Research on the Present Situation and Countermeasures of Environmental Accounting Information Disclosure of Listed Companies in China

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Abstract: The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) proposes that building an ecological civilization is the Millennium Plan for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation. After entering the industrial society, people abused unrestricted resources in their production activities and discharged highly polluting substances that seriously exceeded the standards, causing continuous environmental degradation. Environmental accounting is an emerging field of accounting, which balances economic and environmental development through the effective combination of accounting management and environmental economy. This paper discusses that in the specific application of China's environmental accounting, it can start from various aspects such as law, education, society and so on to better promote the healthy development of green economy.

Keywords: Listed Company; Environmental Accounting; Information Disclosure

1. Method and content of environmental accounting information disclosure of listed companies in China

The specific mode of the company's environmental accounting information disclosure can be summarized as company annual report disclosure. Independent environmental report disclosure in specific forms are environmental report, environmental management report, environmental data manual. As a social responsibility and other activities combined disclosure, the specific form is: environmental and charity report, social and environmental cause report, corporate social responsibility report, global contribution report, corporate citizenship activity report.

Due to the lack of environmental accounting standards, the environmental information disclosed by China's listed companies is relatively fragmented and poorly comparable. In addition to the basic formation of environmental accounting information disclosure systems of related foreign listed companies, China's listed companies still lack a lot of practical explorations, such as only reflecting environmental accounting information in the form of textual explanations in the annual report of the board of directors and the notes to the accounting statements. The length of the report is relatively small, and a small number of independent reports are prepared. They rarely enter the reporting system, and the qualitative information is seriously insufficient.

In addition, the disclosure of environmental accounting information of listed companies in China is extremely casual. Although companies will disclose environmental accounting information on official websites, most of them are not updated in time and the quality is not high. In addition, the environmental accounting information disclosed by listed companies in different industries is completely different, resulting in inconsistent information. Most companies
disclose environmental accounting information in accordance with their own preferences.

This article believes that the main contents of environmental accounting information disclosure of China's listed companies include: 1) environmental accounting objects (changes in environmental assets to corporate assets, liabilities, owner's equity, income and expenditure); 2) environmental factors; 3) corporate environment performance and environmental accounting policies and systems followed by the company.

Although the number of Chinese environmental report companies has increased in recent years, the total number is still small, and the environmental reports disclosed by most companies are not really different from traditional financial accounting, and specific environmental accounting elements and information are not separately collected the value of the disclosure report is low.

2. Deficiencies in disclosure of environmental accounting information of listed companies in China

2.1 Lack of normative value of information

In the existing domestic environmental accounting information disclosure system, it is difficult to establish uniform disclosure standards, which has become an important factor affecting the quality of environmental accounting information disclosure. The green accounting information disclosed by listed companies in China is often only a one-sided expression of the company's environmental protection efforts. For environmental damage, companies often pass on or do not disclose it. At the same time, most of the information disclosed by companies on official websites has not been updated for years, and has only a very low practical value. Many listed companies have a single mode of information disclosure and lack of systematicness. They mainly use text descriptions, but simply explain environmental protection concepts, environmental protection measures, and environmental protection strategies, and lack of interpretation of specific data, which makes the use value of the disclosed information not high. It seems too hollow and qualitative. Today, the disclosure of environmental accounting information in the form of independent reports has become the first choice of many foreign companies. In contrast, the way in which listed companies in China disclose information appears to be outdated. It is just that environmental information is scattered throughout the annual report, which is difficult to let people value it.

2.2 Listed companies lack initiative

With the development of green finance, people pay increasingly attention to the disclosure of environmental accounting information. However, the state only encourages most companies to disclose environmental accounting information, and there are no laws and no regulations to make clear mandatory regulations. In fact, according to the information disclosure of listed companies in China, only 40% of the information disclosure of listed companies in recent years, due to the pressure of public opinion or the environmental requirements of relevant departments, they were forced to disclose a small amount of information to deal with government supervision casually. The disclosure is only a small part of the environmental information. Among the heavily polluting companies with high disclosure rates, the disclosure of environmental information is not necessarily voluntary. Compared with the developed countries in the United States, Japan, and Europe, the level of environmental accounting information disclosure in China is generally low, and the degree of importance attached to it. There is an urgent need for further strengthening.

2.3 Inadequate social supervision

With the explosion of natural disasters and the gradual degradation of ecosystems, environmental issues have become an important factor in social risks, and society should require corporate management to take environmentally responsible actions. However, an enterprise is a for-profit organization. It is both an information discloser and a user of information. There is a natural contradiction between disclosure and use. In order to protect their own interests, the information disclosed by enterprises often tends to avoid benefits, which has caused prominent
problems in information disclosure violations and counterfeiting in China. Only a few companies will hire third-party organizations for verification in order to improve the credibility of the disclosure. But even if the amount of environmental information reviewed by third parties increases year by year, they are still very rare. As we all know, in the absence of industry supervision, it is difficult for third parties to guarantee the authenticity and objectivity of their verification information work, and the reliability of environmental accounting information needs to be improved. In addition to external review agencies, the public can also contribute to the protection of the environment. However, they simply thought that as long as they did not damage the environment, they did not expect that they could participate in the disclosure of corporate environmental accounting information. Therefore, raising public awareness can also strengthen the supervision of corporate environmental accounting information disclosure.

3. Countermeasures and suggestions on environmental accounting information disclosure of listed companies in China

3.1 Learning from foreign achievements

Environmental accounting is still in its infancy in China, and there are still many deficiencies in systems and practices. The theoretical system applicable to environmental accounting information disclosure needs to be continuously improved. And due to the diversity of environmental accounting method systems and the complexity of accounting objects, especially no breakthrough in measurement, many studies have not been proved by practice, and theoretical research is still in its infancy, making environmental accounting information disclosure blind spots.

Therefore, Chinese researchers must absorb the achievements of developed western countries, learn from the practical experience and wrong lessons of green accounting in Europe, America, and Japan, and adjust and formulate appropriate green accounting system guarantees in combination with China's national conditions and development trends to ensure that China Smooth implementation of green accounting. Meanwhile, China should strengthen its encouragement policy, learn from developed countries how to link environmental accounting information disclosure with shareholders' interests, and encourage more companies to voluntarily disclose information with higher use value.

3.2 Improve China's laws and regulations

Due to the existence of the company's own interests, the company will not be able to obtain substantial benefits without the protection of laws and regulations, thus losing the motivation to implement the corresponding policies. In the traditional accounting, the Accounting Law escorted it, but because the development of environmental accounting started relatively late, there were no legal provisions related to environmental accounting in the Accounting Law, which severely hindered the implementation of green accounting policies. pace. Only when the government and relevant departments clearly clarify the promotion value of green accounting and formulate corresponding legal provisions to ensure its legal status, can it be ensured that environmental accounting can be implemented normally and has legal compliance. Based on the premise of the development of China's green economy, the focus of laws and regulations is on the disclosure subject and the content of the disclosure, forming a unified national standard, and ensuring that annual financial comparisons and special review can be performed like financial statements, and environmental accounting information disclosure is improved. The actual operability can greatly facilitate the comparison, learning and development between enterprises. Strict institutionalization and increasing the legal risk of violating environmental information disclosure obligations can make environmental accounting better rooted in people's hearts and enable the smooth implementation of China's sustainable development strategy.

3.3 Strengthen enterprise internal control

The effective implementation of environmental accounting information disclosure requires not only the implementation of relevant laws and regulations, but also the mastery of environmental knowledge by the corresponding financial staff of the enterprise. However, at present, the overall level of environmental accounting in
China is not high, and environmental accounting talents are scarce. It is impossible to accurately and effectively calculate, verify and disclose environmental accounting information of enterprises. Therefore, it is necessary for enterprises to strengthen the training of accounting personnel's disclosure of relevant information.

Only by understanding the internal relationship between the development of the enterprise and the environment, and improving their own environmental awareness, can they enhance their core competitiveness and better promote environmental accounting information disclosure. Implementation in the enterprise. At the same time, from the small to the large, a small number of finance and accounting personnel gradually instill the concept of green accounting to other people in the enterprise, establish a correct awareness throughout the enterprise, and promote a virtuous circle of environmental accounting knowledge development and transmission. Enterprises should also strengthen internal training in environmental awareness and conduct environmental education lectures, especially for the management of enterprises, so that they can consider environmental issues while pursuing benefits, and truly recognize the seriousness of environmental issues.

3.4 Enhancing public participation

The work of improving the disclosure of corporate environmental accounting information is not limited to government departments and related enterprises. Every social public must also participate in and work together towards the goal of comprehensive development of green finance. In the past year, with the gradual implementation of the garbage classification policy in major cities in China, the popularization of basic environmental protection knowledge and the promotion of media, China's urban residents' awareness of basic environmental protection knowledge has increased significantly, but this is not a problem. Corporate pollution behavior is under significant and effective pressure. According to the 2019 Survey on the Environmental Awareness of Chinese Urban Residents released by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Public Opinion and Public Opinion Survey Research Center believes that although the public's environmental awareness has improved greatly compared with previous years, how to maintain the high level of environmental awareness is translated into practical actions to protect the environment, and guiding the public to effectively monitor polluting enterprises has become a key issue.

4. Conclusion

In the book, *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, states that building a beautiful China is about the well-being of the people and the future of the nation. Due to the excessive pursuit of economic development in the early days, China's environment has been greatly damaged, which has seriously threatened the stability of social ecology, and China has also experienced ecological compensation for 40 years.

The original intentions of environmental accounting and sustainable development strategy are the same. Through the implementation of the environmental accounting information disclosure policy, companies can make society more constrained by environmental resources and better protect the ecological environment. Therefore, we must, based on the actual situation, draw on the advanced theoretical achievements of developed foreign countries, standardize the regulations and systems for the disclosure of environmental accounting information of listed companies in China, and at the same time strengthen internal education and training for the participation of the entire population, promotion of the common development of economy, society and environmental protection requires the joint participation, cooperation and innovation of enterprises, governments and society. The coordination and integration of environmental benefits, economic benefits and social benefits can better realize the sustainable development of our society and economy.

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