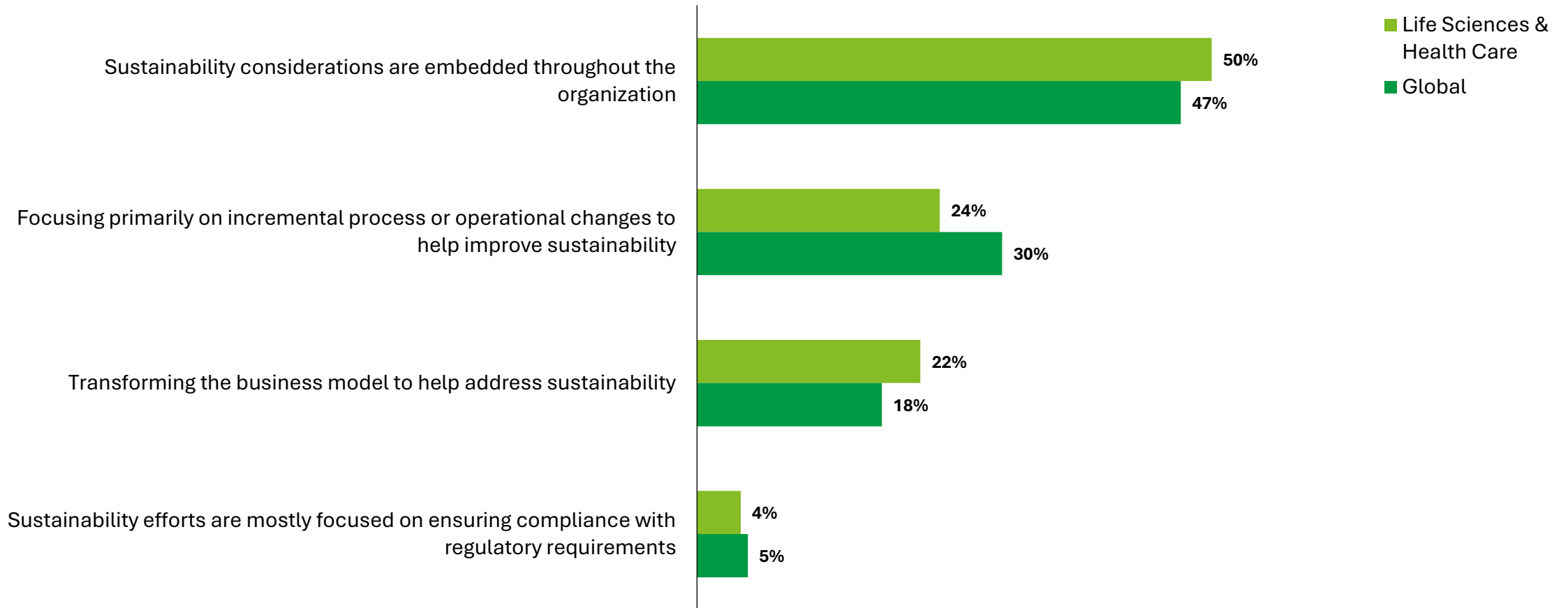
- Financial return of sustainability investments
- Strategic sustainability initiatives effects on revenue generation, cost reduction, risk and resiliency, brand and reputation, and regulatory compliance and governance





Organization’s approach to sustainability

Which of the following statements best describes your organization’s current approach to sustainability?

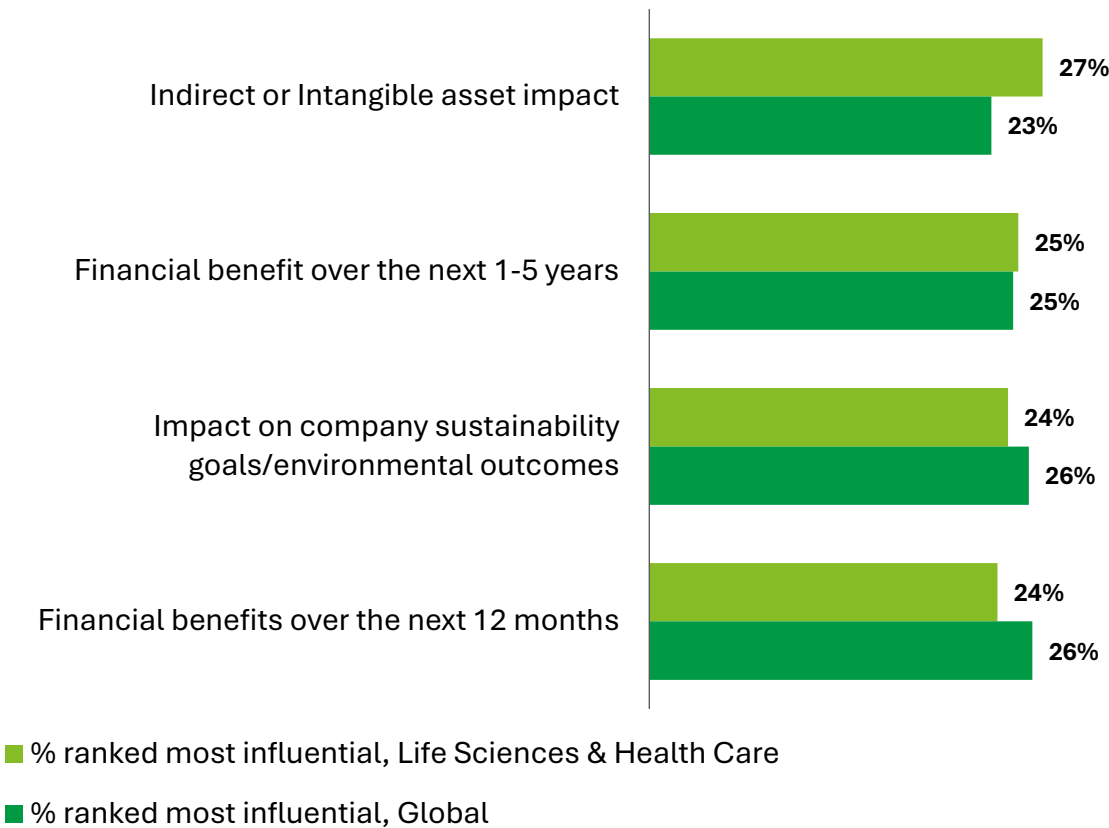




Business case and benefits from sustainability efforts

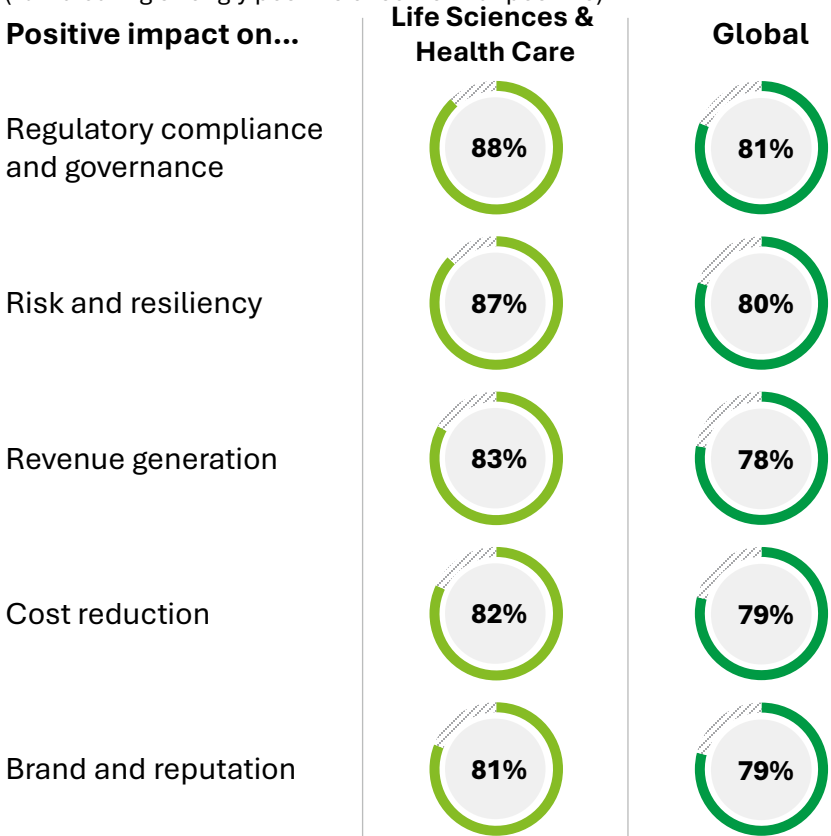
When assessing potential sustainability initiatives and investments, which outcomes are most influential in driving decision-making?

(rank in order of influence)



Thinking about your organization’s strategic sustainability initiatives last year, how would you assess their impact on the following dimensions?

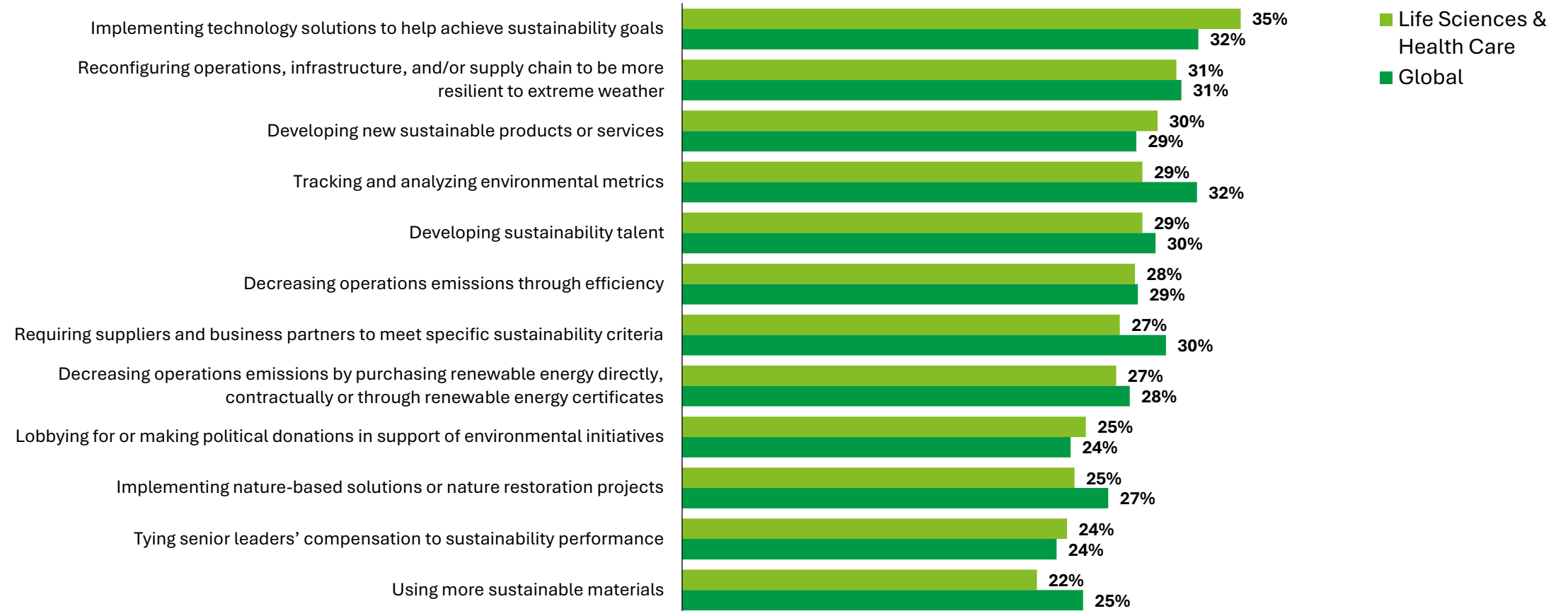
(% indicating strongly positive or somewhat positive)





Sustainability actions undertaken

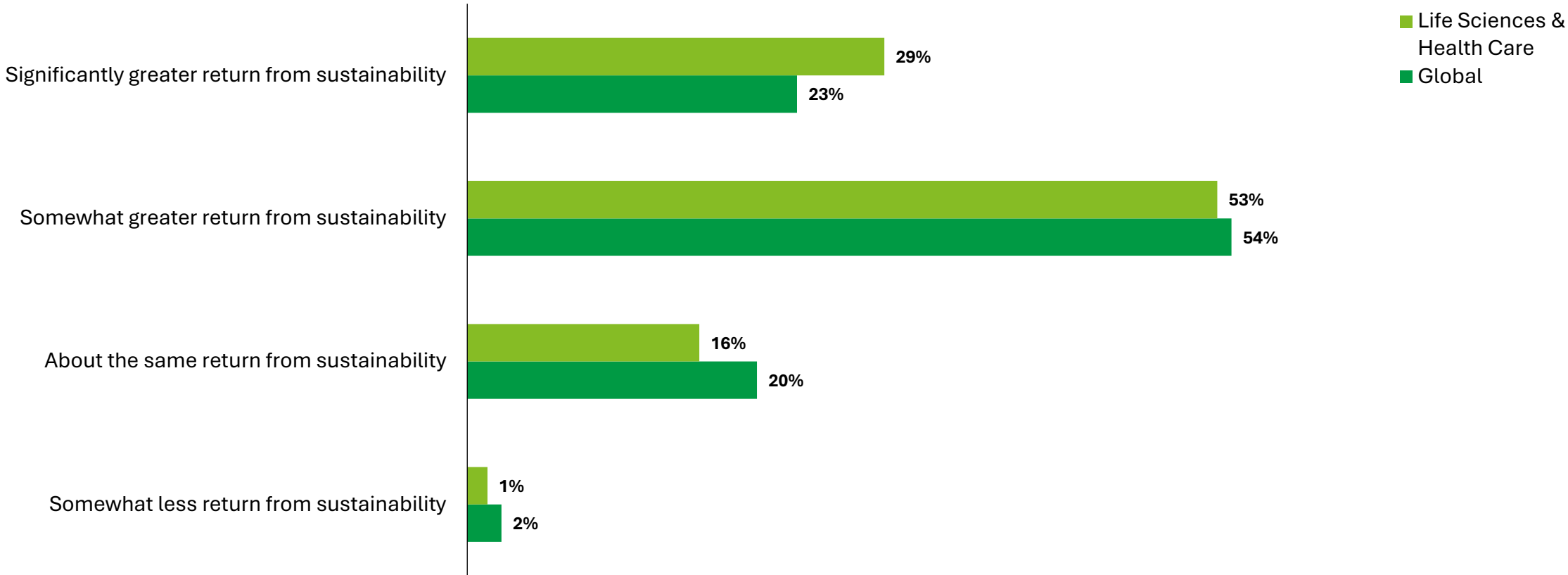
Which of the following initiatives has your organization undertaken as part of its sustainability strategy? (select all that apply)





Sustainability investments expected return

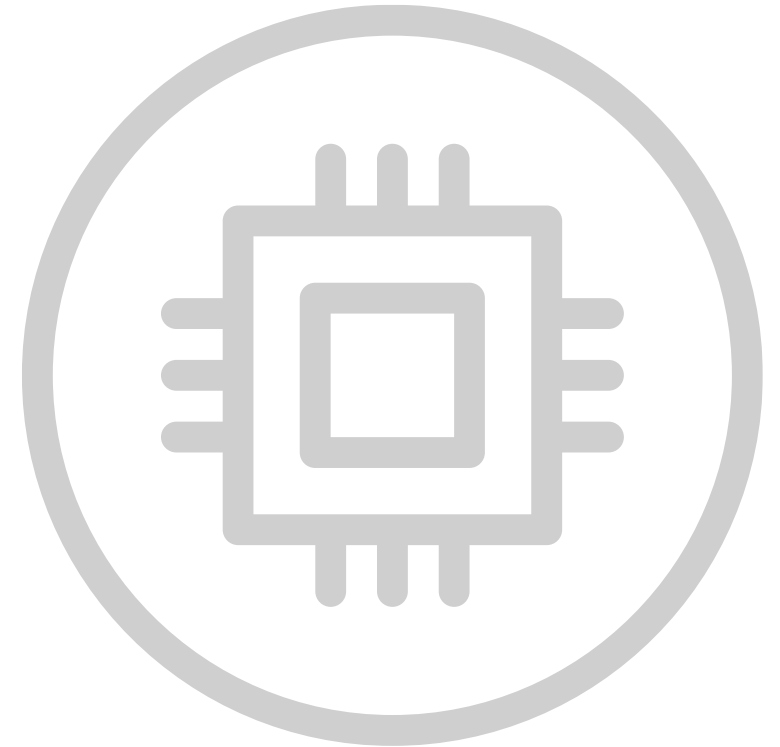
On average, how would you assess the financial return on investment (ROI) of your organization’s sustainability investments compared to its other business investments?

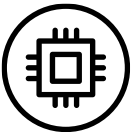


Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Technology and artificial intelligence

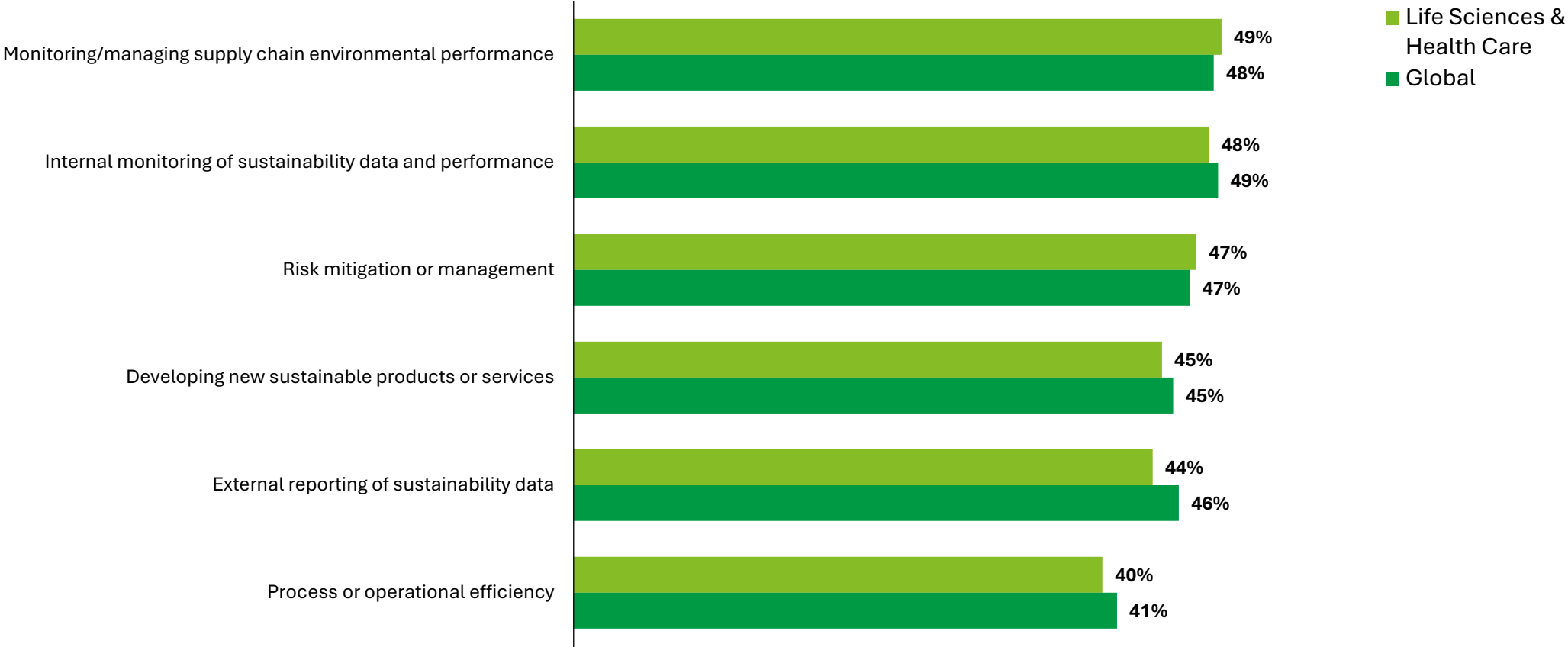
- Uses
- Maturity of AI
- Barriers to AI

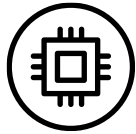




Technology as an enabler of sustainability efforts

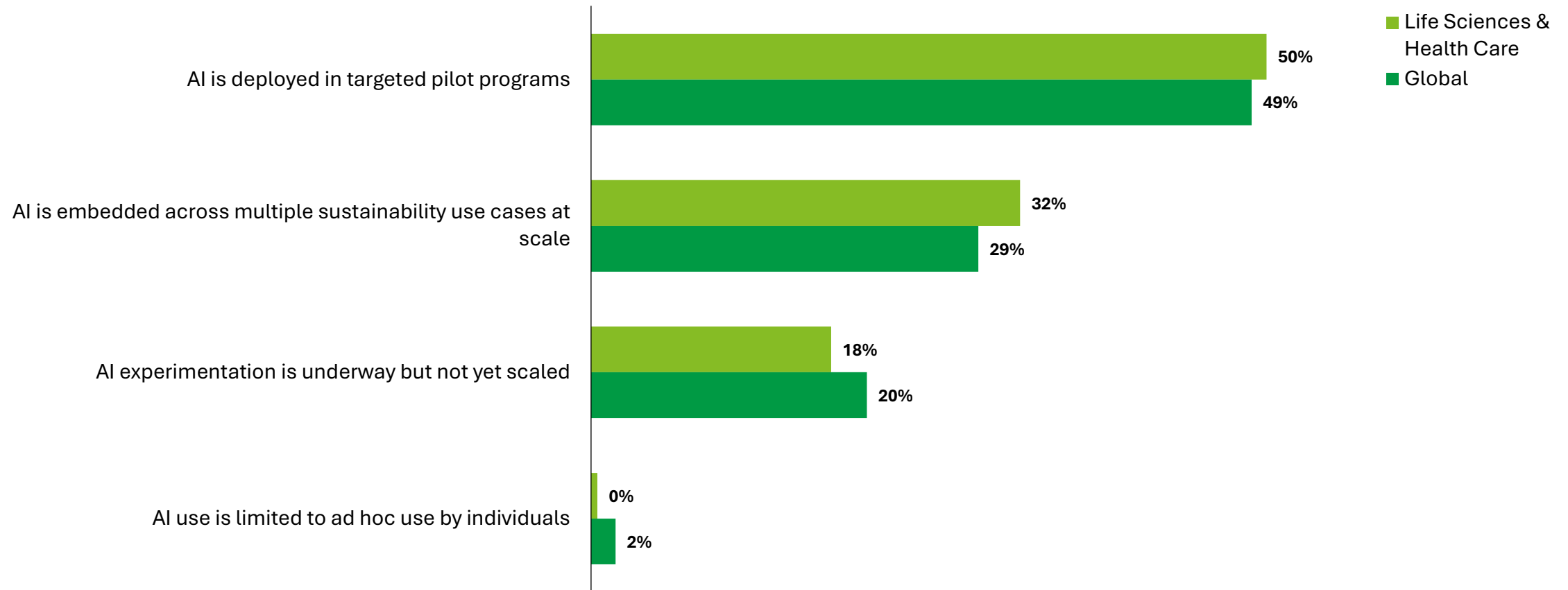
In which areas is your organization implementing technology solutions to help achieve sustainability goals? (select all that apply)

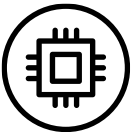




Maturity in applying AI to sustainability initiatives

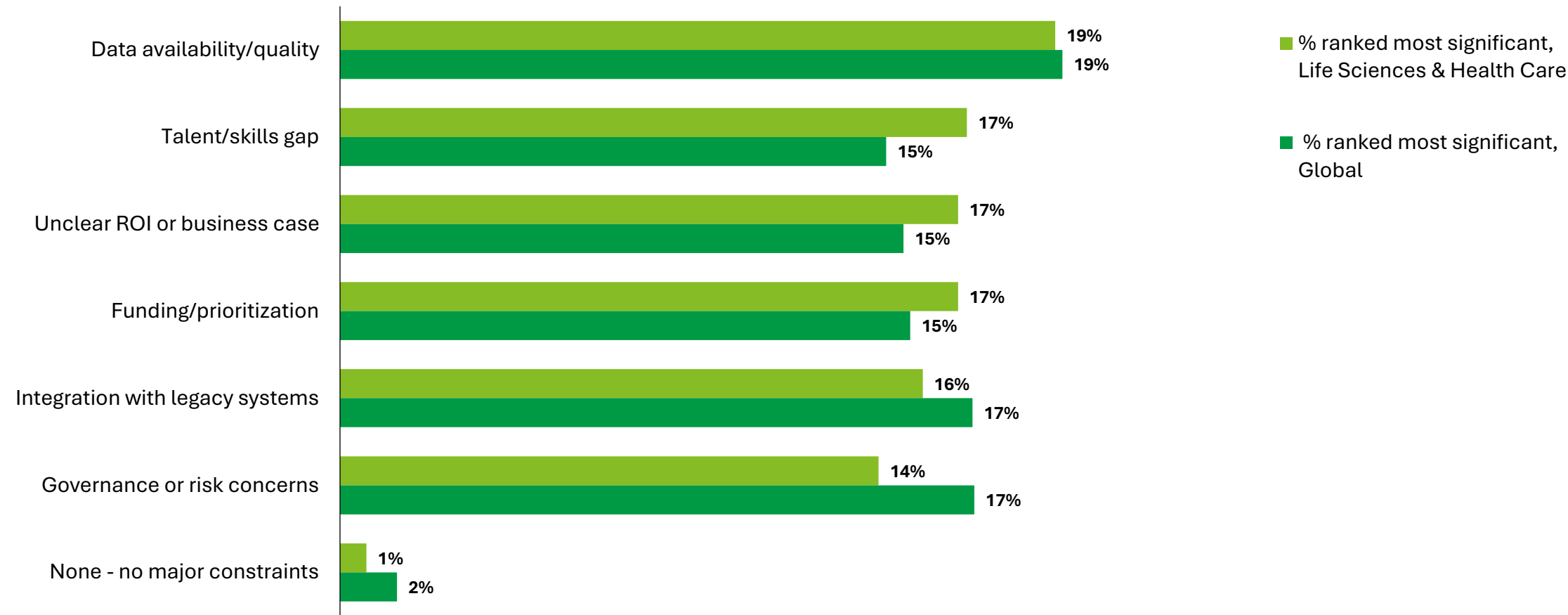
How would you describe your organization's maturity in applying AI (all types) to sustainability initiatives?





Factors limiting AI use in sustainability

What factors most limit your organization’s ability to use AI in sustainability initiatives? (rank from most to least significant)



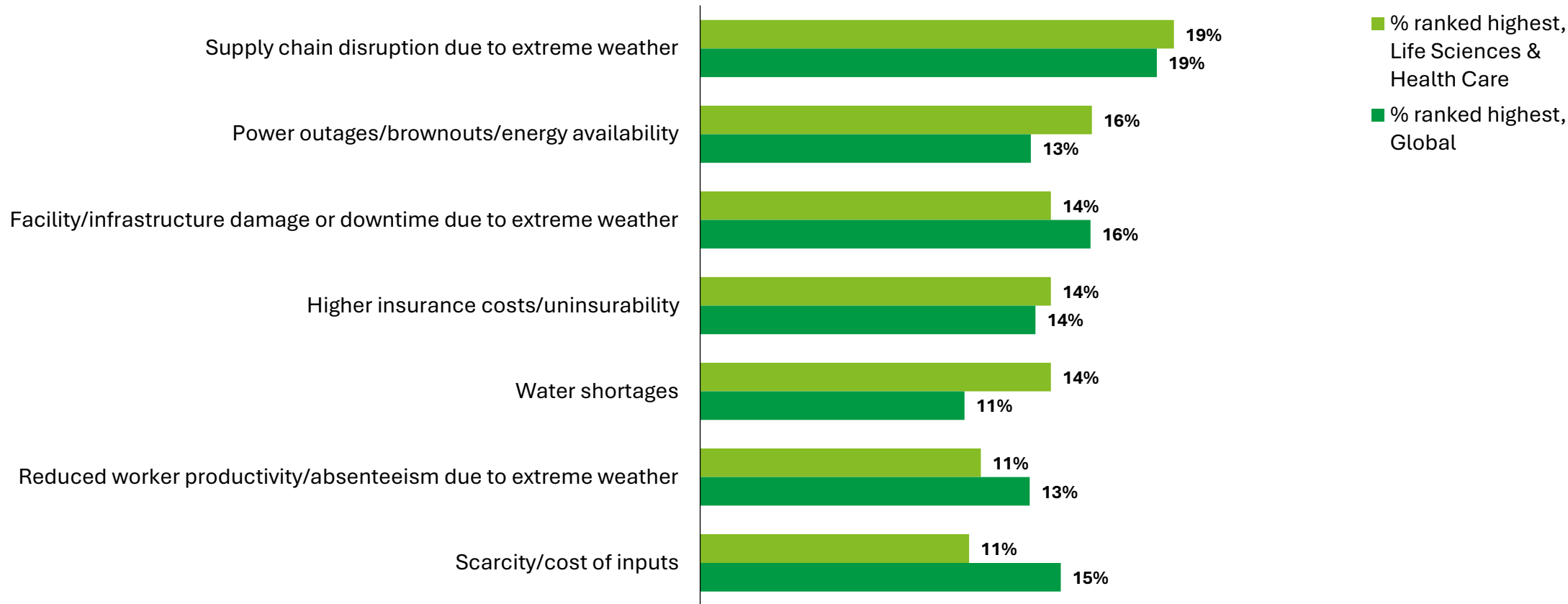
Resilience and physical risk





Sustainability-related physical risks impacting organizations

What do you see as the greatest sustainability-related physical risks to your organization over the next 3-5 years?
(rank order)





Degree of preparedness for sustainability-related physical risks

How prepared is your organization to avoid, withstand, and recover from the following sustainability-related physical risks over the next 3-5 years?

Prepared for ...

Scarcity/
cost of inputs

Facility/infrastructure
damage or downtime
due to extreme weather

Reduced worker
productivity/
absenteeism due to
extreme weather

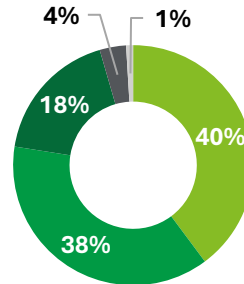
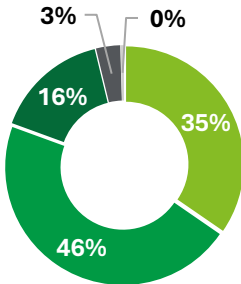
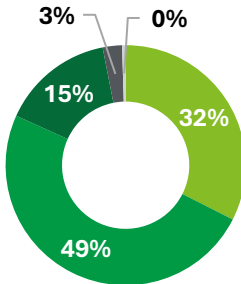
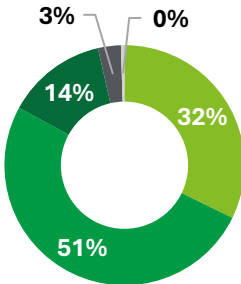
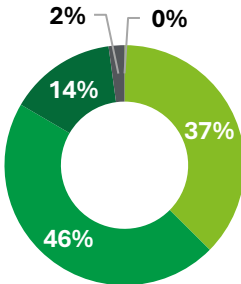
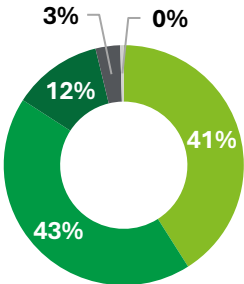
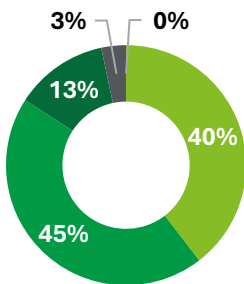
Water
shortages

Supply chain
disruption due to
extreme weather

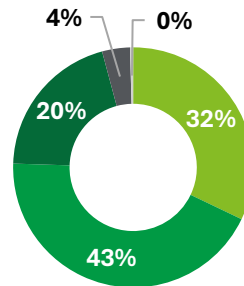
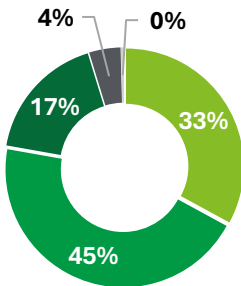
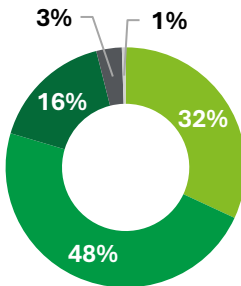
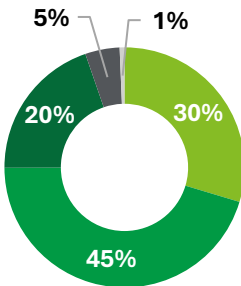
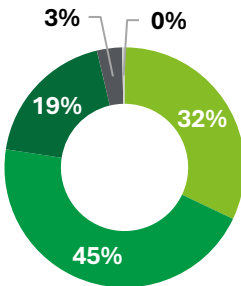
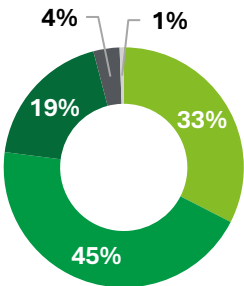
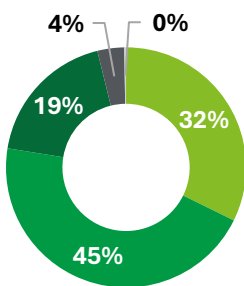
Power outages/
brownouts/energy
availability

Higher
insurance costs/
uninsurability

Life
Sciences &
Health Care



Global



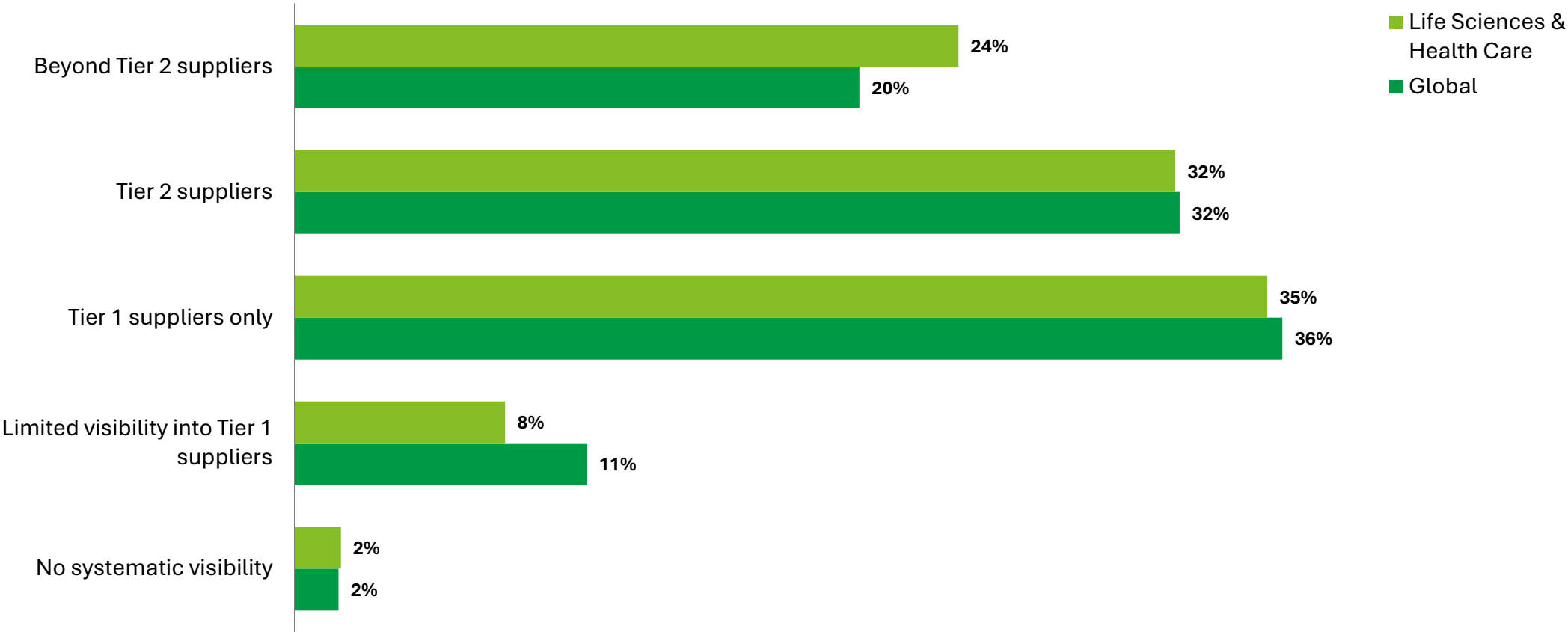
Legend: ● Very prepared ● Somewhat prepared ● Minimally prepared ● Not at all prepared ● Not sure/don't know

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Sustainability supply chain visibility

To what level of your organization’s supply chain do you have reliable visibility into environmental performance data?



Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Key considerations for C-suite leaders

Navigating sustainable value creation: key considerations for C-suite leaders

Given the many ways sustainability efforts can translate into enterprise impact, the leadership task should be to identify the pathway that fits the business, understand its tradeoffs, and build the capabilities required to execute on that portfolio, whether through efficiency, growth, resilience, governance, data, or broader integration. To that end, executives should:

- 1 Define what sustainability is meant to deliver for the business**
 Decide what the primary objective is, whether reducing or avoiding costs, protecting revenue, or driving growth. Apply that lens to both the overall program and individual efforts.
- 2 Build a focused portfolio and make difficult choices**
 Scale actions with a clear business case and sustainability impacts, pause those without a defined owner or measurable objective, and reserve selective funding for longer-term opportunities.
- 3 Move resilience from strategic vision into operating routines**
 Assign clear ownership for physical risks, integrate those risks into enterprise risk management and capital planning, and define risk thresholds that could trigger action.
- 4 Build the sustainability data foundation as AI scales**
 Define priority use cases, govern and connect sustainability data to enterprise systems, and scale tools that improve decision-making.
- 5 Measure the full range of value created**
 Track how sustainability affects areas like revenue, costs, risk, resilience, compliance, customer relationships, brand, supply chain performance, and competitive positioning.

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Appendix:

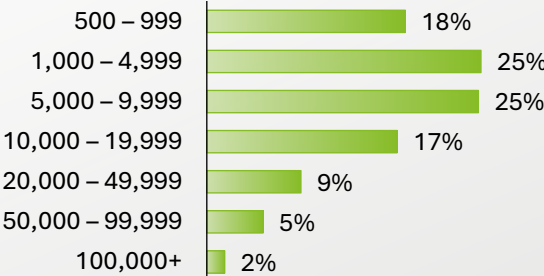
Global methodology

Global methodology and business profile

The report is based on a survey of 2,156 C-suite executives, conducted by KS&R Inc. on behalf of Deloitte Global, and was administered in a double-blind manner during May and June 2026, ensuring impartiality and confidentiality for both respondents and researchers. The survey polled respondents from 29 countries: 39% from Europe; 17% from North America; 27% from Asia-Pacific; 7% from Middle East and Africa; 10% from Central and South America. Each of the major commercial industry sectors were represented in the sample. Additionally, Deloitte Global conducted select, one-on-one interviews with C-suite executives globally.

Countries polled: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

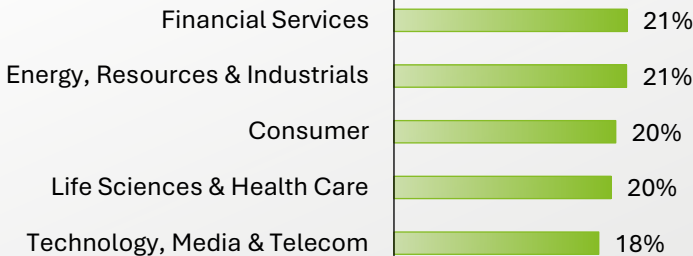
Number of employees



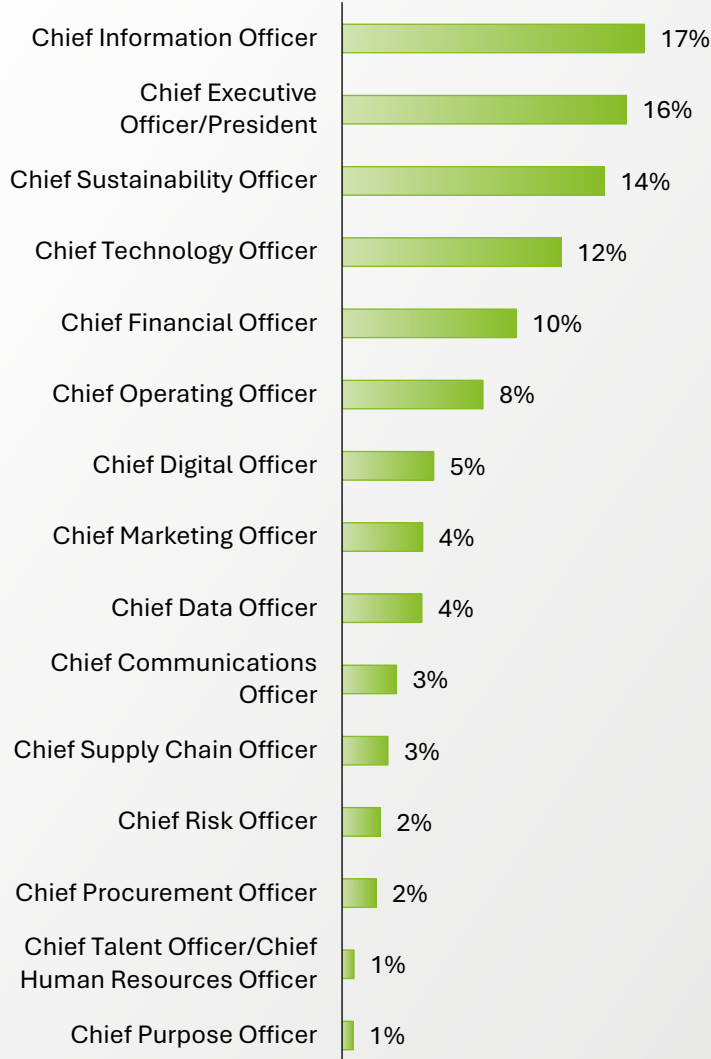
Annual Revenue (US\$)



Industry



Job title





Deloitte.

Together makes progress

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