Bank Director.

## Breakout II: ESG Metrics: Are They Right for Your Bank's Incentive Plans?

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# ESG Metrics: Are They Right for Your Bank's Incentive Plans?

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#### **Background**

#### **¾Citizens** Financial Group, Inc.™

- Public Company
- Providence, RI
- \$227B Assets
- 995 Branches
- 17,463 Employees

#### **KeyBank**



- Public Company
- Cleveland, OH
- \$187B Assets
- 999 Branches
- 17,654 Employees





#### Agenda

- What is environmental, social and governance (ESG)
- Prevalence of ESG incentive plan metrics
- Approaches to measure ESG
- Role of management and Compensation Committee
- Shareholder and proxy advisory considerations



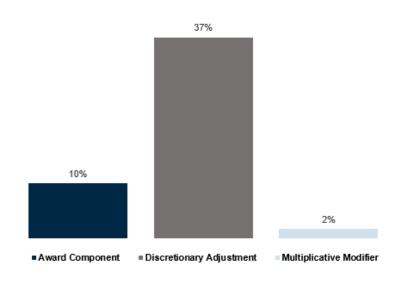
## Banks are Continuing to Assess Whether Incentives Should Incorporate ESG

- Investors continue to focus on ESG, including the use of ESG metrics in compensation programs
- ESG has become a critical factor in company culture, employee engagement and company reputation
- ESG metrics tend to vary by industry based on the companies' business strategy and ability to impact certain issues. Incentive plan metrics are typically related to "E" and "S"

Component	Areas of Focus	Prevalence
Environmental	Climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, carbon footprint, waste reduction, waste consumption, sustainable sourcing, and other sustainability efforts	Most common in industries such as energy, utilities, manufacturing and technology
Social	DE&I, human capital, pay equity, employee engagement, turnover / retention, and impact of a company's operations on society	Most common across all industries. Industries that have seen a particular increase include financial & professional services, retail and technology
Governance	Improving shareholder rights, board refreshment, aligning pay and performance and overall risk management	Least common of the three areas of ESG to include in incentives

#### ESG Prevalence Among Banks - Annual Incentive Plans

- Use of ESG metrics are used exclusively in the annual incentive plan vs. long-term incentive plans
- Most common approach to incorporate ESG metrics is a qualitative assessment to determine results rather than establishing specific quantitative targets
- Social issues tend to be the most prevalent, led by a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I)
- In the annual plan, 49% include ESG metrics (10% use a standalone weighted component, 37% use as a discretionary award adjustment and 2% use as a modifier)





#### Approaches to Using ESG in the Annual Incentive Plan

■ Three common approaches to measure ESG in the annual incentive plan

**Discretionary Consideration** 

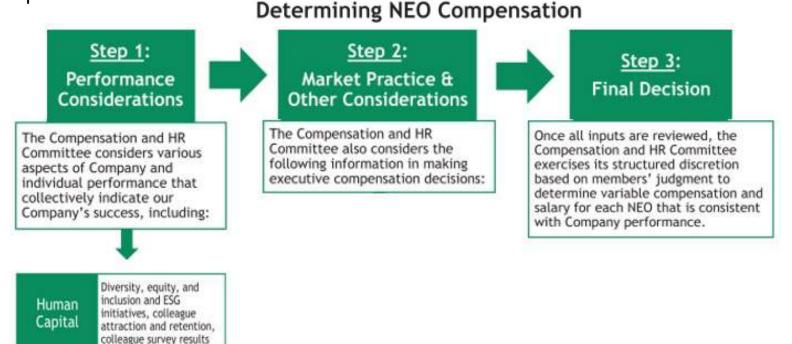
Weighted Component

**Modifier** 



#### Citizens Financial Group Approach

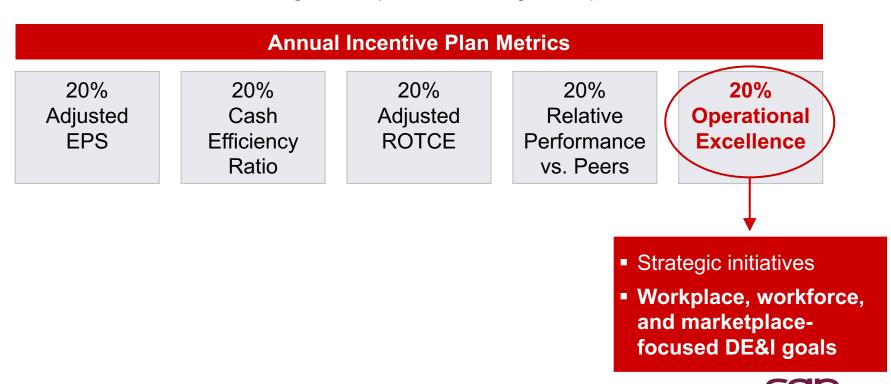
 Structured discretion determines variable compensation and incorporates DE&I performance in a qualitative manner





#### **KeyCorp Approach**

• Annual incentives include DE&I goals as part of a strategic component



**Source:** KeyCorp 2022 Proxy Statement

#### Is an ESG Metric Right for Your Bank?

## Identify ESG priorities

## Should ESG be a metric?

## Define ESG objectives



### Establish criteria



### Measure results

- What are the key issues impacting the bank?
- Which issues are the bank's priority?

How do ESG priorities relate to businss strategy?

- Where are you are today?
- Where do you want to be?
- How will you get there?

- How will we measure progress toward objectives?
- What can be achieved on an annual basis?

- Measure results against objectives
- Provide updates to the Committee



#### **Shareholder and Proxy Advisor Considerations**

- Discretionary vs. formulaic
- Quantitative vs. qualitative measurement
- Disclosure of goals

#### **Key Takeaways**

- ESG metrics are most commonly incorporated into the annual incentive plan
- DE&I metrics are the most common ESG metrics utilized among banks
- Typically measured in a qualitative manner
- Unintended consequenes
  - Disclosing missing a goal
  - Signaling importance of certain ESG metrics over others (e.g., DE&I vs. sustainability)
  - Differing perspectives from stakeholders
- Challenges of including ESG in the LTIP
- What gets measured, gets done



#### Creative Solutions from a Dedicated Team

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