



## Work Area 17 Business Environment

### 3.31 Support Environmental Sustainability

- LO96 Demonstrate ability to support the concept of “sustainability” through the establishment and maintenance of procedures to minimize waste, recycle materials and correctly dispose of hazardous materials.



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Work Area Code:	17
Work area title:	Business Environment
Unit Code:	3.31
Unit Title:	Support Environmental Sustainability
Learning Outcomes Nos:	LO96
Learning Outcomes titles:	Demonstrate ability to support the concept of “sustainability” through the establishment and maintenance of procedures to minimize waste, recycle materials and correctly dispose of hazardous materials.
Recommended Duration:	2 hours
Trainer:	



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- What is environmental sustainability and environmental protection?
- Why Are They Important?

## Group discussion



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# Introduction to the program – Definitions

- **Environmental sustainability:**
  - The maintenance of the factors and practices that contribute to the quality of environment on a long-term basis.
  - Is the rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely. If they cannot be continued indefinitely then they are not sustainable.



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- **Pollution:**

- the introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that cause adverse change.
- Pollution can take the form of chemical substances or energy, such as noise, heat or light.
- Pollutants, the components of pollution, can be either foreign substances/energies or naturally occurring contaminants.



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# Introduction to the program – Definitions

- **Environmental protection:**
  - Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the natural environment on individual, organization controlled or governmental levels, for the benefit of both the environment and humans.
  - Policies and procedures aimed at conserving the natural resources, preserving the current state of natural environment and, where possible, reversing its degradation.



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- What is Sustainability?
  - The definition of “sustainability” is the study of how natural systems function, remain diverse and produce everything it needs for the ecology to remain in balance. It also acknowledges that human civilization takes resources to sustain our modern way of life.
  - Sustainability takes into account how we might live in harmony with the natural world around us, protecting it from damage and destruction.
- What is Economic development?
  - The process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people.



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- The Primary Goals of Sustainability:

- The end of poverty and hunger.
- Better standards of education and healthcare - particularly as it pertains. to water quality and better sanitation.
- To achieve gender equality.
- Sustainable economic growth while promoting jobs and stronger economies.
- All of the above and more while tackling the effects of climate change, pollution and other environmental factors that can harm and do harm people's health, livelihoods and lives.
- Sustainability to include health of the land, air and sea.



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- Sustainability criteria

- Quality of life

- Quality of life (QOL) is the general well-being of individuals and societies, outlining negative and positive features of life. It observes life satisfaction, including everything from physical health, family, education, employment, wealth, religious beliefs, finance and the environment.

- Climate change

- Climate change is a change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns when that change lasts for an extended period of time and may refer to a change in average weather conditions, or in the time variation of weather around longer-term average conditions.
    - Is caused by factors such as biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics, and volcanic eruptions.
    - Certain human activities have also been identified as significant causes of recent climate change, often referred to as global warming.



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- **Environmental Sustainability**

- How environmental sustainability can impact organizational growth:
  - The goal of environmental sustainability is to conserve natural resources and to develop alternate sources of power while reducing pollution and harm to the environment.
  - Many of the projects that are rooted in environmental sustainability will involve replanting forests, preserving wetlands and protecting natural areas from resource harvesting.
  - The biggest criticism of environmental sustainability initiatives is that their priorities can be at odds with the needs of a growing industrialized society.



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1. Environment Degradation
2. Human Health
3. Global Warming
4. Ozone Layer Depletion
5. Infertile Land



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# Actions that support Sustainable development

- Sustainable development:

- Has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.
- To be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.



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# Examples of actions for improvement

- Reducing waste of energy resources and materials

- This includes waste from our kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, gardens, and from building and construction activities.
- National strategies and targets
  - The government sets recycling targets for local councils.
  - Government grants are available for businesses and households installing environmentally friendly technologies, such as solar panels.
  - New buildings have strict national guidelines for energy efficiency.

Love your environment



...be proud of it.

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# Examples of actions for improvement

- Local strategies and targets
  - Combined Heat and Power systems can be put in place.
  - Apartments are served by one community boiler, reducing energy wastage and costs.
  - Schools and communities can also put in place measures - such as recycling bins or informative posters - to raise awareness of energy wastage (eg reminding people to turn lights off).



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# Examples of actions for improvement

- Recycling materials

- Recycling means your waste products go on to become useful to someone else. Recycling also helps make sure that there'll be enough resources left for later generations.
- By using waste materials rather than new materials, manufacturers can avoid the cost and impacts of extracting, refining, transporting and processing raw materials. It also means that the amount of waste going to landfill is reduced.
  - Kerbside recycling.
  - Aluminium and steel.
  - Paper.
  - Plastics.
  - Recycling centres.
  - Recycling organic materials.



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# How to improve the environmental performance

- Improving business performance

- Reduce costs by improving your environmental performance
  - Use energy more efficiently.
  - Reduce your waste.
  - Invest to save.
  - Cut your tax bill (Enhanced Capital Allowances).
  - Improve employee performance (enjoy working for ethically driven companies).



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# Environmental management systems

- Environmental Management System (EMS)
  - Is a set of processes and practices that enable an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency.
- Basic Elements of an EMS include the following:
  - Reviewing the organization's environmental goals.
  - Analyzing its environmental impacts and legal requirements.
  - Setting environmental objectives and targets to reduce environmental impacts and comply with legal requirements.
  - Establishing programs to meet these objectives and targets.
  - Monitoring and measuring progress in achieving the objectives.
  - Ensuring employees' environmental awareness and competence.
  - Reviewing progress of the EMS and making improvements.



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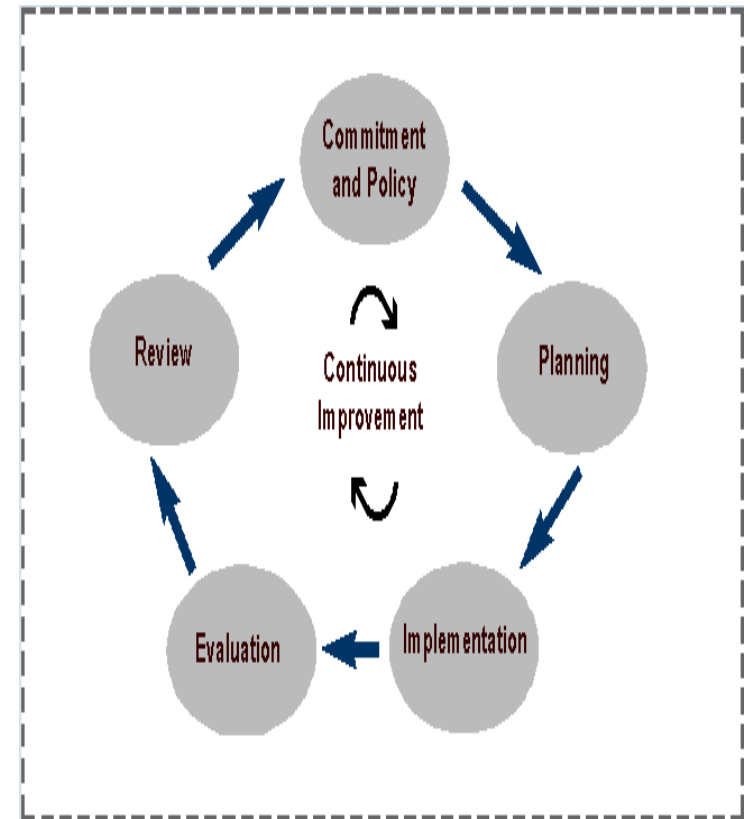
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# Environmental management systems

- Potential Benefits

- Improved environmental performance.
- Enhanced compliance.
- Pollution prevention.
- Resource conservation.
- New customers/markets.
- Increased efficiency/reduced costs.
- Enhanced employee morale.
- Enhanced image with public, regulators, lenders, investors.
- Employee awareness of environmental issues and responsibilities.



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- Legal basis in E.U.

- Articles 11 and 191 to 193 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The EU is competent to act in all areas of environment policy, such as air and water pollution, waste management and climate change. Its scope for action is limited by the principle of subsidiarity and the requirement for unanimity in Council in the fields of fiscal matters, town and country planning, land use, quantitative water resource management, choice of energy sources and structure of energy supply.



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- The **purpose of environmental law** is to protect and preserve the **environment**.
- **environmental law** protects land, air, water, and soil.



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- Does your company have a formal Environmental Sustainability program?

## Group discussion



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# Methodological tool

## Environmental Sustainability

EUPANEXT\_LO\_96\_M\_01



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# Review Questions/Activities

- Review Question 1
  - Explain the concept of “environmental sustainability”.
- Review Question 2
  - Identify the core principles and benefits of environmental management systems.



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- Key Point 1

- Support the concept of “sustainability” through the establishment and maintenance of procedures to minimize waste, recycle materials and correctly dispose of hazardous materials.



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# Well Done!

## You have completed this unit



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