

COGSBP03

Evaluate a Sustainability Policy



Overview

This standard is about evaluating a sustainability policy for an organisation in support of sustainable business practice. A sustainability policy is a written statement summarising the organisation's intentions with regard to sustainability.

The role described by this standard requires evaluating existing sustainability policy to ensure that it is capable of supporting the development of sustainable business practice. The involvement of other stakeholders, both internal and external to the organisation, is an important part of the evaluation process.

The standard also requires that recommendations for policy improvement are made in respect to the further development of sustainable business practice.

Finally, it requires that the policy is presented to stakeholders to gain the support essential to its implementation.

Target Group

This standard is for those responsible for supporting the development of sustainable business practice. It is likely to apply to senior managers within large organisations and owner/managers within SMEs..

COGSBP03

Evaluate a Sustainability Policy

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 evaluate existing organisational performance against sustainability policy objectives and targets
 - P2 obtain the views of **stakeholders** on the effectiveness of existing sustainability policy
 - P3 identify the **drivers** that influence the sustainability policy and the development of sustainable business practice
 - P4 analyse all available data to identify **improvements** to sustainability policy to further develop sustainable business practice
 - P5 recommend valid policy **improvements** according to organisational requirements, applicable legislation and recommended good practice
 - P6 ensure that policy **improvements** are measurable, clear and appropriate to the nature and scale of the organisation and are in a suitable format for stakeholders
 - P7 communicate policy recommendations to **stakeholders** including decision makers
 - P8 encourage feedback from stakeholders on the content of the policy recommendations

COGSBP03

Evaluate a Sustainability Policy

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legislation, industry standards, and voluntary codes that support the development of sustainability policy
- K2 the economic, social and environmental principles that underpin sustainable development and sustainable business practice
- K3 how to integrate and balance the economic, social and environmental principles of sustainability within business values and policy
- K4 how sustainability policy can support human well-being and environmental developments
- K5 the purpose of a sustainability policy
- K6 the drivers that influence sustainable development
- K7 how to analyse data to identify improvements to sustainability policy
- K8 existing organisational commitment to sustainable business practice
- K9 the systems in place, if any, for evaluating a sustainability policy
- K10 the role of stakeholders in policy review
- K11 the importance of engaging stakeholders in the review process

COGSBP03

Evaluate a Sustainability Policy

Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Stakeholders include:

- 1 decision makers
- 2 organisational colleagues
- 3 customers
- 4 suppliers

Drivers include:

- 1 legislation
- 2 compliance
- 3 government policy
- 4 organisational governance
- 5 good practice
- 6 economic commitment
- 7 human well-being
- 8 global citizenship
- 9 environmental
- 10 innovation

Improvements relating to:

- 1 economic sustainability
- 2 social and ethical sustainability
- 3 environmental sustainability

COGSBP03

Evaluate a Sustainability Policy

Developed by Cogent

Version number 1

Date approved October 2011

Indicative review date October 2014

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Cogent

Original URN COGSBP03

Relevant occupations Senior Manager; Owner/Manager

Suite Sustainable Business Practice

Key words evaluate; sustainability; policy
