Materiality

We help identify and prioritize the sustainability issues that matter most to your business.

Why materiality?

A materiality assessment identifies the main sustainability issues facing your business.

- As new stakeholder campaigns, public policy debates, standards, regulations and global events demand the attention of companies all over the world, the volume of potential material issues continues to grow.

- A materiality assessment helps your company navigate the sustainability landscape and build a plan for focusing on and responding to the most important issues for your business.

- Leading companies use materiality assessments as a foundation for sustainability strategy development, target setting and stakeholder engagement.

What are the benefits?

Once we’ve carried out an assessment, you’ll be better positioned to:

- Integrate sustainability issues into your core business strategy.

- Allocate limited resources more effectively.

- Satisfy stakeholder demands and needs.

- Anticipate and address emerging issues.

- Meet sustainability reporting expectations.

- Strengthen communications around sustainability.

- Develop metrics to drive performance.
Our approach and scope of services
We have several core steps that we prioritize in our approach to materiality including:

1. Explore existing issues and landscape
   • Thorough research to identify issues.
   • Carry out internal and external interviews.
   • Attract buy-in from internal stakeholders.
   • Targeted research including interviews with external experts and peers.

2. Map issues to the value chain and assess risks/opportunities
   • Develop a methodology that aligns with internal systems, analyze positive and negative impacts, and map issues to your value chain.

3. Prioritize issues that matter the most
   • Evaluate issues based on a range of criteria such as business impact, societal impact, stakeholder concern and ability to influence.
   • Finalize a shortlist of material issues that should be the focus of your strategy.

4. Make way for integration
   • Share results and insights internally.
   • Apply to internal engagement and external communications.
   • Create visualizations that show how issues impact your business and value chain.

Our experience

Making the future the cause of our present.
We inspire and enable businesses like yours to lead the transition to a more sustainable economy. Since 1987, we have worked tirelessly to catalyze innovation and provide solutions to make businesses and markets more sustainable. We are at the forefront of the sustainability agenda.

Our knowledge is extensive — we know what works and what doesn’t for hundreds of other organizations. We are uniquely positioned to advise clients on how to collaborate in ways that give your business the greatest potential to deliver change on a huge scale.

Some of our materiality clients...

Are you ready?
Understanding what’s important for your business is the first step to defining your strategy for the future.

Get in touch
Learn more about how we can help you

- sustainability.com
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