

A photograph of several wind turbines in a field, with mountains in the background. The image is slightly blurred, giving a sense of motion. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

RENEWABLE ENERGY & HUMAN RIGHTS BENCHMARK

The transition to a net-zero carbon economy is a human rights imperative for all peoples, but cannot come at the expense of the most vulnerable among us. This first global human rights benchmark examines the human rights policies of 16 of largest wind and solar companies.



**Business & Human Rights
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Overview

The movement for a just transition is growing.

Renewable energy is critical to achieve the goals of the **Paris climate agreement** and to ensure **sustainable energy access for all**.

However, the renewable energy sector is increasingly associated with **serious human rights abuses**

The industry must **act now** to mitigate impacts and avoid repeating the mistakes of other energy sectors

**THE TRANSITION
TO A
LOW-CARBON
ECONOMY MUST
BE FAST, BUT
ALSO FAIR.**



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Context

- Since 2010, we have identified **197 allegations** of human rights abuses related to renewable energy projects and asked **127 companies** to respond
- Allegations include: **killings, threats, and intimidation; land grabs; dangerous working conditions, violations of indigenous peoples' rights**
- Allegations have been made in **every region** and across **all 5 sub-sectors** of renewable energy
- The region with the highest number of allegations is **Latin America** (121 allegations, 61% of allegations).

COMPANY ALLEGATIONS 2010-2020



Note: Figure for 2020 only includes numbers recorded up to June.

Source: Business & Human Rights Resource Centre • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



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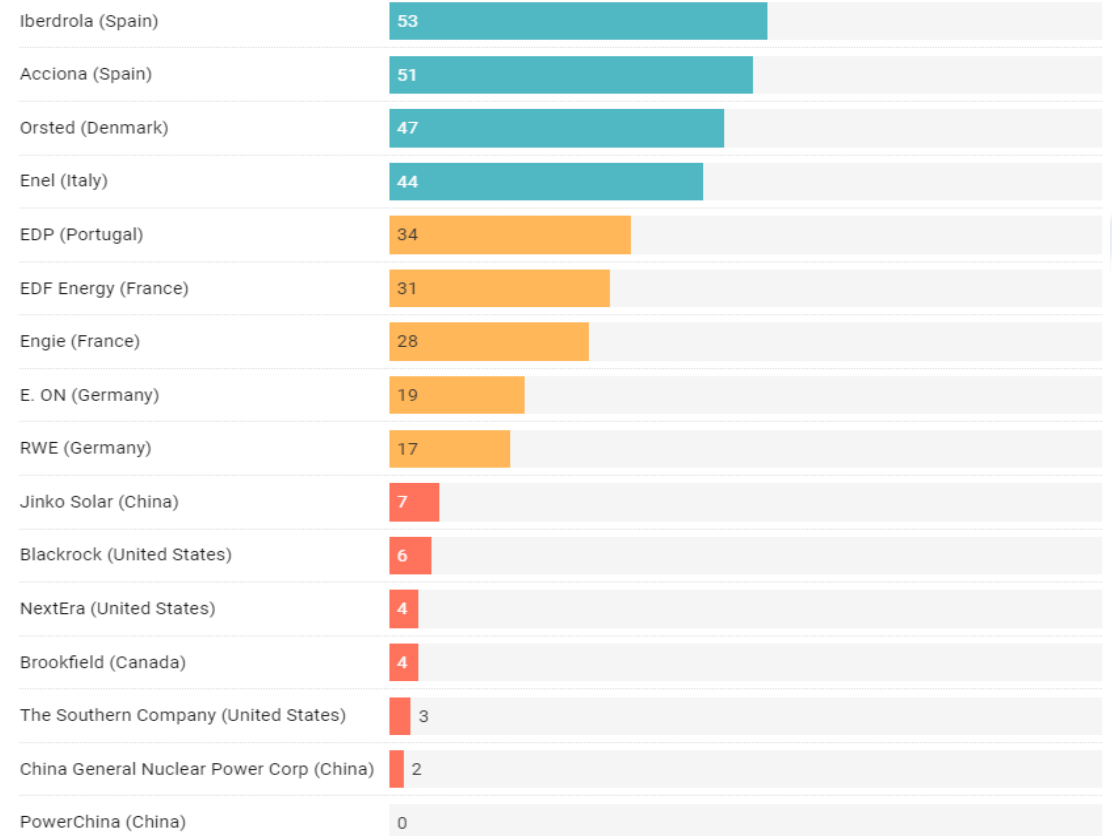
Benchmark Findings

- Nearly half the companies benchmarked scored below 10%, with three quarters scoring below 40%.
- The average score was just 22%
- This score, while low, is on par with other high-risk industries such as apparel, agricultural products, extractives, and ICT manufacturing.
- Companies scored particularly poorly on high risk issues frequently cited in allegations of abuse, such as respect land rights, land acquisition, & a just and fair relocation policy.



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COMPANY SCORES



Note: The scores above are visualised as weighted percentages.

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Supply chain human rights risks

TRANSITION MINERALS TRACKER

Tracking the human rights implications of the mineral boom powering the transition to a low-carbon economy.

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