

Gold Miner Polyus Tops New Environmental Ranking of Russian Firms

February 17, 2022



Polyus is one of the world's biggest gold miners. **Polyus**

Russian gold miner Polyus has been named the country's best prepared major company for the global energy transition in a new environmental index published Tuesday.

Research by [Sustainability Monitoring Russia](#) assessed more than 5,000 of Russia's largest firms to gauge which companies and industries look best set to weather the upheaval as major economies around the world move towards net zero and clean sources of energy. It is the first energy [transition rating](#) of its kind for Russia.

Russia is seen as one of the most vulnerable countries to the green transition and policies such as [carbon border taxes](#), with revenues from fossil fuels and commodities providing the majority of Russia's exports, a significant chunk of the government's income as well as millions of jobs.

Metals and mining firms were seen as well positioned — taking nine places in the top-50 ranking. While heavy energy users, several metallurgical companies rely on comparatively

clean hydropower for their energy, and goods such as nickel, [clean aluminium](#) and palladium are crucial components for electric vehicles and rechargeable super batteries.

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Polyus is Russia's largest gold miner, with annual revenue of around \$5 billion from its mining sites in Siberia and Russia's far east. The company's majority owner is 27-year old Said Kerimov, son of Suleyman Kerimov, an oligarch and politician from Russia's southern Dagestan region who is under U.S. sanctions.

Oil pipeline owner Transneft was ranked second, with electricity grid manager Rosseti claiming third spot.

The ranking combines a number of factors such as a firm's energy efficiency levels, how much revenue is generated per unit of energy, automation and adaption opportunities — an assessment of a company's "ability to support itself and develop with the emergence of new types of resources and energy."

Yulia Shulga, Director General of Sustainable Development Monitoring, said the index can be a tool to help assess Russia's ESG potential — a growing investment trend which assesses company performance on environmental, social and governance factors, as well as traditional profit-and-loss metrics.

"The rating is an important stage in assessing the potential of the Russian economy through the framework of sustainable development," she told The Moscow Times.

"We see this study as significant for both large business and the government, because the rating clearly shows the readiness of Russia's largest industrial holdings to lay the foundation for the country's future green economy."

After years as public skeptic of climate change, Russian President Vladimir Putin has recently moved to burnish his green credentials, [pledging](#) Russia will become carbon neutral by 2060. Russia is also launching various carbon trading pilot schemes across the country and, [controversially](#), sees potential to use its vast forest land as a way to heavily offset its greenhouse gas emissions.

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