



# **Green companies are the future: evidence from US publicly traded companies**

**Pierrick Kinif**

Supervised by:

Prof. Sophie Béreau  
Prof. Jean-Yves Gnabo

Thesis submitted for the Master's Degree  
in Business Management and Administration,  
Finance Specialization

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018**

## **Abstract**

This is an abstract

## Author's Note

This master's thesis has been written in *R Markdown* (ALLAIRE ET AL., 2016) to make it *transparent* and *reproducible* for the reader. All ressources are available on my Github [account](#). The latter is organised following the methodology of GANDRUD (2013). Each section of this thesis corresponds to a R Markdown file in the *Child* folder. The *Child/ThesisSkeleton.Rmd* file is the “parent” document which merges all the “child” documents into a consolidated pdf document, namely the one you are reading. The *Child/Analysis* sub-folders contains a list of R script (i.e. Make files) whose outputs are saved into the following sub-folders *Child/Analysis/DataBase*.

The platform I have used is [Rstudio](#) which is an open source software for R. Here is the information of my session :

```
sessionInfo()
```

```
## R version 3.4.4 (2018-03-15)
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
## Running under: Windows 10 x64 (build 16299)
##
## Matrix products: default
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=French_Belgium.1252 LC_CTYPE=French_Belgium.1252
## [3] LC_MONETARY=French_Belgium.1252 LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=French_Belgium.1252
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods   base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] plyr_1.8.4              RCurl_1.95-4.10
## [3] bitops_1.0-6            rlist_0.4.6.1
## [5] rvest_0.3.2             xml2_1.2.0
## [7] xtable_1.8-2            ggpubr_0.1.6
## [9] magrittr_1.5            car_2.1-6
```

```
## [11] tidyquant_0.5.4          forcats_0.3.0
## [13] stringr_1.3.0            readr_1.1.1
## [15] tidyr_0.8.0              tidyverse_1.2.1
## [17] quantmod_0.4-12          TTR_0.23-3
## [19] lubridate_1.7.2          tibble_1.4.2
## [21] PerformanceAnalytics_1.5.2 xts_0.10-2
## [23] zoo_1.8-1                purrr_0.2.4
## [25] Hmisc_4.1-1              ggplot2_2.2.1
## [27] survival_2.41-3          lattice_0.20-35
## [29] stargazer_5.2.1          data.table_1.10.4-3
## [31] dplyr_0.7.4              plm_1.6-6
## [33] Formula_1.2-2
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] nlme_3.1-131.1          pbkrtest_0.4-7          RColorBrewer_1.1-2
## [4] httr_1.3.1              rprojroot_1.3-2        tools_3.4.4
## [7] backports_1.1.2         R6_2.2.2                rpart_4.1-13
## [10] lazyeval_0.2.1          mgcv_1.8-23             colorspace_1.3-2
## [13] nnet_7.3-12             gridExtra_2.3           mnormt_1.5-5
## [16] curl_3.1                compiler_3.4.4          quantreg_5.35
## [19] cli_1.0.0               formatR_1.5             htmlTable_1.11.2
## [22] SparseM_1.77            sandwich_2.4-0          scales_0.5.0
## [25] checkmate_1.8.5         lmtest_0.9-35           psych_1.7.8
## [28] quadprog_1.5-5          digest_0.6.15           foreign_0.8-69
## [31] minqa_1.2.4             rmarkdown_1.9           base64enc_0.1-3
## [34] pkgconfig_2.0.1         htmltools_0.3.6         lme4_1.1-15
## [37] htmlwidgets_1.0         rlang_0.2.0            readxl_1.0.0
## [40] rstudioapi_0.7          bindr_0.1.1             jsonlite_1.5
## [43] acepack_1.4.1           Matrix_1.2-12           Rcpp_0.12.16
## [46] Quandl_2.8.0            munsell_0.4.3           stringi_1.1.7
## [49] yaml_2.1.18             MASS_7.3-49             grid_3.4.4
## [52] parallel_3.4.4          bdsmatrix_1.3-3         crayon_1.3.4
## [55] haven_1.1.1             splines_3.4.4           hms_0.4.2
## [58] knitr_1.20              pillar_1.2.1            reshape2_1.4.3
```

## [61]	glue_1.2.0	evaluate_0.10.1	latticeExtra_0.6-28
## [64]	modelr_0.1.1	nloptr_1.0.4	MatrixModels_0.4-1
## [67]	miscTools_0.6-22	cellranger_1.1.0	gtable_0.2.0
## [70]	assertthat_0.2.0	broom_0.4.3	bindrcpp_0.2
## [73]	cluster_2.0.6	maxLik_1.3-4	

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank some of you . . .

# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Author's Note</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Aknowledgments</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Literature Review</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 CFP as a broad meta-construct . . . . .	4
1.2 CEP as a broad meta-construct . . . . .	5
1.3 Two perspectives on CEP . . . . .	6
1.4 Does it pay to be green? . . . . .	7
1.5 When does it pay to be green? . . . . .	8
<b>2 Data</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Overview . . . . .	11
2.2 Dependent Variables . . . . .	11
2.3 Independent Variables . . . . .	13
2.4 Control Variables . . . . .	14
<b>3 Methodology</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Panel Data : a theoretical background . . . . .	16
3.2 Econometric Model . . . . .	18
3.3 Endogeneity concern . . . . .	18
<b>4 Results</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 Get a feel of the data . . . . .	20
4.2 Outliers treatment . . . . .	20
4.3 The impact of process-based CEP on outcome-based CEP . . . . .	21
4.4 The impact of CEP on CFP . . . . .	22

<b>5</b>	<b>Sensitivity Analysis</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>32</b>
	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>33</b>
	Appendix A: Database construction . . . . .	33
	Appendix B: Results - R script . . . . .	34
	Packages loading . . . . .	34
	DataBase loading . . . . .	35
	Unpaired two sample t-test . . . . .	36
	Descriptive statistics . . . . .	36
	Matrix of correlation . . . . .	37
	Variance inflation factor . . . . .	39
	The impact of process-based CEP on outcome-based CEP . . . . .	40
	The impact of CEP on CFP . . . . .	42
	Appendix C: Outliers treatment . . . . .	45
	Appendix D: Sensitivity Analysis - R script . . . . .	50
	Packages loading . . . . .	50
	The impact of CEP on CFP . . . . .	50
	Green Score as an alternative . . . . .	53
<b>7</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>56</b>



## List of Tables

2.1	Variables Description . . . . .	15
4.1	Descriptive statistics . . . . .	23
4.2	Correlation Matrix . . . . .	24
4.3	Variance Inflation Factor . . . . .	25
4.4	The impact of process-based on outcome-based CEP . . . . .	26
4.5	The impact of process and outcome-based CEP on CFP (lag = 1) . . .	27
5.1	The impact of process and outcome-based CEP on CFP (lag = 2) . . .	29
5.2	GreenScore - an alternative variable for CEP . . . . .	30

## List of Figures

1.1 Research Framework . . . . .	10
----------------------------------	----

## Introduction

Over the past decades, humanity is progressively becoming aware of the finiteness of earth's resources and its impact on the current global warming. The club of Rome, with their book *"The limits to growth"*, concluded that *"if the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next one hundred years"* (MEADOWS ET AL., 1972: p23). In the nineties, HOUGHTON AND CHANGE (1996) have also pleaded that *"in the absence of mitigation policies, greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise during the next century"* (p9). This will *"increase the global mean surface air temperature relative to 1990 of about 2°C by 2100... leading to harsh climatic repercussions"* (p23).

Over the last 30 years, these predictions has started to come true. For the first time in 400 000 years, atmospheric carbon dioxide crossed, in 1950, the level of 300 parts per million<sup>1</sup> (i.e. ppm) (PETIT ET AL., 1999; PIETER TANS ET AL., 2018). According to the NOAA's Annual Greenhouse Gas Index, the atmospheric abundance of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased by an average of 1.80 ppm per year from 1979 to 2016 (BUTLER AND MONTZKA, 2016). In May 2018, the global level of carbon dioxide has reached 410 ppm (PIETER TANS ET AL., 2018). This increase led to direct effects.

Since the last 19th century, the average temperature of the planet increased by 1.1 degrees Celsius. Most of the warming occurred in the past 35 years, with 16 of the 17 warmest years on record occurring since 2001 (GISTEMP TEAM, 2018; HANSEN ET AL., 2010). Data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost 150 to 250 cubic kilometers of ice per year between 2002 and 2006, while Antarctica lost about 152 cubic kilometers of ice between 2002 and 2005 (GISTEMP TEAM, 2018). CHURCH AND WHITE (2006) has shown that, in the last century, the global sea level rose about 8 inches. Due to a high carbon dioxide absorption level (SABINE ET AL., 2004), the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent (NOAA's PACIFIC MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY, n.d.) leading, *inter alia*, to harsh repercussions to corals.

Ecosystem degradation and resources depletion engender a threat to firm's longevity (DOWELL ET AL., 2000). In his speech at Lloyds of London 2015, Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England and Chair of the Financial Stability Board, identified

---

<sup>1</sup>A concentration of 300 ppm means that for every million air particles, 300 of them are carbon dioxide molecules, namely a carbon concentration of 0.03%.

climate change as one of the most material threats to financial stability (ELLIOTT, 2015). The BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (2017) (p12) report stated: “... *businesses need to pursue social and environmental sustainability as avidly as they pursue market share and shareholder value... If they don't, the costs and uncertainty of unsustainable development could swell until there is no viable world in which to do business.*” In other words, adopting environmental strategies ensure companies' competitiveness and survival in the near future.

TESTA ET AL. (2018) have shown that, due to institutional pressure or the influence of stakeholders, a majority of companies have integrated, either substantially or symbolically (i.e. greenwashing), proactive environmental practices. However, according to SCARPELLINI ET AL. (2016), green projects are still not common in companies of many countries because of significant barriers and a negligible culture of excluding sustainable development from an organization's strategy.

People's actions reflect a variable mix of altruistic motivation, material self-interest, and social or self-image concerns (BÉNABOU AND TIROLE, 2006). Hence, for more than 40 years, scholars have analyzed the Corporate Environmental Performance (i.e. CEP) and Corporate Financial Performance (i.e. CFP) nexus to provide evidence that it does pay to be green and to convince companies to incorporate environmental sustainability into their core values and strategies (LU ET AL., 2014).

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO, 2013) defines CEP as “*measurable results of an organization's management of its environmental aspects*”. The CFP construct assess the outcomes of business strategy (BANSAL AND DESJARDINE, 2014) and is a primary, fundamental indicator for organizational performance and long-term survival of an organization (HAMANN ET AL., 2013).

The relationship between CEP and CFP had been broadly discussed in the literature and led to inconsistent empirical findings (ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014). Two major opposite trends emerged. Some scholars (DELMAS ET AL., 2015; MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL., 2017) provided evidence of a positive link between CEP and CFP while others (BUSCH AND HOFFMANN, 2011; FERNANDO ET AL., 2010) have demonstrated a negative relationship. This inconclusiveness may come from the multidimensionality of both focal constructs (ALBERTINI, 2013; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014; GRIFFIN AND MAHON, 1997) given that commonly shared understanding or conceptualization of CEP and CFP has not been established so far (ETZION, 2007; HAMANN ET AL., 2013).

Indeed, ENDRIKAT ET AL. (2014) argue that a two-group classification of CEP can be deduced from the literature. (i) Process-based CEP which refers to *“a strategic level and focuses on managerial principles and processes such as environmental objectives, environmental policies, or environmental management structures”*. (ii) Outcome-based CEP which reflects *“the observable and quantifiable results of these efforts (DELMAS ET AL., 2011) and refers to measures such as the amount of released pollutants or the ratio of recycled waste to total waste”*.

Regarding CFP, scholars have adopted three broad subdivisions: market-based (i.e. investor returns), accounting-based (i.e. accounting returns), and perceptual (i.e. survey) measures (LU ET AL., 2014). Furthermore, the multidimensionality of CFP includes a wide array of estimations that may capture a firm’s ability to generate value in the short-term and company’s future growth prospects assessed by the external stakeholders (OPLER AND TITMAN, 1994).

ENDRIKAT ET AL. (2014) have highlighted the need for a better understanding of the multidimensionality of both CEP and CFP constructs. Furthermore, KING AND LENOX (2002) suggested that *“When does it pay to be green?”* may be a more important question than *“Does it pay to be green?”*. GRIFFIN AND MAHON (1997) were the first to call for research that look at the CEP-CFP relation over time. BUSCH AND FRIEDE (2018) demonstrated that, at a meta-research level, evidence of a time dependency on the CEP-CFP link are not significant and that the call of GRIFFIN AND MAHON (1997) remains, to date, unanswered. Therefore, using a panel data of 393 US publicly traded companies for the period 2012-2014, this study explores whether the combined effect of process-based and outcome-based CEP influences CFP and observes the time influence (i.e. short-term vs long-term) of the relationship.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: the next section reviews the literature regarding the CEP-CFP nexus. Then, I describe my database and methodology. Next, the results are presented and discussed. Finally, I summarize the main contributions to the literature and highlight potential future research.

# 1 Literature Review

## 1.1 CFP as a broad meta-construct

CFP is a broad meta-construct and scholars have adopted three broad subdivisions: market-based, accounting-based, and perceptual measures (ORLITZKY ET AL., 2003).

*Market-based measures* (e.g. price-earning ratio or Tobin's Q) consider that returns should be measured from the perspective of the shareholders (COCHRAN AND WOOD, 1984). They incorporate intangible assets and reputational effects (BUSCH AND HOFFMANN, 2011) and can be highly influenced by speculations, rumors and capital market breakdowns (WRIGHT, 2004).

*Accounting-based measures* require profitability and asset utilization indicators such as Return on Asset (i.e. ROA) or Return on Equity (i.e. ROE) (COCHRAN AND WOOD, 1984; WU, 2006). These indicators capture a firm's internal efficiency (COCHRAN AND WOOD, 1984). Indeed, ORLITZKY ET AL. (2003) highlight that "*accounting returns are subject to managers' discretionary allocations of funds to different projects and policy choices, and thus reflect internal decision-making capabilities and managerial performance rather than external market responses to organizational (non-market) actions*". Accounting-based indicators are highly influenced by the industrial sector characteristics (MONTGOMERY AND WERNERFELT, 1988).

*Perceptual measures* of CFP is a more subjective approach (LU ET AL., 2014) based on external (e.g. Fortune magazine rankings) and internal (e.g. Management surveys) perceptual metrics (PELOZA, 2009). These indicators ask survey respondents to provide subjective estimates of, for instance, the firm's "*soundness of financial position*", "*wise use of corporate assets*", or "*financial goal achievement relative to competitors*" (ORLITZKY ET AL., 2003).

Based on a recent critical review, LU ET AL. (2014) have shown that, of the three types of CFP measures, accounting-based ones are the most frequency used, followed by the market-based measures, and perceptual measures. Scholars also tend to alleviate weaknesses of one type of indicators by the use of another (MCWILLIAMS ET AL., 2006). For instance, KING AND LENOX (2002) and DELMAS ET AL. (2015) have used Roa and Tobin's Q as proxies for approaching CFP. MENGUC AND OZANNE (2005) considered market share, sales growth and profit after tax. HUSTED AND ALLEN (2007) used management surveys while VERSCHOOR (1999) adopted the Fortune magazine rankings.

## 1.2 CEP as a broad meta-construct

CEP is also a broad meta-constructs and no common definition exist in the literature (ALBERTINI, 2013; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014). Scholars have used a wide variety of indicators as proxies for approaching green performance of companies.

ALBERTINI (2013) use a three-group classification to summarize CEP measures : (i) *Environmental Management Measures* (i.e. EMV) which mostly refer to environmental strategy, integration of environmental issues into strategic planning processes, environmental practices, process-driven initiatives, product-driven management systems, ISO 14001 certification, environmental management system adoption, and participation in voluntary programs (MOLINA-AZORÍN ET AL., 2009; SCHULTZE AND TROMMER, 2012). (ii) *Environmental Performance Variables* (i.e. EPV) which are mostly measures quantified in physical units (carbon dioxide emissions, physical waste, water consumption, toxic release) that can be positive (emission reduction) or negative (emission generated) (ALBERTINI, 2013). (iii) *Environmental Disclosure Variables* (i.e. EDV) such as information releases regarding toxic emission (HAMILTON, 1995), environmental awards (CHEN ET AL., 2018), environmental accidents and crises (BLACCONIERE AND PATTEN, 1994), and environmental investment announcements (GILLEY ET AL., 2000).

ENDRIKAT ET AL. (2014) split up CEP into two sub-dimension. On the one hand, *process-based CEP* which can be linked to the EMV approach of ALBERTINI (2013). It refers to “a strategic level and focuses on managerial principles and processes such as environmental objectives, environmental policies, or environmental management structures”. On the other hand, *outcome-based CEP* which can be linked to the EPV dimension of ALBERTINI (2013). It reflects “the observable and quantifiable results of these efforts (DELMAS ET AL., 2011) and refers to measures such as the amount of released pollutants or the ratio of recycled waste to total waste”. According to XIE AND HAYASE (2007), process-based CEP can be considered as a preliminary step of outcome-based CEP. Besides, scholars demonstrated that the first approach has a positive impact on the second one which in turn has a positive impact on financial performance (CHEN ET AL., 2018; LI ET AL., 2017).

CEP can also be linked to the Environmental, Social and Governmental (i.e. ESG) framework or also called, Socially Responsible Investments (i.e. SRI). ESG investing provides criteria that allow investors and advisors to select investments that align with their values as well as their financial goals (FULTON ET AL., 2012). It applies a set of investment screens to select or exclude assets based on ESG criteria (RENNEBOOG ET

AL., 2008). A plethora of organizations have developed methodologies to attribute an ESG score to companies and support investors who consider corporate governance insights into their investment processes. For instance, Sustainalytics, based in New York and Thomson Reuters with the Asset4 ESG database. Scholars (HALBRITTER AND DORFLEITNER, 2015; MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL., 2017) have used these ESG score as proxies for CEP.

### 1.3 Two perspectives on CEP

FRIEDMAN (1970) considers investment in pollution efficient technology as a deviation from the profit maximization goal (i.e. an increase in cost). According to him, *“businessmen who want to promote desirably social ends... are unwitting puppets of the intellectual forces that have been undermining the basis of a free society”*. In recent decades, this paradigm has been widely challenged. The literature is showing growing evidence that improving a company’s environmental performance can lead to better economic or financial performance.

AMBEC AND LANOIE (2008) demonstrated that the expenses incurred to reduce pollution can be partly or completely offset by gains made elsewhere. PORTER AND VAN DER LINDE (1995) argued that properly crafted environmental standards can trigger innovation offsets, allowing companies to improve their resource productivity. He redefined the self-concept of value creation. According to him, companies have to create shared value. Sharing value creation involves building economic value which addresses the current needs and challenges of the society (PORTER ET AL., 2011; PORTER AND KRAMER, 2011). In the same logic, FREEMAN (1984) calls for a radical rethinking of our firm’s model. He argues that companies have to consider their stakeholders (i.e. any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of an organization’s objectives (p25)) or otherwise face a negative contest from non-shareholder groups (e.g. boycotts, lawsuits, and protests). In other words, FREEMAN (1984) summarizes the idea that companies should consider corporate environmental performance as an undeniable cost of doing business.



## 1.4 Does it pay to be green?

More and more companies are developing profitable business strategies that deliver tangible social benefits (TESTA ET AL., 2018) and that embrace the new business paradigm of FREEMAN (1984), PORTER AND VAN DER LINDE (1995) and AMBEC AND LANOIE (2008). However, others prefer keeping the old fashion way of FRIEDMAN (1970). This dichotomy has interested scholars and since they have sought to empirically answer the question, “*Does it pay to be green?*”. As claimed by LU ET AL. (2014), in a competitive business world, answering this question is crucial to provide a genuine economic justification to the new paradigm.

The relationship between CEP and CFP had been broadly discussed in the literature and led to inconsistent empirical findings (ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014). Two major opposite trends emerged. Some scholars provided evidence of a positive link between CEP and CFP while others have demonstrated a negative relationship.

DELMAS ET AL. (2015) found that improving CEP causes a decline in ROA while an increase in Tobin’s q. Unlikely CAVACO AND CRIFO (2014) and MUHAMMAD ET AL. (2015) who obtained a positive relation between ROA and CEP while no relation between Tobin’s Q and CEP. Results of MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL. (2017) show that internal green practices (i.e. pollution prevention and green supply chain management) are the major environmental drivers of financial performance, while external green practices (i.e. green product development) play a secondary role in determining financial performance. Besides, according to them, the adoption of ISO 14001 appears to have a negative impact on financial performance. FERNANDO ET AL. (2010) observed that, all else equal, toxic firms can realize a higher valuation by becoming environmentally neutral but they found no such financial benefit to neutral firms becoming green. BUSCH AND HOFFMANN (2011) found that process-based CEP (in terms of carbon management) negatively affects CFP, while outcome-based CEP (in terms of carbon emissions) has a positive influence on CFP. SONG ET AL. (2017) provided evidence that environmental management is significantly positively related to financial performance in the following year while no significant in the current year. FISHER-VANDEN AND THORBURN (2008) found that companies announcing membership in environmental programs experience significantly negative abnormal stock returns. Results of PRZYCHODZEN AND PRZYCHODZEN (2015) indicates that companies involved in environmental innovation process were generally characterized by higher ROA and ROE and lower earnings retention ratio.

Some scholars advanced that the multidimensionality of CEP and CFP constructs is one reason why the conclusion of the relationship have been so mixed (ALBERTINI, 2013; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014). However, the large number of studies in the last three decades allowed the appearance of recent meta-analyses<sup>2</sup> (ALBERTINI, 2013; BUSCH AND FRIEDE, 2018; DIXON-FOWLER ET AL., 2013; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014; LU ET AL., 2014; ORLITZKY AND BENJAMIN, 2001; ORLITZKY ET AL., 2003; WANG ET AL., 2016; WU, 2006) and all confirm that indeed it does pay to be green. More precisely, a positive and bidirectional relationship does exist between CEP and CFP meaning that successful firms may have the resources necessary to improve their environmental performance, which in turn increases financial benefits that can be invested back into further improvements of CEP (ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014).

## 1.5 When does it pay to be green?

GRIFFIN AND MAHON (1997) were the first to call for research that look at the CEP-CFP relation over time. While scholars had been mainly answering the question: “*Does it pay to be green?*” some have recently tried to move forward and gained interest in answering the call of GRIFFIN AND MAHON (1997) with the following question: “*When does it pay to be green?*” (MANRIQUE AND MARTÍ-BALLESTER, 2017).

ZHANG AND CHEN (2017) have shown that CEP has a negative relationship with short-term financial performance and a positive relationship with long-term CFP. DELMAS ET AL. (2015) observed that the more a company decreases carbon emissions, the more positive the investors’ perceptions of future market performance, and the lower its short-term financial performance. SONG ET AL. (2017) have shown that corporate environmental management has a significant positive correlation with future financial performance while no significant correlation with current financial performance. MANRIQUE AND MARTÍ-BALLESTER (2017) demonstrated that in times of economic crisis, firms which improve their corporate environmental performance improve their corporate financial performance, this effect being weaker for firms in developed countries, where only the short-term corporate financial performance improves than for firms in emerging and developing countries, where the short and long-term corporate financial

---

<sup>2</sup>Initially, the literature focused on the link between Corporate Social Performance (i.e. CSP) and Corporate Financial Performance. Orlitzky and Benjamin (2001) were the first to consider CEP as apart from CSP. Given that Busch and Friede (2018) could not detect statistically significant differences between the effects of environmental CEP and social-related CSP on CFP and concludes that good CSP pays off, whether social or environmental related, this study considers CSP equals to CEP.

performance improve. CHEN ET AL. (2018) have shown that a firms green performance not only impact an organization's financial performance in that particular year but also impact the year that follows.

Those empirical results provide pieces of evidence that no common consensus have been found yet to answer the question: "*When does it pay to be green?*". To that extent, BUSCH AND FRIEDE (2018) demonstrated that at a meta-research level, the evidence of a time dependency on the CEP-CFP link is not significant and that the call of GRIFFIN AND MAHON (1997) remains to date unanswered.

To capture the time dimension in the CFP-CEP nexus, scholars consider accounting-based measures as a proxy for short-term CFP and market-based measures as a proxy for long-term CFP (DELMAS ET AL., 2015; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014; MANRIQUE AND MARTÍ-BALLESTER, 2017; MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL., 2017; ZHANG AND CHEN, 2017). Indeed, ENDRIKAT ET AL. (2014) highlight that on the one hand, accounting-based measures capture immediate impacts but do not seize long-term effects, unlike market-based measures which integrate estimations of a firm's future prospects and reflect the notion of external stakeholders.

#### [Discuss the link with Efficient-market hypothesis]

Taking into account previous theoretical arguments and considering varying empirical findings with regards to the CEP-CFP nexus, this study hypothesizes the following :

**Hypothesis 1.** Process-based CEP have a positive impact on Outcome-based CEP

**Hypothesis 2.** Outcome-based CEP have a positive impact on short-term CFP

**Hypothesis 3.** Outcome-based CEP have a positive impact on long-term CFP

**Hypothesis 4.** Process-based CEP have a positive impact on short-term CFP

**Hypothesis 5.** Process-based CEP have a positive impact on long-term CFP

The research framework of this study, inspired by LI SUHONG ET AL. (2017) and CHEN ET AL. (2018), is summarized in figure 1.1.

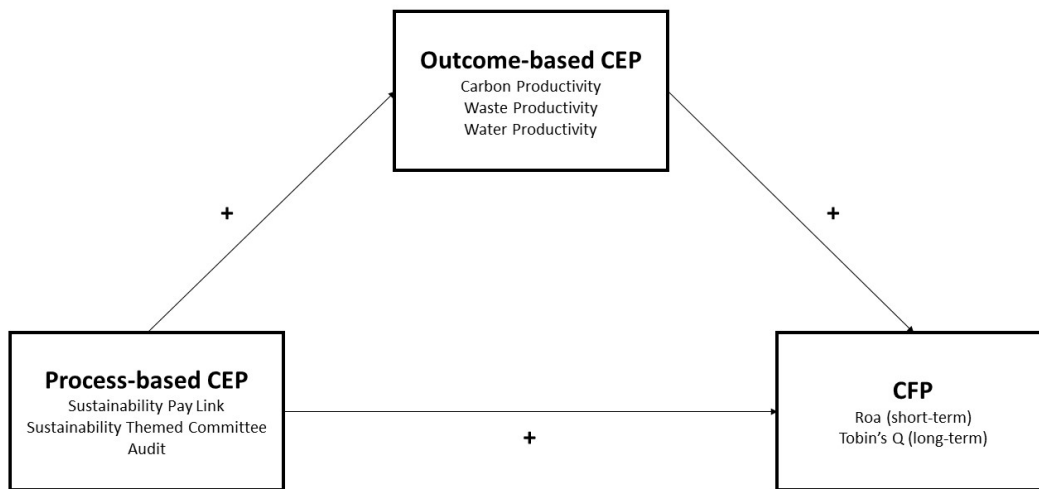


Figure 1.1: Research Framework

## 2 Data

### 2.1 Overview

The starting point of the data collection was the Newsweek Green Ranking. This ranking had assessed the world’s largest publicly-traded companies in the US and in the world since 2009. It had been developed through a collaboration between Newsweek, Corporate Knights Capital, HIP Investor Inc and leading sustainability minds from nongovernmental organizations and the academic and accounting communities.

The ranking attributes an overall green score to companies. This score is based on a weighted average of key performance indicators (KPI’s). This study uses these KPI’s to approach both process-based and outcome-based CEP of the 500 largest publicly-traded companies in the United States. As a result of making a transition to a 100% rules-based approach, the methodology for the 2014 Newsweek Green Rankings differs considerably from the framework used in the 2012 Newsweek Green Rankings. Therefore, this study considers only [2014](#), [2015](#) and [2016](#) ranking. Among those three ranking and of the 500 US companies, 405 companies were listed for each year.

Even though green rankings were published in 2014, 2015 and 2016, each company is evaluated based on 2012, 2013 and 2014 company data. Therefore, measures for Corporate Financial Performance will be based on 2012, 2013 and 2014 fundamental data. Financial data have been collected on [Morningstar](#), [Stockpup](#) and [Ycharts](#) using [R](#) technology. The data collection process is described in [Appendix A: Database construction](#). Of the 405 initial companies, a total of 12 were dropped because of missing data. The final sample includes 393 publicly-traded companies in the US covering the period from 2012 till 2014 inclusively.

[Table 2.1](#) gives an overview of variables of the econometric model. Following sections deeply explain each variable.

### 2.2 Dependent Variables

Regarding dependent variables, ENDRIKAT ET AL. ([2014](#)) claim that accounting-based measures (e.g. Return On Asset, Return On Equity, Return on Sales) capture immediate impacts and can be used as a proxy to measure short-term CFP while market-based measures (e.g. Tobin’s Q, market capitalization, market to book value) integrate estimations of a firm’s future prospects and can be better used as a proxy for long-term

CFP. Among scholars which used both measures simultaneously, Return On Asset (i.e. Roa) and Tobin's Q are the most frequent (CAVACO AND CRIFO, 2014; DELMAS ET AL., 2015; LIOUI AND SHARMA, 2012; MANRIQUE AND MARTÍ-BALLESTER, 2017; MUHAMMAD ET AL., 2015; SEMENOVA AND HASSEL, 2016). Therefore, this study uses ROA and Tobin's Q as a proxy for both short and long-term CFP.

*ROA* is a standard accounting measure of financial performance, which is calculated by dividing earnings before interest by total firm assets. Roa gives information about how a company can transform assets into profit.

*Tobin's Q* is defined as the ratio of the market value of a firm to the replacement cost of its assets (CHUNG AND PRUITT, 1994). Broadly speaking, firms displaying Tobin's Q greater than one are judged as using scarce resources effectively and those with Tobin's Q less than one as using resources poorly (LEWELLEN AND BADRINATH, 1997). In other words, investors prefer companies with Tobin's Q superior to one. Due to the complexity of calculating the replacement cost of a firm, the literature has seen several attempts to approximate Tobin's Q (PERFECT AND WILES, 1994). This study collected Tobin's Q data directly on Ycharts. The latter uses the simple approximation of CHUNG AND PRUITT (1994) which is summarized in Equation 1. Due to a high right-skew (i.e. skewness = 2.51), I use a natural logarithm transformation to normalize the distribution of Tobin's Q (HONAKER ET AL., 2011).

$$Tobin'sQ = \frac{MVE + PS + DEBT}{TA} \quad (1)$$

where *MVE* is the product of a firm's shares prices and the number of common stock shares outstanding, *PS* is the liquidating value of the firm's outstanding preferred stock, *DEBT* is the value of the firm's short-term liabilities net of its short-term assets, plus the book value of the firm's long-term debt and *TA* is the book value of the total assets of the firms.

## 2.3 Independent Variables

Both process-based and outcome-based CEP had been approached with KPI's of the Newsweek Green Ranking. I use "Sustainability Pay Link", "Sustainability Themed Committee", and "Audit" as proxies for process-based CEP and "Carbon Productivity", "Water Productivity" and "Waste Productivity" as proxies for outcome-based CEP <sup>3</sup>.

A *Sustainability Pay Link* (i.e. SPL) is a mechanism to link the remuneration of any member of a company's senior executive team with the achievement of environmental performance targets. A score of 1 accrues to the company when such a link exists and a score of 0 otherwise.

A *Sustainability Themed Committee* (i.e. STC) refers to the existence of a committee at the board of directors level whose mandate is related to the sustainability of the company, including but not limited to environmental matters. A score of 1 accrues to the company when such a link exists and a score of 0 otherwise.

An *Audit Score* (i.e. A) refers to the case where a company provides evidence that the latest reported environmental metrics were audited by a third party. A score of 1 accrues to the company if such an audit has been performed, and a score of 0 otherwise.

*Carbon Productivity* (i.e. CaP), *Water Productivity* (i.e. WatP) and *Waste Productivity* (i.e. WastP) are calculated through equation 2, 3 and 4.

$$CaP_{it} = \frac{Revenue_{it}}{TGGE_{it}} \quad (2)$$

$$WatP_{it} = \frac{Revenue_{it}}{TW_{it}} \quad (3)$$

$$WastP_{it} = \frac{Revenue_{it}}{(TWG_{it} - TWRR_{it})} \quad (4)$$

where  $Revenue_{it}$  is the total revenue in USD,  $TGGE_{it}$  is the total greenhouse gas emissions in  $co_2$ ,  $TW_{it}$  is the total water in  $m_3$ ,  $TWG_{it}$  is the total waste generated in metric tons and  $TWRR$  is the total waste recycled and reused in metric tons.

---

<sup>3</sup>Newsweek Green Ranking has another KPI that captures outcome-based CEP (i.e. Energy Productivity). Due to multicollinearity concern (Variance Inflation Factor superior to 5 for both Energy and Carbon Productivity), I do not consider it into my model.

## 2.4 Control Variables

Scholars (MCWILLIAMS ET AL., 2006; SURROCA ET AL., 2010; TELLE, 2006) have argued that misspecified models may be another reason for the inconsistency of the empirical results in the CEP-CFP nexus. In order to improve the construct and to avoid the endogeneity issue due to omitted variables (ROBERTS AND WHITED, 2013), ENDRIKAT ET AL. (2014) have highlighted potential determinants of the relationship between CEP and CFP: firm size, industry sector, and capital structure. In a meta-analysis study, LU ET AL. (2014) argued that growth rate is equally important. This study uses those four determinants as control variables.

The common way to approach *firm size* is to use the natural logarithm of total assets (DELMAS ET AL., 2015; MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL., 2017). To approach the company *industry sector*, I use the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) <sup>4</sup>. *Capital structure* is interpreted here as the financial leverage, namely as the debt to equity ratio. The latter is measured as the ratio of long-term debt to common shareholders' equity (shareholders equity minus preferred equity). The *growth rate* is approached through the net margin (i.e. the ratio of earnings to revenue).

---

<sup>4</sup>The GICS classification is composed of eleven industry sectors, namely : Consumer Discretionary, Consumer Staples, Energy, Financials, Health Care, Industrials, Information Technology, Materials, Pharmaceuticals / Biotechnology, Telecommunication Services and Utilities.



Table 2.1: Variables Description

	Variables	Description
1	ROA	Earnings before interest over total firm assets
2	Tobin's Q	The ratio of a firm's market value to the replacement cost of its assets
3	CaP	Revenue (USD) / Total Greenhouse gas Emissions (CO2)
4	WaP	Revenue (USD) / Total water (m3)
5	WastP	Revenue (USD) / [Total waste generated (metric tonnes)–waste recycled/reused (tones)]
6	SPL	A mechanism to link the remuneration of any member of a company's senior executive team with the achievement of environmental performance targets. Dummy variable which equals 1 if such a link exists and 0 otherwise
7	STC	Refers to the existence of a committee at the Board of Directors level whose mandate is related to the sustainability of the company, including but not limited to environmental matters. Dummy variable which equals 1 if such a committee exists and 0 otherwise
8	A	Refers to the case where a company provides evidence that the latest reported environmental metrics were audited by a third party. Dummy variable which equals 1 if such evidences exist and 0 otherwise
9	Leverage	The ratio of long-term debt to common shareholders' equity (shareholders equity minus preferred equity)
10	Growth	Net margin, namely the ratio of earnings to revenue
11	Firm Size	Natural logarithm of total assets
12	Industry	Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) of the firm. The variable takes a value from 1 to 10 where 1 = Consumer Discretionary, 2 = Consumer Staples, 3 = Energy, 4 = Financials, 5 = Health Care, 6 = Industrials, 7 = Information Technology, 8 = Materials, 9 = Pharmaceuticals / Biotechnology, 10 = Telecommunication Services and 11 = Utilities

### 3 Methodology

#### 3.1 Panel Data : a theoretical background

This study uses the panel data methodology. Panel data is a common approach to address the CFP-CEP nexus (ALBERTINI, 2013). It is considered to be one of the most efficient analytical methods for data analysis (DIMITRIOS ASTERIOU, 2006). It usually contains more degrees of freedom, less collinearity among the variables, more efficiency and more sample variability than one-dimensional method (i.e. cross-sectional data and time series data) giving a more accurate inference of the parameters estimated in the model (HSIAO, 2007). ROBERTS AND WHITED (2013) also argued that using panel data offers a partial solution to the problem of omitted variables in the econometric model, namely the most common causes of endogeneity in empirical corporate finance. Panel data takes the following econometric form :

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + u_{it} \quad (5)$$

Panel data, also called longitudinal data, includes observations on  $i = 1, \dots, n$  cross-section units (e.g. firms) over  $t = 1, \dots, T$  time-periods (HSIAO, 2007). Here,  $Y_{it}$  is the dependent variable,  $X_{it}$  represents a  $K$ -dimensional row vectors of independent variables,  $\alpha$  is the intercept,  $\beta$  is a  $K$ -dimensional column vectors of parameters and  $u_{it}$  is the random disturbance term of mean equals zero. The latter can be decomposed as  $u_{it} = \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$ . The first term,  $\mu_i$ , represents the individual error component and is time-invariant. It can be considered as the unobserved effect model. The second term,  $\epsilon_{it}$ , is the idiosyncratic error which is assumed well-behaved and independent of  $X_{it}$  and  $\mu_i$ .

The starting point of all panel data is to determine if  $\mu_i$  is correlated with  $X_{it}$ . In presence of correlation, then  $\mu_i$  is considered as the *Fixed Effect* (i.e. FE) and the initial equation 5 becomes equation 6. Else,  $\mu_i$  is considered as the *Random Effect* (i.e. RE) and the equation 5 becomes equation 7.

$$Y_{it} = (\alpha + \mu_i) + \beta X_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \quad (6)$$

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta X_{it} + (\epsilon_{it} + \mu_i) \quad (7)$$

Fixed (i.e. Equation 6) and Random (i.e. Equation 7) Effect Model imply that the Ordinary Least Square (i.e. OLS) estimators of  $\beta$  are inconsistent. Five assumptions are required to produce consistent estimators with OLS : (i) a random sample of observations on  $y$  and  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , (ii) a random sample of  $n$  observations, (iii) no linear relationship among the explanatory variables, (iv) an error term that is uncorrelated with each explanatory variables and (v) an error term with zero mean conditional on the explanatory variables. FE Model violates the fourth assumption while RE model implies that the common error component over individuals induces correlation across the composite error terms making the third assumption violated (CROISSANT AND MILLO, 2008).

The R package *plm* provides pertinent estimation methods to estimate panel data model. (i) *The pooled OLS estimation* ignores the panel structure of the data and applies the same coefficient to each individual (SCHMIDHEINY, 2015). (ii) *The random effects estimation* is the feasible Generalized Least Squares estimator. (iii) *The fixed effects estimation* also called *within estimation*, transforms the original equation 5 in subtracting the time average from every variable, such as :

$$Y_{it} - \bar{Y}_i = \beta(X_{itk} - \bar{X}_{ik}) + (u_{it} - \bar{u}_i) \quad (8)$$

The presence of RE model in panel data is tested using the Breusch-Pagan Lagrange Multiplier (i.e. BPLM) test (BREUSCH AND PAGAN, 1980) which is represented by the *plmtest* function in *R*. It examines if time and/or individual specific variance components equal zero (PARK, 2011). If  $H_0$  is verified, there is no RE model in the panel data. The presence of FE model is tested by an F test (i.e. the function *pFtest* in *R*). The latter tests the individual and/or time effects based on the comparison of the within and the pooling model (CROISSANT AND MILLO, 2008). If  $H_0$  is verified, there is no FE model in the panel data.

In case of the absence of both RE and FE model, namely  $\mu_i = 0$ , pooled OLS estimation is the most efficient estimator (CROISSANT AND MILLO, 2008). Under FE model, the random effects estimators are biased and inconsistent given that  $\mu_i$  is omitted and potentially correlated with other regressors. Therefore, the fixed effects estimation need to be used. Under RE model, FE and RE estimators are unbiased and consistent. According to SCHMIDHEINY (2015), scholars should prefer the RE estimator only and only if  $E[\mu_i, X_i] = 0$ . This precondition is tested by the Hausman test (HAUSMAN AND TAYLOR, 1981). If  $H_0$  is verified, scholars should use RE estimator.

### 3.2 Econometric Model

This study uses equation 9 to study the link between outcome-based and process-based CEP and equation 10 to test their effect on CFP (short-term and long-term).

$$Y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 SPL_{it} + \beta_2 STC_{it} + \beta_3 A_{it} + d_t + u_{it} \quad (9)$$

where  $Y_{it}$  is a proxy of outcome-based CEP measured as carbon productivity, water productivity and waste productivity,  $SPL_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's sustainability pay link,  $STC_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's sustainability themed commitment,  $A_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's audit score,  $d_t$  represents time effect and  $u_{it}$  is the error term.

$$Y_{it+1} = \alpha + \beta_1 SPL_{it} + \beta_2 STC_{it} + \beta_3 A_{it} + \beta_4 CP_{it} + \beta_5 WatP_{it} + \beta_6 WastP_{it} + Controls_{it} + d_t + u_{it} \quad (10)$$

where  $Y_{it+1}$  is a proxy of CFP measured as ROA or Tobin's Q,  $SPL_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's sustainability pay link,  $STC_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's sustainability themed commitment,  $A_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's audit score,  $CP_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's carbon productivity,  $WatP_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's water productivity,  $WastP_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's waste productivity,  $Controls_{it}$  is a vector of control variables that includes firm size, industry sector, financial leverage and growth,  $d_t$  represents time effect and  $u_{it}$  is the error term.

### 3.3 Endogeneity concern

This study do not escape the fact that endogeneity is the most important and pervasive issue confronting studies in empirical corporate finance (ROBERTS AND WHITED, 2013). . the main empirical concern in the CEP-CFP nexus is the .

- (BELLEMARE ET AL., 2017) demonstrate that lag identification is almost never a solution to endogeneity problems in observational data, and that rather than allowing for the identification of causal relationships, lag identification merely moves the channel through which endogeneity biases estimates of causal effects.

Recent meta-analysis provided evidence of the bidirectional causality of the CFP-CEP nexus (ALBERTINI, 2013; BUSCH AND FRIEDE, 2018; DIXON-FOWLER ET AL., 2013; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014; LU ET AL., 2014, WANG ET AL. (2016); ORLITZKY AND BENJAMIN, 2001; ORLITZKY ET AL., 2003; WU, 2006). This could cause simultaneous

causality between the dependent and independent variables and lead to endogeneity concern (BIØRN AND KRISHNAKUMAR, 2008; ROBERTS AND WHITED, 2013; SÁNCHEZ-BALLESTA AND GARCÍA-MECA, 2007). To address this issue, I lag observations in independent and control variables one year behind the dependent variable. This increases the confidence of the direction of the relationship (DELMAS ET AL., 2015; HART AND AHUJA, 1996; MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL., 2017) and *in fine* reduces the potential simultaneity bias.

## 4 Results

The R script of this section is available in [Appendix B: Results - R script](#).

### 4.1 Get a feel of the data

This section provides an overview of the database. [Table 4.1](#) presents the main descriptive statistics of each variable. The sample size of Roa (i.e.  $N = 1176$ ) is superior to the sample size of TobinsQ (i.e.  $N = 1038$ ). Compared to ROA, calculating Tobin's Q requires a relatively high number of financial variables and is more susceptible to missing values. This creates a disparity among the number of observations for each dependent variables. DELMAS ET AL. (2015) encountered the same issue and conducted an identical analysis to check whether this introduces a sample bias. I did the same and the p-value of the unpaired two-sample t-test equals 0.365 meaning that there is no significant difference between both samples.

[Table 4.2](#) contains the matrix of correlation of the database. There are highly significant correlations between outcome-based CEP variables (i.e. carbon, water and waste productivity) and process-based CEP variables (i.e. sustainability pay link, sustainable themed commitment and audit score) suggesting that my model could suffer from multicollinearity. [Table 4.3](#) reports the variance inflation factor (i.e. VIF) of all variables. The maximum VIF is 2,477 meaning that there is no multicollinearity in the model (O'BRIEN, 2007).

### 4.2 Outliers treatment

LYU (2015) defines outliers as observations in the dataset that appear to be unusual and discordant and which could lead to inconsistent results. OSBORNE AND OVERBAY (2004) have shown that even a small proportion of outliers can significantly affect simple analyses (i.e. t-tests, correlations and ANOVAs). Outliers are an issue only and only if they are influential, namely observations whose removal causes a different conclusion in the analysis (COUSINEAU AND CHARTIER, 2010).

The literature has not found common theoretical framework yet for the treatment of influential outliers (COUSINEAU AND CHARTIER, 2010; ORR JOHN ET AL., 1991). TABACHNICK AND FIDELL (2007) argue that the imputation with the mean is the best method while COUSINEAU AND CHARTIER (2010) highlight that it tends to reduce the spread of the population, making the observed distribution more leptokurtic, and

possibly increase the likelihood of a type-I error. DANG ET AL. (2009) argue that a more elaborate technique involves replacing outliers with possible values (e.g. multiple imputation) while BARNETT AND LEWIS (1994) would prefer to remove or windsorize them. Alternatively, POLLET AND MEIJ (2017) argue that inclusion or exclusion of outliers depend on the significativity of the results. According to them, if results are more significant without outliers, scholars should remove them.

Following the mindset of POLLET AND MEIJ (2017), I removed outliers from the database. Influential outliers had been identified based on the Cook's distance (COOK, 1977). This test is a common statistical tool to assess the influence of outliers (COUSINEAU AND CHARTIER, 2010; JP STEVENS, 1984; ZUUR ET AL., 2010). Cook's Distance observes the difference between the regression parameters of a given model,  $\hat{\beta}$ , and what they become if the  $i_{th}$  data points is deleted, let's say  $\hat{\beta}_i$ . See [Appendix C: Outliers treatment](#) for furthers details on how I proceed.

### 4.3 The impact of process-based CEP on outcome-based CEP

[Table 4.4](#) reports the main results of the analysis of the impact of process-based CEP (i.e. sustainability pay link, sustainable themed commitment and audit score) on outcome-based CEP (i.e. carbon, water and waste productivity). Estimators of the three models had been estimated with the *fixed effects estimation*. Based on the p-value of the F test, the three models have FE model making both the random effect and pooled ols estimators biased.

Except for Model (1) which indicates no significant relation between sustainability pay link and carbon productivity, all models show evidence of a positive and highly statistically significant effect of process-based CEP on outcome-based CEP. These results support findings of XIE AND HAYASE (2007), LI ET AL. (2017) and CHEN ET AL. (2018) confirming that implementation of environmental management measures allows companies to significantly increase their performance in carbon productivity, water productivity, and energy productivity which in turn will reduce their environmental impact. Hypothesis 1 is verified.

#### 4.4 The impact of CEP on CFP

Table 4.5 reports the main results of the analysis of the impact of both process-based CEP (i.e. sustainability pay link, sustainable themed commitment and audit score) and outcome-based CEP (i.e. carbon, water and waste productivity) on short-term CFP (i.e. Roa) and long-term CFP (i.e. TobinsQ). Based on the pvalue of BPLM and F tests, model (4) had been estimated with the *pooled ols estimation* while model (5) had been estimated with the *fixed effects estimation*.

Model (4) shows evidence of a positive and highly statistically significant effect of sustainability pay link, audit score, and water productivity on long-term CEP. Model (5) shows evidence of a positive and highly statistically significant effect of sustainability pay link, sustainable themed commitment and carbon productivity on short-term CEP.

Those results corroborate recent meta-analyses that claim positive influence between CEP and CFP (ALBERTINI, 2013; BUSCH AND FRIEDE, 2018; DIXON-FOWLER ET AL., 2013; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014; LU ET AL., 2014; ORLITZKY AND BENJAMIN, 2001; ORLITZKY ET AL., 2003; WANG ET AL., 2016; WU, 2006) and provides evidence that the relationship stays the same no matter the time horizon. Hypothesis 2, 3, 4 and 5 are verified.

Regarding control variables, firm size and industry sector influence negatively and significantly CFP in both models while growth has a positive impact, with an effect more pronounced in Model (4). These results support previous research (BUSCH AND HOFFMANN, 2011; DELMAS ET AL., 2015; ENDRIKAT ET AL., 2014; MIROSHNYCHENKO ET AL., 2017). Against all odds, leverage does not have any significant impact.



Table 4.1: Descriptive statistics

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
Roa	1,176	0.06	0.07	−0.62	0.42
TobinsQ	1,038	0.10	0.38	−1.30	1.08
Leverage	1,130	1.51	8.02	0.00	157.90
Growth	1,174	0.12	0.24	−2.04	5.96
FirmSize	1,172	10.35	0.60	8.45	12.51
Industry	1,177	4.59	2.65	1	11
CaP	1,177	0.12	0.18	0.00	0.97
WaP	1,177	0.09	0.18	0.00	0.99
WastP	1,177	0.07	0.17	0.00	0.97
SPL	1,177	0.49	0.50	0	1
STC	1,177	0.48	0.50	0	1
A	1,177	0.47	0.50	0	1

Table 4.2: Correlation Matrix

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Roa											
2. TobinsQ	0.40***										
3. Leverage	-0.02	0.03									
4. Growth	0.19***	-0.02	-0.07**								
5. FirmSize	-0.27***	-0.66***	-0.02	0.09***							
6. Industry	-0.10***	-0.09***	-0.05*	0.00	0.06**						
7. CaP	0.09***	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.07**	0.04					
8. WaP	0.08***	0.03	0.06**	-0.02	0.08***	0.02	0.67***				
9. WastP	0.07**	0.01	0.08***	-0.01	0.07**	0.08***	0.56***	0.69***			
10. SPL	-0.05*	-0.11***	-0.02	-0.02	0.29***	0.09***	0.06**	0.14***	0.15***		
11. STC	0.00	-0.10***	-0.01	-0.04	0.29***	0.06**	0.21***	0.26***	0.24***	0.48***	
12. A	-0.04	-0.08**	0.01	0.05*	0.26***	0.04	0.21***	0.26***	0.28***	0.50***	0.46***

Note : \* p<0.1; \*\* p<0.05; \*\*\* p<0.01

Table 4.3: Variance Inflation Factor

	Roa	Tobin's Q
SPL	1.543	1.487
STC	1.507	1.475
A	1.527	1.514
CaP	1.862	1.846
WaP	2.477	2.425
WastP	1.966	2.008
Leverage	1.021	1.027
Growth	1.029	1.026
FirmSize	1.155	1.134
Industry	1.025	1.020

Table 4.4: The impact of process-based on outcome-based CEP

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	CaP Model (1)	WaP Model (2)	WastP Model (3)
SPL	0.010 (0.011)	0.022* (0.012)	0.025** (0.011)
STC	0.058*** (0.010)	0.067*** (0.011)	0.046*** (0.011)
A	0.057*** (0.010)	0.068*** (0.011)	0.071*** (0.011)
FirmSize	−0.005 (0.008)	−0.008 (0.008)	−0.010 (0.008)
Leverage	0.0003 (0.001)	0.001* (0.001)	0.001** (0.001)
Growth	0.028 (0.028)	0.001 (0.030)	0.003 (0.028)
Industry	0.002 (0.002)	−0.00001 (0.002)	0.004** (0.002)
BPLM test (pvalue)	0***	0***	0***
F test (pvalue)	0***	0***	0***
Observations	1,123	1,123	1,123
R <sup>2</sup>	0.116	0.145	0.139
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.109	0.138	0.132
F Statistic (df = 7; 1113)	20.888***	26.892***	25.632***

*Note:*

\*p&lt;0.1; \*\*p&lt;0.05; \*\*\*p&lt;0.01

Table 4.5: The impact of process and outcome-based CEP on CFP (lag = 1)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	TobinsQ Model (4)	Roa Model (5)
SPL	0.079* (0.044)	0.008** (0.004)
STC	0.063 (0.044)	0.012*** (0.004)
A	0.158*** (0.044)	−0.004 (0.004)
CaP	−0.012 (0.135)	0.030** (0.012)
WaP	0.337** (0.155)	0.006 (0.012)
WastP	−0.199 (0.156)	0.010 (0.012)
FirmSize	−0.443*** (0.015)	−0.020*** (0.001)
Leverage	0.003 (0.003)	−0.00000 (0.0003)
Growth	0.465*** (0.152)	0.138*** (0.012)
Industry	−0.026*** (0.007)	−0.002*** (0.001)
Constant	10.701*** (0.345)	
BPLM test (pvalue)	0.508	0.024**
F test (pvalue)	0.323	0.012**
Observations	954	1,093
R <sup>2</sup>	0.505	0.290
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.500	0.282
F Statistic	96.388*** (df = 10; 943)	44.007*** (df = 10; 1080)

*Note:*

\*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

## 5 Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity Analysis investigates how the variation in the output of a numerical model can be attributed to variations of its input factors (PIANOSI ET AL., 2016). To ensure the robustness of the main findings of the previous section I carried out two robustness tests.

First, the equation 10 had been re-estimated using dependent variables accelerated by one year in a sense that observations in independent and control variables are now lagged two years behind corporate financial performance variables. Based on the results of both Breusch Pagan Multiplier and F tests, estimators had been estimated with the *pooled ols estimation*. Results are reported in table 5.1 and confirm findings of the previous section.

Secondly, I used an alternative proxy for approaching corporate environmental performance, namely the Green Score assigned to each company of the NewsWeek Green Ranking. The score is based on a weighted average of the key performance indicators of the ranking. Concretely, it means that equation 10 becomes the following equation.

$$Y_{it+1} = \alpha + \beta_1 GS_{it} + Controls_{it} + d_t + u_{it} \quad (11)$$

where  $Y_{it+1}$  is a proxy of CFP measured as ROA or Tobin's Q,  $GS_{it}$  is a proxy for a firm's green score,  $Controls_{it}$  is a vector of control variables that includes firm size, industry sector, financial leverage and growth,  $d_t$  represents time effect and  $u_{it}$  is the error term.

Model (4) had been estimated with the *pooled ols estimators* while Model (5) had been estimated with the *fixed effect estimation*. Results are reported in table 5.2 and confirms findings of the previous section. Consequently, the sensitivity analysis supports that CEP does have a significant and positive effect on CFP (short-term and long-term).

R script of this section is available in [Appendix D: Sensitivity Analysis - R script](#).

Table 5.1: The impact of process and outcome-based CEP on CFP (lag = 2)

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	TobinsQ Model (4)	Roa Model (5)
SPL	0.102** (0.044)	0.008** (0.004)
STC	0.062 (0.043)	0.011*** (0.004)
A	0.153*** (0.044)	−0.002 (0.004)
CaP	0.112 (0.133)	0.039*** (0.012)
WaP	0.194 (0.155)	−0.001 (0.013)
WastP	0.032 (0.153)	0.011 (0.013)
FirmSize	−0.427*** (0.015)	−0.019*** (0.001)
Leverage	0.003 (0.003)	0.0001 (0.0002)
Growth	0.420*** (0.152)	0.115*** (0.012)
Industry	−0.022*** (0.007)	−0.002*** (0.001)
Constant	10.295*** (0.343)	0.503*** (0.028)
BPLM test (pvalue)	0.56	0.33
F test (pvalue)	0.363	0.598
Observations	946	1,078
R <sup>2</sup>	0.488	0.254
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.483	0.247
F Statistic	89.135*** (df = 10; 935)	36.368*** (df = 10; 1067)

*Note:*

\*p<0.1; \*\*p<0.05; \*\*\*p<0.01

Table 5.2: GreenScore - an alternative variable for CEP

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	TobinsQ Model (4)	Roa Model (5)
GreenScore	0.669*** (0.093)	0.051*** (0.008)
FirmSize	-0.413*** (0.014)	-0.018*** (0.001)
Leverage	0.003 (0.004)	-0.0003 (0.001)
Growth	0.528*** (0.162)	0.134*** (0.013)
Industry	-0.030*** (0.007)	-0.002*** (0.001)
Constant	9.916*** (0.336)	
BPLM test (pvalue)	0.475	0***
F test (pvalue)	0.536	0.002***
Observations	956	1,094
R <sup>2</sup>	0.481	0.268
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.479	0.263
F Statistic	176.286*** (df = 5; 950)	79.571*** (df = 5; 1086)
<i>Note:</i>		*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01



## 6 Discussion

Let's speak. . .

## Conclusion

This is my conclusion...

Limitation :

(DELMAS AND BLASS, [2010](#)) argues that measurement and evaluation of CEP involve some trade-offs.

# Appendix

## Appendix A: Database construction

Data of this study comes from several platforms. Consequently, the final database is the result of a long step process.

First, I downloaded green metrics from [NewsWeek](#) for each year's ranking (i.e. 2014 to 2016). All companies were not automatically listed in the three rankings. Thus, I had to match companies that were listed in each ranking. This step had been carried out through excel <sup>5</sup>. Among those three rankings and of the 500 US companies, 405 companies were listed for each years.

Second, I obtained some of the financial datas (i.e. Roa, Financial Leverage, Total Assets and Net Margin) on [Morningstar](#). More precisely, I have used its [API](#). The platform has saved key ratios data in csv format for each company. Consequently, I have written an R script which download each csv file and bring all data into a tidy database. The R script is available on my Github [account](#) in the following Rmarkdown file : *Child/Analysis/MakeFile\_WebScrapMorningStars.Rmd*. Outputs of this makefile are in the folder *Child/Analysis/DataBase/MorningStar*.

Due to some missing values, I had to complete Morningstar's data with data coming from [StockPup](#). The same process had been applied. The R script is available on my Github [account](#) in the file : *Child/Analysis/MakeFile\_WebScrapStockPup.Rmd*. Outputs are in the folder *Child/Analysis/DataBase/StockPup*.

Third, I completed my database with data coming from [Ycharts](#). On this platform, I collected the Tobin's Q. At the date of collect, Ycharts offered a 7-day free trial. The makefile path is *Child/Analysis/MakeFile\_WebScrapYcharts.Rmd*. Outputs of this make file are in the folder *Child/Analysis/DataBase/Ycharts*.

Finally, I have synchronized all data into a tidy database. The makefile is *Child/Analysis/MakeFile\_DataSynchronization.Rmd*. Outputs are saved into the folder *Child/Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization*.

---

<sup>5</sup>see the file *\*Child/Analysis/DataBase/NewsWeekGreenRankin/RechercheMatch 14-16.xlsx\**

## Appendix B: Results - R script

The following R script is the R script used to produce the section [Results](#).

### Packages loading

```
# Removes all items in the R environment
rm(list = ls())
# Packages loading
if (!require("plm")) install.packages("plm")
library(plm)
if (!require("dplyr")) install.packages("dplyr")
library(dplyr)
if (!require("data.table")) install.packages("data.table")
library(data.table)
if (!require("stargazer")) install.packages("stargazer")
library(stargazer)
if (!require("Hmisc")) install.packages("Hmisc")
library(Hmisc)
if (!require("lattice")) install.packages("lattice")
library(lattice)
if (!require("survival")) install.packages("survival")
library(survival)
if (!require("ggplot2")) install.packages("ggplot2")
library(ggplot2)
if (!require("car")) install.packages("car")
library(car)
if (!require("ggpubr")) install.packages("ggpubr")
library(ggpubr)
if (!require("xtable")) install.packages("xtable")
library(xtable)
```

## DataBase loading

```
# Database Loading. I consider the database with
# outliers.
path <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/Lag1.csv"
Db <- read.csv(file = path, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
# I create a new df called 'model' which contains only
# variables that I need
Model <- Db %>% select(c(YearIndex, CompaniesIndex, Roa,
  TobinsQ, DebtToEquityRatio, NetMargin, TotalAssets,
  GicsClassification, CarbonProductivity, WaterProductivity,
  WasteProductivity, SustainabilityPayLink, SustainableThemedCommitment,
  AuditScore, GreenScore))
# I transform the 'TotalAssets' column into FirmSize
# using the log of TotalAssets
Model$TotalAssets <- log10(Model$TotalAssets)
# I use the natural log for TobinsQ
Model$TobinsQ <- log10(Model$TobinsQ)
# I rename some columns
vieux <- c("DebtToEquityRatio", "TotalAssets", "GicsClassification",
  "NetMargin", "CarbonProductivity", "WaterProductivity",
  "WasteProductivity", "SustainabilityPayLink", "SustainableThemedCommitment",
  "AuditScore")
nouveau <- c("Leverage", "FirmSize", "Industry", "Growth",
  "CaP", "WaP", "WastP", "SPL", "STC", "A")
Model1 <- Model %>% setnames(old = vieux, new = nouveau)
```

## Unpaired two sample t-test

```
# unpaired two-samples t-test I create two vectors.
Sample1 <- Model1 %>% subset(subset = !is.na(Roa)) %>% select(Roa)
Sample2 <- Model1 %>% subset(subset = !is.na(TobinsQ)) %>%
  select(Roa)
# I carry out the t test
IdAnal <- round(t.test(Sample1, Sample2, alternative = "two.sided",
  var.equal = FALSE)$p.value, digits = 4)
```

## Descriptive statistics

```
# Descriptive statistics
# I remove the column 'GreenScore', 'CompaniesIndex' and
# 'YearIndex'. Right now I do not need it.
Model2 <- Model1 %>% select(-c(GreenScore, YearIndex, CompaniesIndex))
# I use stargazer to create a table containing
# descriptive statistics for each variables
stargazer(Model2, title = "Descriptive statistics", label = "DesStat",
  header = FALSE, type = "latex", align = FALSE, table.placement = "b",
  digits = 2, digits.extra = 2)
```

## Matrix of correlation

*# The following corstars function creates the matrix of correlation.*

```
corstars <-function(x,
                    method=c("pearson", "spearman"),
                    removeTriangle=c("upper", "lower"),
                    result=c("none", "html", "latex"))
{
  # Compute correlation matrix
  require(Hmisc)
  x <- as.matrix(x)
  correlation_matrix<-rcorr(x, type=method[1])
  # Matrix of correlation coefficients
  R <- correlation_matrix$r
  # Matrix of p-value
  p <- correlation_matrix$p
  # Define notions for significance levels; spacing is important.
  mystars <- ifelse(p < .01, "*** ",
                    ifelse(p < .05, "**  ",
                            ifelse(p < .1, "*   ", "    ")))
  # truncate the correlation matrix to two decimal
  R <- format(round(cbind(rep(-1.11, ncol(x)), R), 2))[, -1]
  # build a new matrix that includes the correlations
  # with appropriate stars
  Rnew <- matrix(paste(R, mystars, sep=""), ncol=ncol(x))
  diag(Rnew) <- paste(diag(R), " ", sep="")
  rownames(Rnew) <- colnames(x)
  colnames(Rnew) <- paste(colnames(x), "", sep="")
  # remove upper triangle of correlation matrix
  if(removeTriangle[1]=="upper")
  {
    Rnew <- as.matrix(Rnew)
    Rnew[upper.tri(Rnew, diag = TRUE)] <- ""
    Rnew <- as.data.frame(Rnew)
  }
}
```

```

    }
    # remove lower triangle of correlation matrix
    else if(removeTriangle[1]=="lower")
    {
      Rnew <- as.matrix(Rnew)
      Rnew[lower.tri(Rnew, diag = TRUE)] <- ""
      Rnew <- as.data.frame(Rnew)
    }
    # remove last column and return the correlation matrix
    Rnew <- cbind(Rnew[1:length(Rnew)-1])
    if (result[1]=="none") return(Rnew)
    else{
      if(result[1]=="html") print(xtable(Rnew), type="html")
      else print(xtable(Rnew), type="latex")
    }
    # end of the function
  }

# I use the function on my database (i.e. Model2)
CorMatrix <- corstars(Model2,
                      method = "pearson",
                      removeTriangle = "upper",
                      result = "none")

# Now, names of each variable stand as row names and column names.
# I do not need to have duplicates.
# So I keep the names of the variables as names of the row,
# and I use a number for the names of the column.
number <- c( 1 : (ncol(Model2) - 1)) #number of variables
colnames(CorMatrix) <- number
NewRowNames <- paste(c( 1 : ncol(Model2)),
                    rownames(CorMatrix),
                    sep = ". ")
rownames(CorMatrix) <- NewRowNames
# I use stargazer to make a nice table
table <- stargazer(CorMatrix,

```



```
summary = FALSE,
type = "latex",
title = "Correlation Matrix",
label = "Matrix",
float=TRUE,
float.env = "sidewaystable",
header = FALSE,
table.placement = "h",
column.sep.width = "2pt",
font.size = "small",
notes = "Note : * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; *** p<0.01",
notes.align = "r",
align = TRUE)
```

## Variance inflation factor

```
# I make Model1 a plm database
Model1 <- pdata.frame(Model1, index = c("CompaniesIndex",
    "YearIndex"))
# The vif function can not be used with within model. I
# need to estimate my models with the pooling model.
Roa <- plm(Roa ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP + WastP + Leverage +
    Growth + FirmSize + Industry, model = "pooling", data = Model1,
    index = c("YearIndex", "CompaniesIndex"))
TobinsQ <- plm(TobinsQ ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP + WastP +
    Leverage + Growth + FirmSize + Industry, model = "pooling",
    data = Model1, index = c("YearIndex", "CompaniesIndex"))
# VIF Calculation
VifRoa <- car::vif(Roa)
VifTobin <- car::vif(TobinsQ)
# Summary in a nice stargazer table
VifTable <- cbind(VifRoa, VifTobin)
colnames(VifTable) <- c("Roa", "Tobin's Q")
titre <- "Variance Inflation Factor"
```

```
stargazer(VifTable, summary = FALSE, title = titre, label = "VIF",
  header = FALSE, type = "latex", align = TRUE, table.placement = "!",
  digits = 3)
```

## The impact of process-based CEP on outcome-based CEP

```
# I select only CEP variables in model2. As Model2 is
# already a pdata.frame, I do not need to reproduce this
# function on Model3.
Model3 <- Model1 %>% select(c(YearIndex, CompaniesIndex,
  CaP, WaP, WastP, SPL, STC, A))
# I test for Random Effect Model using the Lagrange
# Multiplier Tests for Panel Models. Pooling Model
CarbonPooling <- plm(CaP ~ SPL + STC + A, data = Model3,
  model = "pooling")
WaterPooling <- plm(WaP ~ SPL + STC + A, data = Model3,
  model = "pooling")
WastePooling <- plm(WastP ~ SPL + STC + A, data = Model3,
  model = "pooling")
# Plmtest
PlmtestCarbon <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(CarbonPooling,
  effect = "time", type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
PlmtestWater <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(WaterPooling, effect = "time",
  type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
PlmtestWaste <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(WastePooling, effect = "time",
  type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
# Improve p-value understanding
PlmtestCarbon <- ifelse(PlmtestCarbon < 0.01, paste(PlmtestCarbon,
  "****", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestCarbon < 0.05, paste(PlmtestCarbon,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestCarbon < 0.1, paste(PlmtestCarbon,
  "**", sep = ""), PlmtestCarbon)))
PlmtestWater <- ifelse(PlmtestWater < 0.01, paste(PlmtestWater,
  "****", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestWater < 0.05, paste(PlmtestWater,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestWater < 0.1, paste(PlmtestWater,
```

```

    "*", sep = ""), PlmtestWater)))
PlmtestWaste <- ifelse(PlmtestWaste < 0.01, paste(PlmtestWaste,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestWaste < 0.05, paste(PlmtestWaste,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestWaste < 0.1, paste(PlmtestWaste,
  "*", sep = ""), PlmtestWaste)))
# I test for Fixed Effect Model using pFtest which is a
# test of individual and/or time effects based on the
# comparison of the within and the pooling model.
# Within Model with time effect
CarbonWithin <- plm(CaP ~ SPL + STC + A, data = Model3,
  model = "within", effect = "time")
WaterWithin <- plm(WaP ~ SPL + STC + A, data = Model3, model = "within",
  effect = "time")
WasteWithin <- plm(WastP ~ SPL + STC + A, data = Model3,
  model = "within", effect = "time")
# pFtest
pFtestCarbon <- round(pFtest(CarbonWithin, CarbonPooling)$p.value,
  digits = 3)
pFtestWater <- round(pFtest(WaterWithin, WaterPooling)$p.value,
  digits = 3)
pFtestWaste <- round(pFtest(WasteWithin, WastePooling)$p.value,
  digits = 3)
# Improve p-value understanding
pFtestCarbon <- ifelse(pFtestCarbon < 0.01, paste(pFtestCarbon,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestCarbon < 0.05, paste(pFtestCarbon,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestCarbon < 0.1, paste(pFtestCarbon,
  "*", sep = ""), pFtestCarbon)))
pFtestWater <- ifelse(pFtestWater < 0.01, paste(pFtestWater,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestWater < 0.05, paste(pFtestWater,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestWater < 0.1, paste(pFtestWater,
  "*", sep = ""), pFtestWater)))
pFtestWaste <- ifelse(pFtestWaste < 0.01, paste(pFtestWaste,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestWaste < 0.05, paste(pFtestWaste,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestWaste < 0.1, paste(pFtestWaste,

```

```

    "*", sep = ""), pFtestWaste)))
# Based on the results of the tests, the three models
# need to be estimated with the fixed effects
# estimations (i.e. model = 'within' in plm). Let's
# consolidate into a nice stargazer table
titre <- "The impact of process-based on outcome-based CEP"
stargazer(CarbonWithin, WaterWithin, WasteWithin, title = titre,
  label = "CepResults", header = FALSE, type = "latex",
  align = FALSE, model.numbers = FALSE, table.placement = "!",
  add.lines = list(c("BPLM test (pvalue)", PlmtestCarbon,
    PlmtestWater, PlmtestWaste), c("F test (pvalue)",
    pFtestCarbon, pFtestWater, pFtestWaste)))

```

## The impact of CEP on CFP

```

# I have already removed outliers from both models (i.e.
# Roa and TobinsQ) via the file =
# 'Analysis/MakeFile_RemoveOutliers_Lag1.rmd'.
# Consequently I load the two following databases.
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag1/Roa.csv"
RoaNoOut <- read.csv(file = p, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag1/TobinsQ.csv"
TobinNoOut <- read.csv(file = p, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
# I change names
RoaNoOut <- RoaNoOut %>% setnames(old = c("FinancialLeverage",
  "CarbonProductivity", "WaterProductivity", "WasteProductivity",
  "SustainabilityPayLink", "SustainableThemedCommitment",
  "AuditScore"), new = c("Leverage", "CaP", "WaP", "WastP",
  "SPL", "STC", "A"))
TobinNoOut <- TobinNoOut %>% setnames(old = c("FinancialLeverage",
  "CarbonProductivity", "WaterProductivity", "WasteProductivity",
  "SustainabilityPayLink", "SustainableThemedCommitment",
  "AuditScore"), new = c("Leverage", "CaP", "WaP", "WastP",
  "SPL", "STC", "A"))

```

```

# I make both df a plm dataframe
RoaNoOut <- RoaNoOut %>% pdata.frame(index = c("CompaniesIndex",
  "YearIndex"))
TobinNoOut <- TobinNoOut %>% pdata.frame(index = c("CompaniesIndex",
  "YearIndex"))
# I test for Random Effect Model using the Lagrange
# Multiplier Tests for Panel Models.
# Pooling Model
RoaPooling <- plm(Roa ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP + WastP +
  FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = RoaNoOut,
  model = "pooling")
TobinPooling <- plm(TobinsQ ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP +
  WastP + FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = TobinNoOut,
  model = "pooling")
# Plmtest
PlmtestRoa <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(RoaPooling, effect = "time",
  type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
PlmtestTobin <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(TobinPooling, effect = "time",
  type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
# Improve p-value understanding
PlmtestRoa <- ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.01, paste(PlmtestRoa,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.05, paste(PlmtestRoa,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.1, paste(PlmtestRoa,
  "*", sep = ""), PlmtestRoa)))
PlmtestTobin <- ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.01, paste(PlmtestTobin,
  "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.05, paste(PlmtestTobin,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.1, paste(PlmtestTobin,
  "*", sep = ""), PlmtestTobin)))
# I test for Fixed Effect Model using pFtest which is a
# test of individual and/or time effects based on the
# comparison of the within and the pooling model.
# Within Model with time effect
RoaWithin <- plm(Roa ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP + WastP +
  FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = RoaNoOut,

```

```

    model = "within", effect = "time")
TobinWithin <- plm(TobinsQ ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP +
    WastP + FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = TobinNoOut,
    model = "within", effect = "time")
# pFtest
pFtestRoa <- round(pFtest(RoaWithin, RoaPooling)$p.value,
    digits = 3)
pFtestTobin <- round(pFtest(TobinWithin, TobinPooling)$p.value,
    digits = 3)
# Improve p-value understanding
pFtestRoa <- ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.01, paste(pFtestRoa, "***",
    sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.05, paste(pFtestRoa,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.1, paste(pFtestRoa,
    "*", sep = ""), pFtestRoa)))
pFtestTobin <- ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.01, paste(pFtestTobin,
    "***", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.05, paste(pFtestTobin,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.1, paste(pFtestTobin,
    "*", sep = ""), pFtestTobin)))
# Based on the results of the tests, TobinsQ need to be
# estimated with the pooling ols estimations (i.e. model
# = 'pooling' in plm) while Roa with the within effect
# estimation.. Let's consolid
titre <- "The impact of process and outcome-based CEP on CFP (lag = 1)"
stargazer(TobinPooling, RoaWithin, title = titre, label = "Lag1",
    header = FALSE, type = "latex", align = FALSE, model.numbers = FALSE,
    table.placement = "!", add.lines = list(c("BPLM test (pvalue)",
    PlmtestTobin, PlmtestRoa), c("F test (pvalue)",
    pFtestTobin, pFtestRoa)))

```

## Appendix C: Outliers treatment

This appendix presents the R code used to identify and remove outliers from the database. This R script is the one contains in the makefile : *Analysis/DataBase/MakeFile\_RemoveOutliers\_Lag1.Rmd*. This step had been repeated three times : (i) when dependent variables were lagged one year (see section: [The impact of CEP on CFP](#)) and (ii) two years behind others variables and (iii) when the GreenScore variables was the only independent variables considered into the econometric model (see section: [Sensitivity Analysis](#)).

```
# Packages loading
if (!require("dplyr")) install.packages("dplyr")
library(dplyr)
if (!require("data.table")) install.packages("data.table")
library(data.table)
if (!require("formatR")) install.packages("formatR")
library(formatR)
if (!require("highlight")) install.packages("highlight")
library(highlight)

# Database Loading
path <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/Lag1.csv"
Lag1 <- read.csv(file = path, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)

# Select only variables that I need for my model
Modellag1 <- Lag1 %>% select(c(YearIndex, CompaniesIndex,
  Roa, TobinsQ, DebtToEquityRatio, NetMargin, TotalAssets,
  GicsClassification, CarbonProductivity, WaterProductivity,
  WasteProductivity, SustainabilityPayLink, SustainableThemedCommitment,
  AuditScore))

# I transform the 'TotalAssets' column into FirmSize
# using the log of TotalAssets
Modellag1$TotalAssets <- log10(Modellag1$TotalAssets)

# I use the natural log for TobinsQ
Modellag1$TobinsQ <- log10(Modellag1$TobinsQ)
```

```

# I rename some columns
Modellag1 <- Modellag1 %>% setnames(old = c("DebtToEquityRatio",
      "TotalAssets", "GicsClassification", "NetMargin"), new = c("Leverage",
      "FirmSize", "Industry", "Growth"))
# I define my models in lm as cooks.distance do not
# support plm object
Roa <- lm(Roa ~ SustainabilityPayLink + SustainableThemedCommitment +
      AuditScore + CarbonProductivity + WaterProductivity +
      WasteProductivity + FirmSize + Growth + Leverage + Industry,
      data = Modellag1)
TobinsQ <- lm(TobinsQ ~ SustainabilityPayLink + SustainableThemedCommitment +
      AuditScore + CarbonProductivity + WaterProductivity +
      WasteProductivity + FirmSize + Growth + Leverage + Industry,
      data = Modellag1)
# I calculate my cooks distance (i.e. D)
cooksRoa <- cooks.distance(Roa)
cooksTobinsQ <- cooks.distance(TobinsQ)
# I extract rows considered as influential (i.e.
# observations whose D > 4 * means) and I print them for
# the reader.
influentialRoa <- as.numeric(names(cooksRoa)[(cooksRoa >
      4 * mean(cooksRoa, na.rm = T))])
influentialRoa

```

```

[1] 10 12 25 55 96 244 245 246 381 413 479 480 645 656 [15] 679 684 718 730 777
794 948 949 1106 1107 1108 1122 1123 1156 [29] 1171

```

```

influentialTobin <- as.numeric(names(cooksTobinsQ)[(cooksTobinsQ >
      4 * mean(cooksTobinsQ, na.rm = T))])
influentialTobin

```

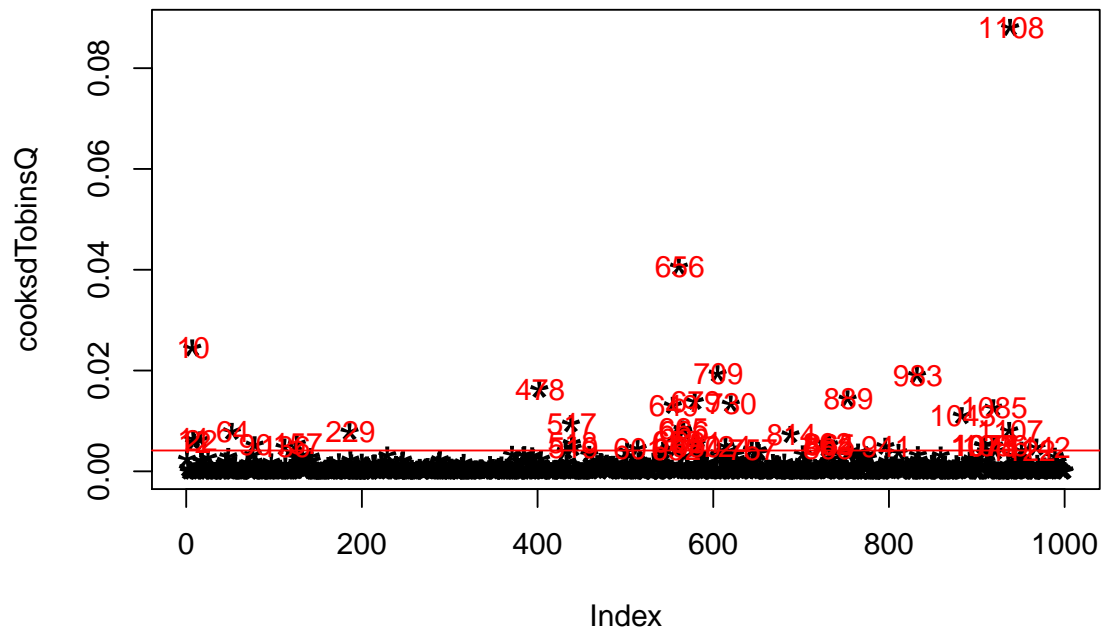
```

[1] 10 11 12 22 64 90 136 157 229 478 517 518 519 601 [15] 649 652 653 654 656 665
666 679 680 681 709 724 730 757 [29] 814 862 863 864 865 889 941 983 1043 1073 1074
1075 1085 1086 [43] 1107 1108 1122 1142

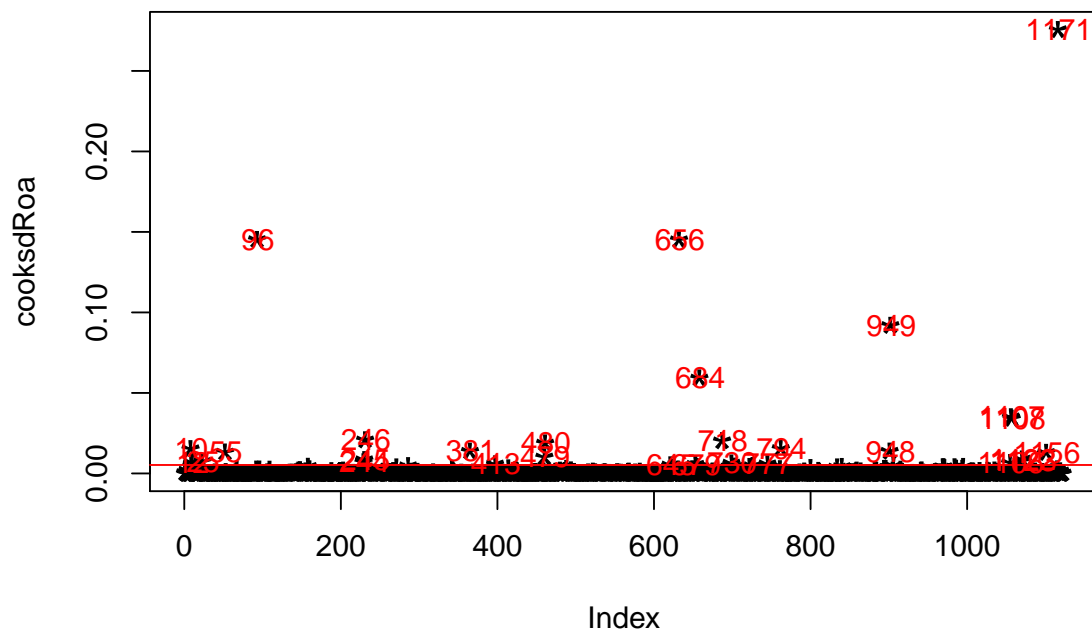
```



```
# I remove outliers and create two new dataframes that I  
# write in my folders  
TobinsQ_Db <- ModellLag1[-c(influentialTobin), ]  
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag1/TobinsQ.csv"  
write.csv(TobinsQ_Db, file = p)  
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag1/Roa.csv"  
Roa_Db <- ModellLag1[-c(influentialRoa), ]  
write.csv(Roa_Db, file = p)  
  
# I report influencial oberuations on a graph  
## TobinsQ plot cook's distance  
plot(cooksdTobinsQ, pch = "*", cex = 2)  
### add cutoff line  
abline(h = 4 * mean(cooksdTobinsQ, na.rm = T), col = "red")  
### add labels  
text(x = 1:length(cooksdTobinsQ) + 1, y = cooksdTobinsQ,  
      labels = ifelse(cooksdTobinsQ > 4 * mean(cooksdTobinsQ,  
        na.rm = T), names(cooksdTobinsQ), ""), col = "red")
```



```
## Roa plot cook's distance
plot(cooksdRoa, pch = "*", cex = 2)
### add cutoff line
abline(h = 4 * mean(cooksdRoa, na.rm = T), col = "red")
### add labels
text(x = 1:length(cooksdRoa) + 1, y = cooksdRoa, labels = ifelse(cooksdRoa >
  4 * mean(cooksdRoa, na.rm = T), names(cooksdRoa), ""),
  col = "red")
```



## Appendix D: Sensitivity Analysis - R script

The following R script is the R code used to produce the section : [Sensitivity Analysis](#).

### Packages loading

```
# Packages loading
rm(list = ls()) #Removes all items in the R environment
if (!require("plm")) install.packages("plm")
library(plm)
if (!require("dplyr")) install.packages("dplyr")
library(dplyr)
if (!require("data.table")) install.packages("data.table")
library(data.table)
if (!require("stargazer")) install.packages("stargazer")
library(stargazer)
```

### The impact of CEP on CFP

```
# I have already removed outliers from both models (i.e.
# Roa and TobinsQ) via the file =
# 'Analysis/MakeFile_RemoveOutliers_Lag2.rmd'.
# Consequently I just need to load folowing databases.
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag2/Roa.csv"
RoaNoOut <- read.csv(file = p, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag2/TobinsQ.csv"
TobinNoOut <- read.csv(file = p, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
# I change names
RoaNoOut <- RoaNoOut %>% setnames(old = c("FinancialLeverage",
      "CarbonProductivity", "WaterProductivity", "WasteProductivity",
      "SustainabilityPayLink", "SustainableThemedCommitment",
      "AuditScore"), new = c("Leverage", "CaP", "WaP", "WastP",
      "SPL", "STC", "A"))
TobinNoOut <- TobinNoOut %>% setnames(old = c("FinancialLeverage",
```

```

    "CarbonProductivity", "WaterProductivity", "WasteProductivity",
    "SustainabilityPayLink", "SustainableThemedCommitment",
    "AuditScore"), new = c("Leverage", "CaP", "WaP", "WastP",
    "SPL", "STC", "A"))
# I make both df a plm dataframe
RoaNoOut <- RoaNoOut %>% pdata.frame(index = c("CompaniesIndex",
    "YearIndex"))
TobinNoOut <- TobinNoOut %>% pdata.frame(index = c("CompaniesIndex",
    "YearIndex"))
# I test for Random Effect Model using the Lagrange
# Multiplier Tests for Panel Models.
# Pooling Model
RoaPooling <- plm(Roa ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP + WastP +
    FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = RoaNoOut,
    model = "pooling")
TobinPooling <- plm(TobinsQ ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP +
    WastP + FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = TobinNoOut,
    model = "pooling")
# Plmtest
PlmtestRoa <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(RoaPooling, effect = "time",
    type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
PlmtestTobin <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(TobinPooling, effect = "time",
    type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
# Improve p-value understanding
PlmtestRoa <- ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.01, paste(PlmtestRoa,
    "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.05, paste(PlmtestRoa,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.1, paste(PlmtestRoa,
    "*", sep = ""), PlmtestRoa)))
PlmtestTobin <- ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.01, paste(PlmtestTobin,
    "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.05, paste(PlmtestTobin,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.1, paste(PlmtestTobin,
    "*", sep = ""), PlmtestTobin)))
# I test for Fixed Effect Model using pFtest which is a
# test of individual and/or time effects based on the

```

```

# comparison of the within and the pooling model.
## Within Model with time effect
RoaWithin <- plm(Roa ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP + WastP +
  FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = RoaNoOut,
  model = "within", effect = "time")
TobinWithin <- plm(TobinsQ ~ SPL + STC + A + CaP + WaP +
  WastP + FirmSize + Leverage + Growth + Industry, data = TobinNoOut,
  model = "within", effect = "time")
# pFtest
pFtestRoa <- round(pFtest(RoaWithin, RoaPooling)$p.value,
  digits = 3)
pFtestTobin <- round(pFtest(TobinWithin, TobinPooling)$p.value,
  digits = 3)
# Improve p-value understanding
pFtestRoa <- ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.01, paste(pFtestRoa, "****",
  sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.05, paste(pFtestRoa,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.1, paste(pFtestRoa,
  "*", sep = ""), pFtestRoa)))
pFtestTobin <- ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.01, paste(pFtestTobin,
  "****", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.05, paste(pFtestTobin,
  "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.1, paste(pFtestTobin,
  "*", sep = ""), pFtestTobin)))
# Based on the results of the tests, the two models need
# to be estimated with the pooling ols estimations (i.e.
# model = 'pooling' in plm). Let's consolidate into a
# nice stargazer table
titre <- "The impact of process and outcome-based CEP on CFP (lag = 2)"
stargazer(TobinPooling, RoaPooling, title = titre, label = "Lag2",
  header = FALSE, type = "latex", align = FALSE, model.numbers = FALSE,
  table.placement = "!", add.lines = list(c("BPLM test (pvalue)",
  PlmtestTobin, PlmtestRoa), c("F test (pvalue)",
  pFtestTobin, pFtestRoa)))

```

## Green Score as an alternative

```

# I have already removed outliers from both models (i.e.
# Roa and TobinsQ) via the file =
# 'Analysis/MakeFile_RemoveOutliers_Lag1.rmd'.
# Consequently I just need to load following databases.
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag1/GreenScore/Roa.csv"
RoaNoOut <- read.csv(file = p, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
p <- "Analysis/DataBase/DataSynchronization/NoOutliersLag1/GreenScore/TobinsQ.csv"
TobinNoOut <- read.csv(file = p, header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
# I change names
RoaNoOut <- RoaNoOut %>% setnames(old = "FinancialLeverage",
  new = "Leverage")
TobinNoOut <- TobinNoOut %>% setnames(old = "FinancialLeverage",
  new = "Leverage")
# I make both df a plm dataframe
RoaNoOut <- RoaNoOut %>% pdata.frame(index = c("CompaniesIndex",
  "YearIndex"))
TobinNoOut <- TobinNoOut %>% pdata.frame(index = c("CompaniesIndex",
  "YearIndex"))
# I test for Random Effect Model using the Lagrange
# Multiplier Tests for Panel Models.
# Pooling Model
RoaPooling <- plm(Roa ~ GreenScore + FirmSize + Leverage +
  Growth + Industry, data = RoaNoOut, model = "pooling")
TobinPooling <- plm(TobinsQ ~ GreenScore + FirmSize + Leverage +
  Growth + Industry, data = TobinNoOut, model = "pooling")
# Plmtest
PlmtestRoa <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(RoaPooling, effect = "time",
  type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
PlmtestTobin <- as.numeric(round(plmtest(TobinPooling, effect = "time",
  type = "bp")$p.value, digits = 3))
# Improve p-value understanding
PlmtestRoa <- ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.01, paste(PlmtestRoa,

```

```

    "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.05, paste(PlmtestRoa,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestRoa < 0.1, paste(PlmtestRoa,
    "*", sep = ""), PlmtestRoa)))
PlmtestTobin <- ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.01, paste(PlmtestTobin,
    "***", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.05, paste(PlmtestTobin,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(PlmtestTobin < 0.1, paste(PlmtestTobin,
    "*", sep = ""), PlmtestTobin)))
# I test for Fixed Effect Model using pFtest which is a
# test of individual and/or time effects based on the
# comparison of the within and the pooling model.
# Within Model with time effect
RoaWithin <- plm(Roa ~ GreenScore + FirmSize + Leverage +
    Growth + Industry, data = RoaNoOut, model = "within",
    effect = "time")
TobinWithin <- plm(TobinsQ ~ GreenScore + FirmSize + Leverage +
    Growth + Industry, data = TobinNoOut, model = "within",
    effect = "time")
# pFtest
pFtestRoa <- round(pFtest(RoaWithin, RoaPooling)$p.value,
    digits = 3)
pFtestTobin <- round(pFtest(TobinWithin, TobinPooling)$p.value,
    digits = 3)
# Improve p-value understanding
pFtestRoa <- ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.01, paste(pFtestRoa, "***",
    sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.05, paste(pFtestRoa,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestRoa < 0.1, paste(pFtestRoa,
    "*", sep = ""), pFtestRoa)))
pFtestTobin <- ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.01, paste(pFtestTobin,
    "***", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.05, paste(pFtestTobin,
    "**", sep = ""), ifelse(pFtestTobin < 0.1, paste(pFtestTobin,
    "*", sep = ""), pFtestTobin)))
# Let's consolidate into a stargazer table
titre <- "GreenScore - an alternative variable for CEP"
stargazer(TobinPooling, RoaWithin, title = titre, label = "GreenScoreResults",

```



```
header = FALSE, type = "latex", align = FALSE, model.numbers = FALSE,  
table.placement = "!", add.lines = list(c("BPLM test (pvalue)",  
      PlmtestTobin, PlmtestRoa), c("F test (pvalue)",  
      pFtestTobin, pFtestRoa)))
```

## 7 References

- Albertini, E., 2013. Does environmental management improve financial performance? A meta-analytical review. *Organization & Environment* 26, 431–457. doi:[10.1177/1086026613510301](https://doi.org/10.1177/1086026613510301)
- Allaire, J., Cheng, J., Xie, Y., McPherson, J., Chang, W., Allen, J., Wickham, H., Atkins, A., Hyndman, R., Arslan, R., 2016. Rmarkdown: Dynamic Documents for R. R package version 1, 9010.
- Ambec, S., Lanoie, P., 2008. Does it pay to be green? A systematic overview. *Academy of Management Perspectives* 22, 45–62. doi:[10.5465/amp.2008.35590353](https://doi.org/10.5465/amp.2008.35590353)
- Bansal, P., DesJardine, M.R., 2014. Business sustainability: It is about time. *Strategic Organization* 12, 70–78. doi:[10.1177/1476127013520265](https://doi.org/10.1177/1476127013520265)
- Barnett, V., Lewis, T., 1994. Outliers in Statistical Data (Probability & Mathematical Statistics). doi:<https://doi.org/10.2307/2983451>
- Bellemare, M.F., Masaki, T., Pepinsky, T.B., 2017. Lagged explanatory variables and the estimation of causal effect. *The Journal of Politics* 79, 949–963. doi:[10.2139/ssrn.2568724](https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2568724)
- Bénabou, R., Tirole, J., 2006. Incentives and Prosocial Behavior. *The American Economic Review* 96, 1652–1678. doi:[10.1257/000282806779396283](https://doi.org/10.1257/000282806779396283)
- Biørn, E., Krishnakumar, J., 2008. Measurement errors and simultaneity, in: *The Econometrics of Panel Data*. Springer, pp. 323–367.
- Blacconiere, W.G., Patten, D.M., 1994. Environmental disclosures, regulatory costs, and changes in firm value. *Journal of accounting and economics* 18, 357–377. doi:[10.1016/0165-4101\(94\)90026-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/0165-4101(94)90026-4)
- Breusch, T.S., Pagan, A.R., 1980. The Lagrange multiplier test and its applications to model specification in econometrics. *The Review of Economic Studies* 47, 239–253. doi:[10.2307/2297111](https://doi.org/10.2307/2297111)
- Busch, T., Friede, G., 2018. The Robustness of the Corporate Social and Financial Performance Relation: A Second-Order Meta-Analysis: Corporate social and financial performance. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*. doi:[10.1002/csr.1480](https://doi.org/10.1002/csr.1480)
- Busch, T., Hoffmann, V.H., 2011. How Hot Is Your Bottom Line? Linking Carbon and Financial Performance. *Business & Society* 50, 233–265. doi:[10.1177/0007650311398780](https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650311398780)
- Business and Sustainable Development Commission, 2017. Better business, better

world - The report of the Business & Sustainable Development Commission.

Butler, J.H., Montzka, S., 2016. The NOAA annual greenhouse gas index. Noaa earth system research laboratory technical report.

Cavaco, S., Crifo, P., 2014. CSR and financial performance: Complementarity between environmental, social and business behaviours. *Applied Economics* 46, 3323–3338. doi:[10.1080/00036846.2014.927572](https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2014.927572)

Chen, F., Ngaiatedema, T., Li, S., 2018. A cross-country comparison of green initiatives, green performance and financial performance. *Management Decision*. doi:[10.1108/MD-08-2017-0761](https://doi.org/10.1108/MD-08-2017-0761)

Chung, K.H., Pruitt, S.W., 1994. A simple approximation of Tobin’s q. *Financial management* 70–74. doi:[10.2307/3665623](https://doi.org/10.2307/3665623)

Church, J.A., White, N.J., 2006. A 20th century acceleration in global sea-level rise. *Geophysical research letters* 33. doi:[10.1029/2005gl024826](https://doi.org/10.1029/2005gl024826)

Cochran, P.L., Wood, R.A., 1984. Corporate social responsibility and financial performance. *Academy of management Journal* 27, 42–56. doi:[10.2307/255956](https://doi.org/10.2307/255956)

Cook, R.D., 1977. Detection of influential observation in linear regression. *Technometrics* 19, 15–18. doi:[10.2307/1268249](https://doi.org/10.2307/1268249)

Cousineau, D., Chartier, S., 2010. Outliers detection and treatment: A review. *International Journal of Psychological Research* 3. doi:[10.21500/20112084.844](https://doi.org/10.21500/20112084.844)

Croissant, Y., Millo, G., 2008. Panel data econometrics in R: The plm package. *Journal of Statistical Software* 27, 1–43. doi:[10.18637/jss.v027.i02](https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v027.i02)

Dang, X., Serfling, R., Zhou, W., 2009. Influence functions of some depth functions, and application to depth-weighted L-statistics. *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* 21, 49–66. doi:[10.1080/10485250802447981](https://doi.org/10.1080/10485250802447981)

Delmas, M., Blass, V.D., 2010. Measuring corporate environmental performance: The trade-offs of sustainability ratings. *Business Strategy and the Environment* 19, 245–260. doi:[10.1002/bse.676](https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.676)

Delmas, M., Hoffmann, V.H., Kuss, M., 2011. Under the Tip of the Iceberg: Absorptive Capacity, Environmental Strategy, and Competitive Advantage. *Business & Society* 50, 116–154. doi:[10.1177/0007650310394400](https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650310394400)

Delmas, M.A., Nairn-Birch, N., Lim, J., 2015. Dynamics of environmental and financial performance: The case of greenhouse gas emissions. *Organization & Environment*

28, 374–393. doi:[10.1177/1086026615620238](https://doi.org/10.1177/1086026615620238)

Dimitrios Asteriou, 2006. *Applied Econometrics*.

Dixon-Fowler, H.R., Slater, D.J., Johnson, J.L., Ellstrand, A.E., Romi, A.M., 2013. Beyond “does it pay to be green?” A meta-analysis of moderators of the CEP relationship. *Journal of business ethics* 112, 353–366. doi:[10.1007/s10551-012-1268-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-012-1268-8)

Dowell, G., Hart, S., Yeung, B., 2000. Do corporate global environmental standards create or destroy market value? *Management science* 46, 1059–1074. doi:[10.1287/mnsc.46.8.1059.12030](https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.46.8.1059.12030)

Elliott, L., 2015. Carney warns of risks from climate change ‘tragedy of the horizon’ [WWW Document]. *the Guardian*. URL <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/29/carney-warns-of-risks-from-climate-change-tragedy-of-the-horizon> (accessed 3.30.18).

Endrikat, J., Guenther, E., Hoppe, H., 2014. Making sense of conflicting empirical findings: A meta-analytic review of the relationship between corporate environmental and financial performance. *European Management Journal* 32, 735–751. doi:[10.1016/j.emj.2013.12.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.emj.2013.12.004)

Etzion, D., 2007. Research on Organizations and the Natural Environment, 1992–Present: A Review. *Journal of Management* 33, 637–664. doi:[10.1177/0149206307302553](https://doi.org/10.1177/0149206307302553)

Fernando, C.S., Sharfman, M., Uysal, V.B., 2010. Does Greenness Matter? Environmental Performance, Ownership Structure and Analyst Coverage. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1571596>

Fisher-Vanden, K., Thorburn, K.S., 2008. Voluntary Corporate Environmental Initiatives and Shareholder Wealth. doi:[10.2139/ssrn.1324983](https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1324983)

Freeman, R.E., 1984. Strategic management: A stakeholder approach. *Advances in strategic management* 1, 31–60. doi:[10.1017/cbo9781139192675.005](https://doi.org/10.1017/cbo9781139192675.005)

Friedman, M., 1970. The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits. *The New York Times Magazine*. doi:[10.1007/978-3-540-70818-6\\_14](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-70818-6_14)

Fulton, M., Kahn, B., Sharples, C., 2012. Sustainable Investing: Establishing Long-Term Value and Performance (SSRN Scholarly Paper No. ID 2222740). Social Science Research Network, Rochester, NY.

Gandrud, C., 2013. *Reproducible Research with R and R Studio*. Chapman and Hall/CRC., New York.

Gilley, K.M., Worrell, D.L., Davidson III, W.N., El-Jelly, A., 2000. Corporate environmental initiatives and anticipated firm performance: The differential effects of

process-driven versus product-driven greening initiatives. *Journal of management* 26, 1199–1216. doi:[10.1016/s0149-2063\(00\)00079-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0149-2063(00)00079-9)

Gistemp Team, 2018. GISS Surface Temperature Analysis (GISTEMP). NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. [WWW Document]. URL <https://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/>. (accessed 4.15.18).

Griffin, J.J., Mahon, J.F., 1997. The corporate social performance and corporate financial performance debate: Twenty-five years of incomparable research. *Business & society* 36, 5–31. doi:[10.1177/000765039703600102](https://doi.org/10.1177/000765039703600102)

Halbritter, G., Dorfleitner, G., 2015. The wages of social responsibility where are they? A critical review of ESG investing. *Review of Financial Economics* 26, 25–35. doi:[10.1016/j.rfe.2015.03.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rfe.2015.03.004)

Hamann, P.M., Schiemann, F., Bellora, L., Guenther, T.W., 2013. Exploring the Dimensions of Organizational Performance: A Construct Validity Study. *Organizational Research Methods* 16, 67–87. doi:[10.1177/1094428112470007](https://doi.org/10.1177/1094428112470007)

Hamilton, J.T., 1995. Pollution as news: Media and stock market reactions to the toxics release inventory data. *Journal of environmental economics and management* 28, 98–113. doi:[10.1006/jeem.1995.1007](https://doi.org/10.1006/jeem.1995.1007)

Hansen, J., Ruedy, R., Sato, M., Lo, K., 2010. Global surface temperature change. *Reviews of Geophysics* 48. doi:[10.1029/2010RG000345](https://doi.org/10.1029/2010RG000345)

Hart, S.L., Ahuja, G., 1996. Does it pay to be green? An empirical examination of the relationship between emission reduction and firm performance. *Business strategy and the Environment* 5, 30–37. doi:[10.1002/\(sici\)1099-0836\(199603\)5:1<30::aid-bse38>3.3.co;2-h](https://doi.org/10.1002/(sici)1099-0836(199603)5:1<30::aid-bse38>3.3.co;2-h)

Hausman, J.A., Taylor, W.E., 1981. Panel data and unobservable individual effects. *Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric Society* 1377–1398. doi:[10.2307/1911406](https://doi.org/10.2307/1911406)

Hlavac, M., 2018. Stargazer: Well-formatted regression and summary statistics tables. R package version 5.2.1.

Honaker, J., King, G., Blackwell, M., 2011. Amelia II: A program for missing data. *Journal of statistical software* 45, 1–47. doi:[10.18637/jss.v045.i07](https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v045.i07)

Houghton, J.T., Change, I.P. on C., 1996. *Climate Change 1995: The Science of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group I to the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press.

Hsiao, C., 2007. Panel data analysis - advantages and challenges. *TEST* 16, 1–22.

doi:[10.1007/s11749-007-0046-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11749-007-0046-x)

Husted, B.W., Allen, D.B., 2007. Strategic corporate social responsibility and value creation among large firms: Lessons from the Spanish experience. *Long range planning* 40, 594–610. doi:[10.5840/iabsproc20041528](https://doi.org/10.5840/iabsproc20041528)

ISO, 2013. Environmental management. Environmental performance evaluation. Guidelines. doi:[10.3403/30241113](https://doi.org/10.3403/30241113)

JP Stevens, J., 1984. Outliers and Influential data points in regression analysis. *Psychological Bulletin* 95, 334–344. doi:[10.1037/0033-2909.95.2.334](https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.95.2.334)

King, A.A., Lenox, M.J., 2002. Does It Really Pay to Be Green? An Empirical Study of Firm Environmental and Financial Performance: An Empirical Study of Firm Environmental and Financial Performance. *Journal of Industrial Ecology* 5, 105–116. doi:[10.1162/108819801753358526](https://doi.org/10.1162/108819801753358526)

Lewellen, W.G., Badrinath, S.G., 1997. On the measurement of Tobin's q. *Journal of financial economics* 44, 77–122. doi:[10.1016/s0304-405x\(96\)00013-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0304-405x(96)00013-x)

Li, S., Ngñiatedema, T., Chen, F., 2017. Understanding the Impact of Green Initiatives and Green Performance on Financial Performance in the US. *Bus. Strat. Env.* n/a–n/a. doi:[10.1002/bse.1948](https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.1948)

Li Suhong, Ngñiatedema Thomas, Chen Fang, 2017. Understanding the Impact of Green Initiatives and Green Performance on Financial Performance in the US. *Business Strategy and the Environment* 26, 776–790. doi:[10.1002/bse.1948](https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.1948)

Lioui, A., Sharma, Z., 2012. Environmental corporate social responsibility and financial performance: Disentangling direct and indirect effects. *Ecological Economics* 78, 100–111. doi:[10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.04.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.04.004)

Lu, W., Chau, K.W., Wang, H., Pan, W., 2014. A decade's debate on the nexus between corporate social and corporate financial performance: A critical review of empirical studies 20022011. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 79, 195–206. doi:[10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.04.072](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.04.072)

Lyu, Y., 2015. Detection of Outliers in Panel Data of Intervention Effects Model Based on Variance of Remainder Disturbance. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*. doi:[10.1155/2015/902602](https://doi.org/10.1155/2015/902602)

Manrique, S., Martí-Ballester, C.-P., 2017. Analyzing the Effect of Corporate Environmental Performance on Corporate Financial Performance in Developed and Developing Countries. *Sustainability* 9, 1957. doi:[10.3390/su9111957](https://doi.org/10.3390/su9111957)

McWilliams, A., Siegel, D.S., Wright, P.M., 2006. Corporate social responsibility:

Strategic implications. *Journal of management studies* 43, 1–18. doi:[10.1111/j.1467-6486.2006.00580.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-6486.2006.00580.x)

Meadows, D.H., Meadows, D.L., Randers, J., Behrens, W.W., 1972. The limits to growth. New York 102, 27.

Menguc, B., Ozanne, L.K., 2005. Challenges of the “green imperative”: A natural resource-based approach to the environmental orientationbusiness performance relationship. *Journal of Business Research* 58, 430–438. doi:[10.1016/j.jbusres.2003.09.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbusres.2003.09.002)

Miroshnychenko, I., Barontini, R., Testa, F., 2017. Green practices and financial performance: A global outlook. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 147, 340–351. doi:[10.1016/j.jclepro.2017.01.058](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2017.01.058)

Molina-Azorín, J.F., Claver-Cortés, E., López-Gamero, M.D., Tarí, J.J., 2009. Green management and financial performance: A literature review. *Management Decision* 47, 1080–1100. doi:[10.1108/00251740910978313](https://doi.org/10.1108/00251740910978313)

Montgomery, C.A., Wernerfelt, B., 1988. Diversification, Ricardian Rents, and Tobin’s q. *The RAND Journal of Economics* 19, 623. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/2555461>

Muhammad, N., Scrimgeour, F., Reddy, K., Abidin, S., 2015. The relationship between environmental performance and financial performance in periods of growth and contraction: Evidence from Australian publicly listed companies. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 102, 324–332. doi:[10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.04.039](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.04.039)

NOAA’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, n.d. Ocean Acidification [WWW Document]. URL <https://www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2/story/Ocean+Acidification> (accessed 5.14.18).

Opler, T.C., Titman, S., 1994. Financial Distress and Corporate Performance. *The Journal of Finance* 49, 1015–1040. doi:[10.1111/j.1540-6261.1994.tb00086.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-6261.1994.tb00086.x)

Orlitzky, M., Benjamin, J.D., 2001. Corporate social performance and firm risk: A meta-analytic review. *Business & Society* 40, 369–396. doi:[10.1177/000765030104000402](https://doi.org/10.1177/000765030104000402)

Orlitzky, M., Schmidt, F.L., Rynes, S.L., 2003. Corporate social and financial performance: A meta-analysis. *Organization studies* 24, 403–441. doi:[10.1177/0170840603024003910](https://doi.org/10.1177/0170840603024003910)

Orr John, Sackett Paul, Dubois Cathy, 1991. Outlier detection and treatment in i/o psychology: A survey of researcher beliefs and an empirical illustration. *Personnel Psychology* 44, 473–486. doi:[10.1111/j.1744-6570.1991.tb02401.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-6570.1991.tb02401.x)

Osborne, J.W., Overbay, A., 2004. The power of outliers (and why researchers

should always check for them). Practical assessment, research & evaluation 9, 1–12.

O’Brien, R.M., 2007. A caution regarding rules of thumb for variance inflation factors. *Quality & Quantity* 41, 673–690. doi:[10.1007/s11135-006-9018-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-006-9018-6)

Park, H.M., 2011. Practical guides to panel data modeling: A step by step analysis using Stata. Public Management and Policy Analysis Program, Graduate School of International Relations, International University of Japan.

Peloza, J., 2009. The challenge of measuring financial impacts from investments in corporate social performance. *Journal of Management* 35, 1518–1541.

Perfect, S.B., Wiles, K.W., 1994. Alternative constructions of Tobin’s q: An empirical comparison. *Journal of empirical finance* 1, 313–341. doi:[10.1016/0927-5398\(94\)90007-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0927-5398(94)90007-8)

Petit, J.-R., Jouzel, J., Raynaud, D., Barkov, N.I., Barnola, J.-M., Basile, I., Bender, M., Chappellaz, J., Davis, M., Delaygue, G., 1999. Climate and atmospheric history of the past 420,000 years from the Vostok ice core, Antarctica. *Nature* 399, 429. doi:[10.1038/20859](https://doi.org/10.1038/20859)

Pianosi, F., Beven, K., Freer, J., Hall, J.W., Rougier, J., Stephenson, D.B., Wagener, T., 2016. Sensitivity analysis of environmental models: A systematic review with practical workflow. *Environmental Modelling & Software* 79, 214–232. doi:[10.1016/j.envsoft.2016.02.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2016.02.008)

Pieter Tans, NOAA/ESRL, Ralph Keeling, 2018. ESRL Global Monitoring Division - Global Greenhouse Gas Reference Network - Mauna Loa CO2 records [WWW Document]. URL <https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/data.html> (accessed 5.15.18).

Pollet, T.V., Meij, L. van der, 2017. To Remove or not to Remove: The Impact of Outlier Handling on Significance Testing in Testosterone Data. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology* 3, 43–60. doi:[10.1007/s40750-016-0050-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40750-016-0050-z)

Porter, M.E., Hills, G., Pfitzer, M., Patscheke, S., Hawkins, E., 2011. Measuring shared value: How to unlock value by linking social and business results.

Porter, M.E., Kramer, M.R., 2011. The Big Idea: Creating Shared Value. How to reinvent capitalism and unleash a wave of innovation and growth. *Harvard Business Review* 89. doi:[10.2469/dig.v41.n1.28](https://doi.org/10.2469/dig.v41.n1.28)

Porter, M.E., van der Linde, C., 1995. Toward a New Conception of the Environment-Competitiveness Relationship. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 9,



97–118. doi:[10.1257/jep.9.4.97](https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.9.4.97)

Przychodzen, J., Przychodzen, W., 2015. Relationships between eco-innovation and financial performance evidence from publicly traded companies in Poland and Hungary. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 90, 253–263. doi:[10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.11.034](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2014.11.034)

Renneboog, L., Ter Horst, J., Zhang, C., 2008. Socially responsible investments: Institutional aspects, performance, and investor behavior. *Journal of Banking & Finance* 32, 1723–1742. doi:[10.1016/j.jbankfin.2007.12.039](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbankfin.2007.12.039)

Roberts, M.R., Whited, T.M., 2013. Chapter 7 - Endogeneity in Empirical Corporate Finance, in: Constantinides, G.M., Harris, M., Stulz, R.M. (Eds.), *Handbook of the Economics of Finance*. Elsevier, pp. 493–572. doi:[10.1016/B978-0-44-453594-8.00007-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-44-453594-8.00007-0)

Sabine, C.L., Feely, R.A., Gruber, N., Key, R.M., Lee, K., Bullister, J.L., Waininkhof, R., Wong, C.S.L., Wallace, D.W., Tilbrook, B., 2004. The oceanic sink for anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. *science* 305, 367–371. doi:[10.1126/science.1097403](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1097403)

Sánchez-Ballesta, J.P., García-Meca, E., 2007. A meta-analytic vision of the effect of ownership structure on firm performance. *Corporate Governance: An International Review* 15, 879–892. doi:[10.1111/j.1467-8683.2007.00604.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8683.2007.00604.x)

Scarpellini, S., Valero-Gil, J., Portillo-Tarragona, P., 2016. The “economicfinance interface” for eco-innovation projects. *International Journal of Project Management* 34, 1012–1025. doi:[10.1016/j.ijproman.2016.04.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijproman.2016.04.005)

Schmidheiny, K., 2015. *Short Guides to Microeconometrics. Panel Data, Fixed and Random Effects*.

Schultze, W., Trommer, R., 2012. The concept of environmental performance and its measurement in empirical studies. *Journal of Management Control* 22, 375–412. doi:[10.1007/s00187-011-0146-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00187-011-0146-3)

Semenova, N., Hassel, L.G., 2016. The moderating effects of environmental risk of the industry on the relationship between corporate environmental and financial performance. *J Applied Accounting Research* 17, 97–114. doi:[10.1108/JAAR-09-2013-0071](https://doi.org/10.1108/JAAR-09-2013-0071)

Song, H., Zhao, C., Zeng, J., 2017. Can environmental management improve financial performance: An empirical study of A-shares listed companies in China. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 141, 1051–1056. doi:[10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.09.105](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.09.105)

Surroca, J., Tribó, J.A., Waddock, S., 2010. Corporate responsibility and financial performance: The role of intangible resources. *Strategic management journal* 31, 463–490. doi:[10.1002/smj.820](https://doi.org/10.1002/smj.820)

Tabachnick, B.G., Fidell, L.S., 2007. *Using multivariate statistics*. Allyn & Ba-

con/Pearson Education.

Telle, K., 2006. “It pays to be green” a premature conclusion? *Environmental and Resource Economics* 35, 195–220. doi:[10.1007/s10640-006-9013-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10640-006-9013-3)

Testa, F., Boiral, O., Iraldo, F., 2018. Internalization of Environmental Practices and Institutional Complexity: Can Stakeholders Pressures Encourage Greenwashing? *J Bus Ethics* 147, 287–307. doi:[10.1007/s10551-015-2960-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-015-2960-2)

Verschoor, C.C., 1999. Corporate performance is closely linked to a strong ethical commitment. *Business and Society Review* 104, 407–415. doi:[10.1111/0045-3609.00074](https://doi.org/10.1111/0045-3609.00074)

Wang, Q., Dou, J., Jia, S., 2016. A Meta-Analytic Review of Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Financial Performance: The Moderating Effect of Contextual Factors. *Business & Society* 55, 1083–1121. doi:[10.1177/0007650315584317](https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650315584317)

Wright, S., 2004. Measures of Stock Market Value and Returns for the U.s. Non-financial Corporate Sector, 19002002. *Review of Income and Wealth* 50, 561–584. doi:[10.1111/j.0034-6586.2004.00140.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0034-6586.2004.00140.x)

Wu, M.-L., 2006. Corporate social performance, corporate financial performance, and firm size: A meta-analysis. *Journal of American Academy of Business* 8, 163–171.

Xie, S., Hayase, K., 2007. Corporate environmental performance evaluation: A measurement model and a new concept. *Business Strategy and the Environment* 16, 148–168. doi:[10.1002/bse.493](https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.493)

Zhang, K.Q., Chen, H.H., 2017. Environmental Performance and Financing Decisions Impact on Sustainable Financial Development of Chinese Environmental Protection Enterprises. *Sustainability* 9, 2260. doi:[10.3390/su9122260](https://doi.org/10.3390/su9122260)

Zuur, A.F., Ieno, E.N., Elphick, C.S., 2010. A protocol for data exploration to avoid common statistical problems. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 1, 3–14. doi:[10.1111/j.2041-210X.2009.00001.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2041-210X.2009.00001.x)