

Overview

This standard is about developing 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 the development of a sustainability policy that is capable of supporting the development of sustainable business practice. It requires that current business practice is reviewed and that policy recommendations for improvement are made in respect to the further development of sustainable business practice.

Finally, it requires that the policy is presented to decision makers in a clear and relevant format, to gain the support essential to its implementation.

This standard would be appropriate 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.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 identify organisational commitments to sustainable business practice
- P2 consult with stakeholders to obtain their views on sustainability
- P3 use visioning techniques to determine drivers for change and the scope of sustainability policy
- P4 identify potential opportunities for developing organisational sustainability
- P5 develop a sustainability policy based on realistic and achievable sustainability objectives
- P6 confirm that the policy recommendations are valid, recorded in a suitable format and based on recognised drivers for change
- P7 confirm that the policy includes a commitment to continuous improvement
- P8 confirm that the policy provides a framework capable of delivering measurable sustainability objectives
- P9 confirm the policy is clear and appropriate to the nature and scale of the organisation and is in a suitable format for stakeholders
- P10 communicate the policy to stakeholders
- P11 encourage dialogue with stakeholders on the content of the policy
- P12 establish the systems and procedures required to support the implementation of the sustainability policy

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legislation, industry standards, circular economy and voluntary codes that support the development of a 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, such as improved bio-diversity
- K5 the purpose of a sustainability policy
- K6 how to determine organisational commitment to sustainability and sustainable business practice
- K7 visioning techniques
- K8 drivers for change and their role in determining sustainability policy
- K9 guidelines and good practice relating to the content of a sustainability policy
- K10 the techniques and processes used to identify opportunities for improving sustainability
- K11 the role of continuous improvement in sustainable business practice
- K12 the global impact of organisational sustainability
- K13 how to engage the different stakeholders in the development of sustainable business practice

Scope/range

Commitments include:

- 1 economic
- 2 social and ethical
- 3 environmental

Stakeholders include:

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

Drivers for change include:

- 1 legislation
- 2 compliance
- 3 government policy
- 4 organisational sustainability strategy
5. international policies and practices
- 5 customer perception
- 6 economic
- 7 social and ethical
- 8 global citizenship
- 9 environmental
- 10 innovation

Sustainability objectives include:

- 1 economic
- 2 social and ethical
- 3 environmental

Develop a Sustainability Policy

Developed by Cogent

Version Number 2

Date Approved 30 Mar 2020

Indicative Review Date 30 Mar 2026

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating Organisation Cogent

Original URN COGSBP02

Relevant Occupations Director, Environmental Manager, Farm Manager, Farmer, Technical Staff, Unit manager

Suite Sustainable Business Practice

Keywords develop; sustainability; policy
