Behavioral Risk

How Market Perception of ESG Drives Beta Volatility



What Is Behavioral Risk in ESG?

Behavioral risk When investor perception ofESG, not fundamentals, moves markets.

- t affects volatility, valuation, and capital flows.
- It's emotional, fast, and can distort real risk.

Why Beta Matters

Beta = how a stock moves vs. the market.

- High beta → more volatile.
- **N** Low beta → more stable.

But what if ESG perception changes beta?

Real-World Case - Tesla

- Tesla dropped from S&P 500 ESG Index (May 2022).
- **Beta jumped from 1.8** \rightarrow 2.2 in 2 weeks.

Nothing changed in operations—just perception.

Why This Matters to Investors

- ESG isn't just about long-term sustainability.
 - It's now a short-term sentiment risk.

Model it like you model currency or policy risk.

Takeaway

If ESG can change beta >

It can also affect:

- **WACC**
- **★ Valuations**
- Portfolio exposure

Let's bring behavioral ESG risk into financial models.

Behavioral ESG Risk = Volatility Risk.

It's measurable. It's real. And it's growing.

