

### QUESTION

What is a sustainability strategy?

- Why does my organisation need a sustainability strategy?
- Will this be relevant to my organisation?
- How do I develop a sustainability strategy?
- How do I embed this within my organisation?
- What are the disadvantages?

#### **ANSWER**

- A sustainability strategy is a strategy focussed on how a business can take actionable steps to improve their overall impact on their stakeholders in a positive way. By having a defined strategy, you are able to plan how you are going to reach your targets over a defined period. This could include related ESG and CSR strategies that feed into an overall Sustainability strategy.
- To effectively integrate sustainable practices within your organisation you need to develop a strategy to align the overall objectives of your organisation, enabling you to meet the needs of your stakeholders. Embedding sustainability within your overall strategy requires a change in mind-set, it is not just an add-on.
- A strategy encompassing sustainability can be embedded no matter what your organisation's size or what sector you sit within. You just need to adjust the goals of the strategy to best fit your organisation's aims, objectives and purpose.
- There are several steps involved in developing a sustainability strategy; these are outlined within this section. It is a process that requires time and commitment but is a worthwhile process if you believe it will add value to your organisation and community.
- Culture plays a crucial role in the integration of a sustainability strategy. It requires commitment from the top and throughout the organisation. Having clear objectives in place ensures that colleagues are all working towards a shared goal.
- Having a defined strategy with set targets means that if you fail to meet those targets, you'll be held accountable by your stakeholders. There is also additional time resource that will need to go into creating initial strategy.

# **DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABILITY**

## **STRATEGY**

How you build and develop a sustainability strategy will differ from other organisations as the context you operate within will differ. Your culture will play a vital role in the effective implementation of a new strategy. When reading through each step, consider how they might relate to your organisation and what ideas you could use for development and implementation.

Step 1: Analyse the impact your organisation has on the environment and society it sits within. Conduct research into the emissions your organisation creates, where there are gaps in your policies and

procedures, what activities produce

the most waste etc.



Step 2: Benchmark against other organisations to help you visualise where you want your business to get to. This will involve doing some research into your competitors and researching best practice in your industry sector.



Step 3: Analyse the data and information you have collected surrounding best practice alongside the information you have gathered about your organisation.





Developing a strategy is a continuous process that needs to be constantly reviewed – it should not be viewed with a 'one and done' approach.



What external pressures are there?

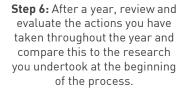


Engage with

Monitor actions



**Step 4**: Use the analysis to develop a set of criteria that you can assess your progress against (SMART targets and objectives).





Step 5: Take action! The implementation of the actions identified through your research.



These targets and objectives will form the basis of your strategy.

(Based on the framework developed by the Energy Saving Trust, 2021)



Being aware of what the trends in the regulations are can help your organisation to prepare, as the disclosures may involve gathering new data sets or analysing your business in a way you hadn't considered before.

Your sustainability strategy will also need to be re-reviewed so that it encompasses what the regulations are asking you to address as there may be things you have overlooked.

**European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)** 

CLICK ON EACH REPORTING STANDARD TO FIND OUT MORE.

Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)

IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards – IFRS S1 & IFRS S2

**Anti-greenwashing rules** 

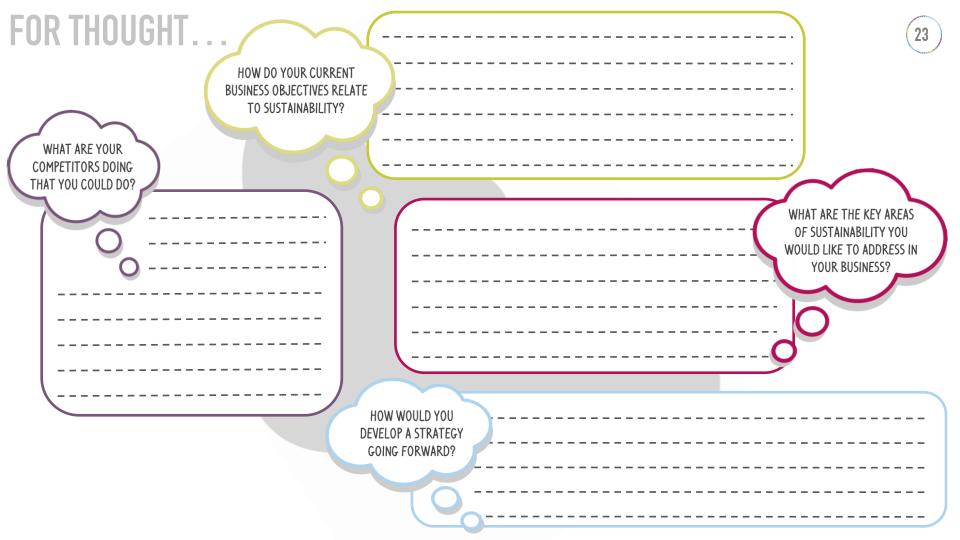
International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)

Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)

Global Reporting Initiative
Standards

Corporate Sustainability Reporting
Directive (CSRD)

The regulations may have no impact on your organisation, but being aware of the trends can help you horizon scan and ensure you are prepared in case regulation does come in that may impact you.



## **NET ZERO ISLE OF MAN**

Net Zero Isle of Man was set up to take action on climate change and protect the planet to help reach the Island's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. They have a dedicated website sharing statistics around climate change and the environment.

Net Zero Isle of Man have created a 'Resource Hub' on their website which contains a variety of different resources which organisations, and individuals, can use to make change.



NET ZER®

#### GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS



Guidance for public bodies

reterence guide

Business Energy Saving Scheme Guidelines Green Living Grant Scheme

Understand current GHG emissions



Develop an action plan



Monitor and report progress

The guidance documents provide an overview on the types of greenhouse gases, understanding carbon emissions, and how we can reduce our impact.

CLICK <u>HERE</u> TO HEAD TO THE NET ZERO WEBSITE.

# FAIR CHANGE FRAMEWORK Guidance for delivering a just transition and climate justice through environmentally and socially sustainable decision making and policy

development.

The Fair Change Framework within the 'Resource Hub' offers guidance on sustainable decision making and policy development in the transition towards a sustainable future. It also provides guidance on how to apply the principles outlined within the Climate Change Bill 2021 within decision making within your organisation.

Within the document there are several tools, including a framework which allows you to create your own Fair Change plan by defining relevant actions, identifying stakeholders, assessing the actions and allowing you to create a timeline.

#### a. Define your action

Description of proposed action

How does this action reduce emissions or facilitate/enable the reduction of emissions?

Key Success Indicators – what outcomes will indicate that your action and your Fair Change Plan has been successful?