



Multi and Water Utilities

Driving forces

The multi- and water-utilities industry is being transformed on many different fronts. The electricity market is undergoing a major transformation caused by the decarbonization and decentralization of power generation. Utilities need to develop innovative business models that adapt to these new political, economic and technical constraints within their environments. Gas markets, on the other hand, are being reshaped by the development of unconventional resources and the fact that natural gas is a cleaner and more flexible alternative to coal in power generation. However, gas utilities remain exposed to the risk of the long-term phase out of all fossil fuels. For water utilities, aging distribution and collection networks as well as opposition to privatization are key challenges in developed countries. Increasing water stress (when demand exceeds supply) and deteriorating water quality are additional challenges, while increased consumption and rapid infrastructure expansion are driving market growth in emerging markets. Leading companies perform active resource management, reduce water losses during distribution, and foster demand-side efficiency with innovative tariffs. Finally, electricity, water and gas are basic services that require proactive stakeholder engagement.

Highlighted criteria

Economic Dimension
 – Codes of Business Conduct
 – Corporate Governance
 – Market Opportunities

Environmental Dimension
 – Climate Strategy
 – Electricity Generation
 – Operational Eco-Efficiency
 – Water Related Risks

Social Dimension
 – Stakeholder Engagement
 – Talent Attraction & Retention

Sustainability leaders 2018

RobecoSAM Gold Class	
Veolia Environnement SA*	France
RobecoSAM Silver Class	
Engie SA	France
RobecoSAM Bronze Class	
Sempra Energy	United States
Suez	France
Sustainability Yearbook Members	
EPM Empresas Publicas de Medellin E.S.P. ¹	Colombia
United Utilities Group PLC	United Kingdom

* RobecoSAM Industry Mover

¹ This company was not assessed for inclusion in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices, but applying the same assessment methodology.

Industry statistics

Number of companies in universe	40
Number of companies assessed by RobecoSAM in 2017	29
Assessed companies to total companies in universe (%)	73
Market capitalization of assessed companies to total market capitalization (%)	86

Results at industry level

Dimension	Average score	Best score	Dimension weight
Economic	54	85	31
Environmental	47	92	42
Social	51	93	27

Total score

