

Questions to consider in your sustainability management

Business concept

Is your business concept sustainable?

Can you increase business benefit by thinking more about sustainability in the business concept development stage?

Do you have to offer a product rather than a service?

Can you ensure that the product you offer is used more efficiently (e.g. via hiring out, sharing, repairing, organising a second-hand market, etc.)?

What happens to your product at the end of its service life? Does it contain materials that you (or someone else) can use?

Governance and management

Which sustainability issues are of greatest importance in your operations? Consider this in terms of both risks (climate change, supplier chains, etc.) and new opportunities. How is your business facing these challenges?

Does sustainability feature (e.g. as policies and visions) in your enterprise's governing documents. How do you keep these governing documents living and meaningful for your employees?

Is your business legally obliged to submit sustainability reports? (This applies to businesses with more than 250 employees.)

Product development and design

Are your products designed to be easily shared by several users, repaired, upgraded, reused, and recycled?

Have you taken hazardous substances into consideration at the product development stage?

Can you provide information on how your products should be used to minimise negative environmental impact?

Production

Do you require active sustainability management from your suppliers?

Do you monitor suppliers' sustainability management?

Do you check your suppliers' work environments?

Do you check your suppliers' working conditions?

Do you use environment-friendly materials/raw materials in your products?

When purchasing, do you chose products that have some form of eco or Fairtrade labelling?

Do the products you sell have some form of eco or Fairtrade labelling?

Do you take materials, chemicals, water use and animal protection into consideration when planning your production?

Distribution and transport

Do you use ecological transport for the carriage and distribution of your products?

Is your packaging recyclable or reusable?

How can your goods be packaged to take up as little packaging space as possible?

Do your products need to be transported?

Which type of transport is the most energy efficient?

Do your transport companies have environmental certification?

Reusing and recycling

Can you, for example, offer repair, repossession, reuse or recycling of your products?

Do you give customers information on how they can handle your products to reduce negative environmental impact?

At the workplace

How do you manage the work environment as regards, for example, diversity and equal opportunities in your business?

Do you deal with issues such as employee pension fund investments and helping employees to have sustainable pension saving?

Have you implemented measures to reduce emissions from, for example, travel and energy savings for staff?

Instead of travelling, could you hold telemeetings?

Do you sort waste at source?

Communication

Is sustainability a central message in your communications?

Do you describe how you work with sustainability: on your website; when you meet customers; and, in social media or other channels?