

Leveraging Environmental & Social Sustainability Frameworks for Business

Sustainability & Business

250 years ago fewer than a billion people walked the earth. At that point the earth's resources seemed limitless and ours for the taking. Low levels of industrialization and stable population growth rates meant that we did not consider the fact that we lived in a finite, resource constrained world. This belief set the tone for the way we did business in the past, and to a large extent continue to do in the present.

Today we are producing, consuming, and disposing off products at rates that do not take into account long-term consequences. Simultaneously our economic system is failing to meet the needs of hundreds of millions of people around the world. **The bottom line is that the way we as a species are conducting business is compounding social inequalities and degrading the natural resources we depend on.** Clean air, fresh potable water, fertile soils, climate stability, and equitable access to materials are things we have taken for granted in the past. However it is becoming clear that our impact on these resources are higher and more long-term than we considered.

As a business operating in a world that is beginning to realize that we cannot ignore the damage we as a species are causing to the social systems and the planet we live on, we

have to re-examine the way we have conducted business in the past, and create a better, more sustainable plan for the future.

The triple bottom line of 'People, Planet and Profit' has never been more relevant. The biggest mistake we as a business can make right now is to assume that accounting for People and Planet is a moral or ethical issue at most. As conditions worsen, laws and regulations that govern social and environmental issues will get more and more stringent. We are already witnessing changes in the way China is conducting business. The country's rapid industrialization at the expense of its environment and public health has led to a crisis that has lowered life expectancy, caused severe air and water contamination, and compounded land degradation. **Now China is undertaking one of its most extensive efforts to crack down on corporate polluters, an initiative that will have economic effects that will be felt there domestically and in the world market.**

Our aim should be to examine our business processes for its effects on the environment and the people whose lives it touches **right now**, when we presumably have more time to do it, than to wait for the situation to get so dire that we face immediate social, moral - and yes legal and financial consequences.

Drawdown - Reversing Global Warming

The stakes for our planet have never been higher. The impacts of climate change are occurring faster and stronger than originally projected. This global crisis require solutions at every scale and across all sectors. **We cannot avoid the impact of global warming by focusing only on achieving zero net carbon emissions, we must also rapidly requester carbon.** Carbon sequestration is the process in which carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon are captured for long-term storage to defer or mitigate global warming. This process occurs both naturally and through human initiatives. Many of today's solutions for combating climate change are technological. However **Drawdown recognizes the need to align technological innovations with ecological and social frameworks.** Some examples of the same are -

1. Biological carbon sinks help by pulling carbon from the air to reduce atmospheric concentrations
2. Regenerative grazing can help build soil carbon
3. Agroforestry provides important Timber and non-timber forest produce
4. Reducing food waste enables better availability and access to food and decreases energy and water waste
5. Recycling reduces the need for new raw materials and the energy to mine them.
6. Educating girls and improving access to family planning increases climate resilience and empowers the population.

Drawdown has gathered comprehensive list of climate solutions with the help of a coalition of researchers and scientists. They have compiled literature reviews and devised detailed climate

and financial models for eighty solutions that their research has shown to have the greatest potential to reduce emissions and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. **Almost all these solutions lead to regenerative economic outcomes that create security, produce jobs, improve health, save money, facilitate mobility, eliminate hunger, prevent pollution, restore soil, clean rivers and more.**



Drawdown states that their agenda is neither liberal nor Conservative. Theirs is a human agenda that sees global warming not as inevitability but as an invitation to build, innovate and effect change in a collaborative manner.

As an organization we have already started our journey towards the use of Drawdown solutions through the setting up of roof-top solar panels. Ranked tenth on the list of solutions arranged according to the total amount of greenhouse gases potentially avoided or removed from the atmosphere. This journey started in FY 2014-15 when we set up a 20 kW solar panel system on the roof of the Admin Building. Further we have plans to install 4 MWh roof top and ground solar system. We also procure Renewable Energy from Grid, another highly ranked solution. In FY 17 total Renewable Energy purchased from Grid accounted for 7% of our total electricity consumption. **As a company we can expand our work on other Drawdown solutions under sections like Buildings & Cities, Energy, and Food. successfully.** All we need is collective initiative and your support.

Source—<http://www.drawdown.org/>

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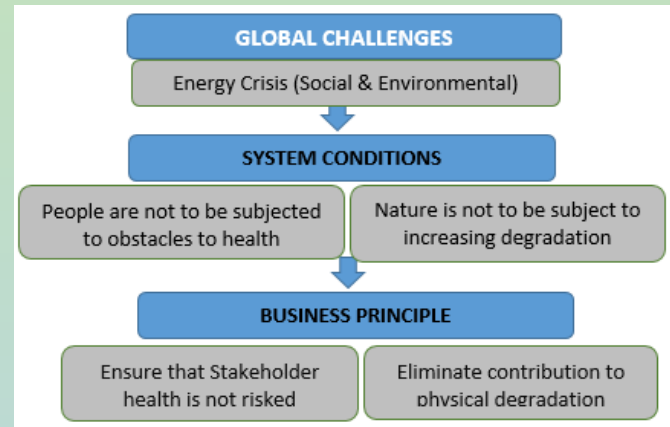
FutureFit Business Benchmark

Future-Fit is a tool designed to help businesses define and measure true sustainability or “Future Fitness”. It is a way to measure how a company - through its own actions and those of others acting on its behalf help or hinder progress towards a prosperous future for all. The benchmark rethinks the depiction of the Triple Bottom Line concept - from three separate but overlapping areas to nested dependencies. They state that “business cannot flourish unless society prospers, and that in turn is possible only if we learn to live within the carrying capacity of our finite planet”.

They look beyond Shareholder Value - a state where companies focus only on gains, and Shared Value - where business comes first and negative impacts are justified by doing good elsewhere. Instead they focus on System Value, a state where businesses address societal challenges in a holistic manner. The benchmark studies system inter-dependencies between business, society and environment to arrive at 21 Future-Fit Goals. These goals are derived from global challenges and the system conditions within which business and society exist. Some of these goals are -

1. Use of renewable energy sources
2. Responsible and socially equitable use of water
3. Responsible sourcing of raw materials
4. No greenhouse gas emissions from operations
5. Repurposing of operational byproducts
6. No encroachments into communities or ecosystems
7. Ensure living wages, safe working conditions and fair employment for workmen
8. Manufacture products that can be repurposed, emit no greenhouse gases, and don't harm people or the environment
9. Conduct business ethically

Futures fit is a three-step methodology that calls upon us to **cause no harm, engage in positive pursuits, and report on progress**. It is a guide that empowers organizations to arrive at their own Business Principles by reviewing Global Challenges and their own System Conditions. These tools will enable self-auditing of our current business practices without the need to share sensitive information with outside parties. Further they provide a comprehensive Benchmark Map for which we can use to create our own indicators and benchmarks to plan and map our shift to more sustainable business practices. The following is an example of Future Fit in action.



Source—<http://futurefitbusiness.org/what-is-future-fitness/>

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Interface Management

An interface is defined as a boundary or point of connect between entities working on a common project. This point can be -

1. Physical - Physical interaction between components. E.g. flange connection details, cable connections, etc.
2. Functional - Functional Requirements between systems. E.g. DCS controls for communication, fire alarms, etc.
3. Contractual - Interactions between subcontractors/suppliers. E.g. scope of work, exclusion, assumption, etc.
4. Organizational - Information exchanged between disciplines. E.g. drawing back grounds, use of the latest design revisions
5. Knowledge - General information exchanged between parties. E.g. schedule, site specific logistics, etc.
6. Resource - Points of dependencies between equipment, material, and labor suppliers. E.g. sharing resources like accommodation, utilities, transportation, etc. with other organizations.

Interface Management is a process that is designed to provide a method to formally document and track the exchange of information between project participants and to monitor the performance of all participants in making available the required information. It is a risk mitigating process. Effective management of the interfaces will facilitate good communication and transparency across these boundaries and allow each party to request, offer or exchange data and technical information in the best interest of the Project.

A formal communication process of effective interface management provides an auditable trail to project decisions and developments. The Interface Management process encourages meaningful communication between the various project stakeholders, assisting in breaking down barriers between organizations. The Interface Management process promotes clear, accurate, timely, and consistent communication for exchanging interface information towards process success.

To meet the intent of interface management, each organization shall nominate a representative as “Interface Manager” to act as a single point of contact for all interface correspondences between the parties. Interface Manager of each organization has overall responsibility for implementation and maintenance of the interface management process throughout the project life cycle by following the interface management work process -

1. recording and logging the interface agreements
2. monitoring and chasing progress
3. ensuring that schedule requirements are maintained
4. highlighting any area of concern to the top management team of the project.

In order to ensure an effective exchange of critical information for project success, the process must be simple to understand and follow to coordinate activities directly with other project participants.

Source - <https://www.pmi.org/learning/library/interface-management-theory-approach-pm-5729>

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Project Breakthrough

Breakthrough aims to challenge and stretch prevailing business mindset into new

opportunity spaces. The framework is aligned with the UN Global Compact's priority of translating the new sustainable development goals into business action. Breakthrough accepts that incremental change has its place, however it is no longer enough for the social and environmental challenges we face today. These challenges are causing market disruptions that are very likely to accelerate. Situations like these extend huge opportunities for those that can move fast and in the right direction.

The Sustainable Development Goals offer a framework around which businesses can find opportunities and innovate. **The vision for Project Breakthrough is to create an open source skunk works project for the sustainability industry, i.e. they want to create an environment intended to help individual sustainability researchers to come together to develop projects towards radical innovation in business.**

Project breakthrough offers a 10 Step System for Innovation to empower businesses to meet the challenges of the changing landscape of social and environmental sustainability. Implementing radical changes within organizations is a challenging process. The following steps offer some guidance on the same -

Step 1 - Adopt the right aspiration. This step encourages businesses to engage with and mobilize people, assist in catalyzing new social and political movements, create effective partnerships and ultimately redefine what a successful business is.

Step 2 - Create new corporate structures. Current corporate structures and ownership patterns fail to provide the flexibility needed to be resilient, innovative, and sustainable over the long term. Corporate structures need to be modified to effectively drive sustainability projects.

Step 3 - Apply True Accounting Principles. Mainstream accountancy firms are experimenting with linked frameworks to bring together the various dimension of value creation (or destruction) into increasingly integrated approach. One such approach is Environmental Profit and Loss account (E P&L) which is a company's monetary valuation and analysis of

its environmental impacts including its business operations and its supply chain from cradle-to-gate.

Step 4 – Calculate true returns. Negative externalities like water pollution, deforestation, noise, bribery, corruption, etc. are often overlooked. **Measuring and accounting for the full cost of doing business within the core operations and throughout the supply chain and value webs and ultimately in the wider world is an important step to build a more sustainable future around the People- Planet- Profit agenda.** We must look closely at the true cost of doing business and explore new ways of creating shared value across socio economic and generational divides.

Step 5 – Embrace well-being. Invest in water, sanitization, transport, health services etc. Less stressed and healthier employees are more creative, effective, and less likely to get sick. Businesses that drive increases in social well-being also have better standing with consumers and are better positioned to secure trust in their brands which in turn support economic development and growth.

Step 6 – Level the playing field. Breakthrough leaders recognize the need for fairness, openness and transparency to ensure market health.

Step 7 – Pursue transparency.

Step 8 – Redefine education. **Investment in education is most important.** businesses must push universities to change their research priorities and curriculum to include social and environmental impact management topics to educate the students who will be their future hires. They also need to invest in educating current employees on the importance of sustainability.

Step 9 - Learn from nature. There is a need to align technological innovations with ecological frameworks.

Step 10 - Keep the long run in mind. Shift towards long term investing and reward longer term investors

These steps outline what we need to do to make social and environmental sustainability projects more mainstream within our business processes. By following these steps we can ensure that our business itself is more sustainable, thus ensuring our continued survival in today's changing business landscape.

Source—<http://breakthrough.unglobalcompact.org/>

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Quiz Be the first one to SMS the right answer to 8378997858 & win an exciting prize!

What is the capacity of the current Solar Panel system set up on the roof of the MSSSPL Admin Building?

A. 50 kW

C. 25 kW

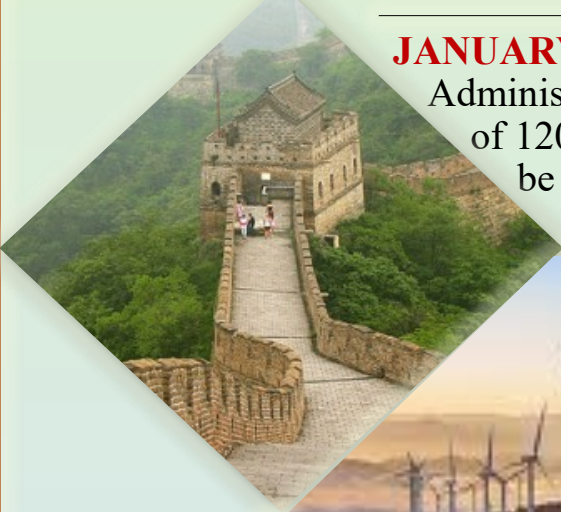
B. 20 kW

D. 15 kW


Climate Change News

With climate change it is often easy to focus on the bad news. But as the year draws to a close let us reflect on what has happened in 2017.


There are a huge number of inspirational and committed people around the world, working hard to create positive change. Their collective efforts is delivering genuine transformation, and is accelerating the transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy. To end 2017 on a positive note, we have picked out 12 real breakthroughs from the past 12 months that are helping to turn international ambitions on climate change into a reality.




JANUARY - China cracked down on coal with the National Energy Administration announcing that 104 coal plants with a total capacity of 120 gigawatts – both in planning and under construction – are to be suspended, helping the country to deliver on its current Five Year Plan and climate change ambitions.




FEBURARY - Wind power continued to grow. It was announced that in the US it has overtaken hydroelectricity to become the biggest source of renewable energy, and in the EU it surpassed coal to become the second largest source of installed electricity capacity, behind gas.




MARCH - The International Energy Agency confirmed that in 2016 - for the third year in a row - global emissions from the energy sector remained flat despite economic growth. This trend is likely to be bucked for 2017, where some growth is expected, but it creates optimism that we may be close to peaking global emissions.




APRIL - In a landmark moment that was the fruit of years of investment into innovation and cost reduction in offshore wind, Ørsted won the rights in a competitive auction from the German government to build the world's first subsidy-free offshore wind farm.




MAY - Tesco became the first business in the world to announce that it had set science-based targets to reduce its own carbon emissions in line with the 1.5°C ambition in the Paris Agreement, a goal that has since been signed by others including Carlsberg Group and BT.




JUNE - With strong support from central banks, governments and the world's largest investors, the G20 Financial Stability Board's Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures launched its final recommendations, providing a common global framework for disclosures of the climate change opportunities and risks faced by companies.




JULY - Elon Musk bet South Australia's state government that Tesla and Neoen could build the world's largest lithium-ion battery within just 100 days, to provide energy storage at a wind farm and help to solve issues with intermittency and blackouts, or it will provide it for free. He won the bet.



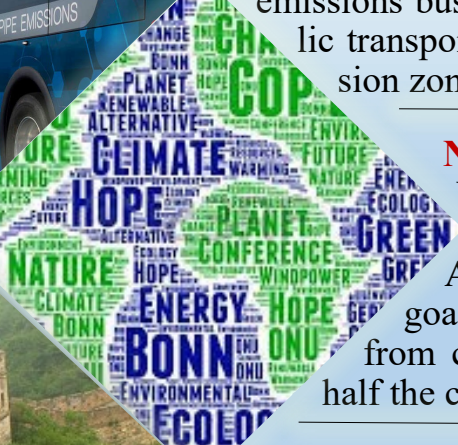
AUGUST - The future of low cost electric mobility was given a boost, with General Motor's Chinese joint venture, SAIC-GM-Wulin, unveiling its new Baojun E100 model, a two-seater electric car with a 100 mile range. It is available at the low cost of \$5,300, after taking into account national and local electric vehicle incentives in China.



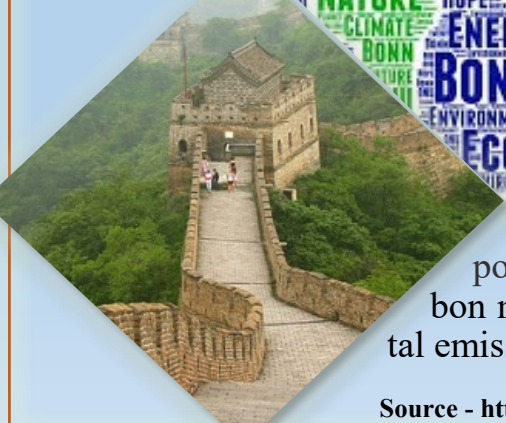
SEPTEMBER - The price of solar energy fell to yet another new record low, with Jinko Solar and Marubeni putting in a winning bid to build a 350 megawatt solar park in Abu Dhabi at a cost of just 2.42 cents per kilowatt hour.



OCTOBER - The mayors of 12 major cities with a combined population of 80 million – London, Paris, Los Angeles, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Quito, Vancouver, Mexico City, Milan, Seattle, Auckland and Cape Town – committed to take action on emissions and air pollution by buying only zero-emissions buses from 2025; promoting walking, cycling and public transport; and making major areas of their cities zero emission zones by 2030.



NOVEMBER - At COP23 in Bonn the former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and California Governor Jerry Brown revealed the first phase of America's Pledge, a bottom up approach to meet US goals under the Paris Agreement with direct support from cities, states and businesses representing more than half the country's economy and population.



DECEMBER - China's National Development and Reform Commission announced the launch of a nationwide carbon market for its power sector on 19 December, instantly creating the world's largest carbon market ahead of the EU, putting an estimated 39% of the country's total emissions within an emissions trading scheme.

CSR Corner

The CSR department organized a Tailoring training program in collaboration with Government Polytechnic, Pen. to provide valuable skills to local women. Designed to empower women and equip them with an alternate means of livelihood, this three month training program was provided free of charge for the participants. The project was inaugurated on 5th July, 2017 by Mr. Avinash Somvanshi. The first batch of students, consisting of 44 women learnt and practiced their skills on sewing machines provided by our partner Government Polytechnic, Pen.

Mr. Avinash Somvanshi inaugurated the second batch of the program on 7th December, 2017. We are proud to announce that the second batch of women will be learning tailoring on Sewing Machines purchased by our organization for this CSR Project.



First Batch of Tailoring sessions (5th July - 5th October 2017)



Second Batch of Tailoring sessions (7th December 2017 - 7th March 2018)