

Climate, Politics Key Shareholder Concerns, Report Says

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Investors have filled 433 social and environmental resolutions so far this year, with climate change and political spending driving the most activity, according to a new report.

The Proxy Preview 2015 report found that proposals on climate change, energy and their related risks accounted for nearly 40 percent of the resolutions filed.

"Most of the climate resolutions ask companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to report on the risks from climate change on business operations," said Michael Passoff, CEO of Proxy Impact and co-author of the report.

Increased disclosure of corporate political spending before and after elections were third on the list, accounting for over a quarter of the total resolutions.

Human rights and diversity on the boards of corporations and in the workplace accounted for most of the remaining resolutions.

The Proxy Preview is a collaboration between three groups: As You Sow, a nonprofit organization that promotes corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy; the Sustainable Investments Institute, which conducts impartial research on social and environmental share-holder proposals; and Proxy Impact, a shareholder advocacy and proxy voting service for foundations, endowments, and socially responsible investors.