**Variable definitions and descriptions**

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| Types | Name | Variable | Description | Unit |
| Explained variable | Corporate ESG Performance | ESG1 | Quarterly mean of the Huazheng ESG Score | - |
| ESG2 | Quarterly mean of Huazheng ESG Rating Scores assigned on a 1–9 scale | - |
| Core Explanatory Variable | Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor | QFII1 | Quarterly mean of QFII shareholdings | million shares |
| QFII2 | Quarterly mean of (QFII ownership ratio / Largest shareholder’s ownership ratio) | % |
| Mediating Variables | Green Technology Innovation | GTI | ln(number of green invention patent applications and green utility model patents + 1) | - |
| Green Investment | GI | Total green investment expenditure/Total assets | % |
| Green Expenses | GE | Total environmental management costs | million RMB |
| Moderating Variable | Information Transparency | TRANS | Constructed from percentile means of five  transparency-related variables | - |
| Control variables | Domestic institutional investor shareholdings | DII | Shareholding of Domestic Institutional Investors / Total Shares Outstanding | % |
| Return On Assets | ROA | Operating profit for the year/Total assets at the end of the year | % |
| Ratio of Independent Directors  Directors | INDEP | Number of independent directors/Number  of directors | % |
| Fixed Assets Ratio | FAP | Net fixed assets/Total assets | % |
| TobinQ | TobinQ | Market capitalization / (Total assets - Net intangible assets - Net goodwill) | - |
| Financial Leverage | LEV | Total liabilities/Total assets | % |
| Corporate Size | SIZE | Total assets | million RMB |
| Cash Flow Ratio | CFR | Net cash flows from operating activities/Total assets |  |