

Sustainability Toolkit for Food Companies

Module 3 – Sustainability Priorities

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- Mandatory versus Voluntary
- Exploring priorities – Sustainability and Business
- Identifying company specific priorities
- Priority setting

Mandatory versus Voluntary

Mandatory

- Regulation
- Customers
- Finance or other impact
- Mandatory reporting
- Market Access

Voluntary

- Desirable for claim or benefit
- Brand value
- Societal value
- Voluntary carbon credits

Sustainability Priorities

**Food Waste
Reduction**

**Energy Use
Reduction**

**Package
Waste
Reduction**

**Responsible
Sourcing**

**Water
Conservation**

**Transparency
and
Traceability**

**Climate
Action**

**Biodiversity
Preservation**

**Circular
Economy**

**Social Equity
and Fair
Trade**

Food Waste Reduction

- Minimizing food waste throughout the supply chain is crucial.
- This includes reducing waste during production, distribution, and retail. Implementing efficient inventory management, donation programs, and composting can significantly contribute to waste reduction.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
No		Kgs of waste to landfill	3		Cost reduction Carbon credit Claim

Energy Use Reduction

- Food processing and distribution consume substantial energy.
- Prioritizing energy-efficient practices, investing in renewable energy sources, and optimizing transportation routes can help reduce the carbon footprint of food companies.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
No		Energy consumed	1, 2, 3		Cost reduction Claim

Package Waste Reduction

- Sustainable packaging is essential.
- Companies should explore alternatives to single-use plastics, opt for recyclable or compostable materials, and design packaging with minimal environmental impact. Innovations like reusable packaging and smart labeling can also play a role.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
Yes	Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations: Overview - Canada.ca	Kgs of single use plastic	3		Cost reduction Claim

Responsible Sourcing

- Ensuring that ingredients are sourced ethically and sustainably is critical.
- This involves considering factors such as fair labor practices, biodiversity conservation, and animal welfare. Certifications (e.g., Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance) can guide responsible sourcing decisions.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
Yes	SB-211 EU anti-slavery	Compliance documentation		Yes	

Water Conservation

- Water scarcity is a global concern.
- Food companies should assess their water usage, adopt water-saving technologies, and promote responsible water management practices. Efficient irrigation, water recycling, and monitoring water quality are essential steps.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
No		Water Use			Cost reduction Claim

Transparency and Traceability

- Consumers increasingly demand transparency about the origin of their food.
- Companies should provide clear information about sourcing, production methods, and supply chain partners. Blockchain technology can enhance traceability and build trust with consumers.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
No*	FSMA	Traceability of food	Supports all scopes	No*	Claim

Climate Action

- Addressing climate change is paramount.
- Food companies can set emission reduction targets, invest in renewable energy, and participate in carbon offset programs. Collaborating with suppliers and partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is essential.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
No*		GHG emissions from production	3		Claim

Biodiversity Preservation

- Protecting ecosystems and biodiversity is vital.
- Companies can support sustainable agriculture practices, preserve natural habitats, and avoid deforestation. Biodiversity-friendly farming methods benefit both the environment and food security.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
Yes	EUDR	Deforestation		Yes	Claim

Circular Economy

- Adopting circular economy principles involves minimizing waste, reusing materials, and recycling.
- Food companies can explore closed-loop systems, repurposing by-products, and designing products with end-of-life considerations in mind.

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
No		% of reused waste	3		Cost reduction Revenue from byproduct

Social Equity and Fair Trade

- Prioritizing fair wages, safe working conditions, and community well-being is essential.
- Supporting local farmers, promoting gender equality, and engaging in community development initiatives contribute to social sustainability

Mandatory	Regulation	Measurement	Scope	Customer requirement	Business Benefit
Yes	SB-211	Compliance		Yes	Risk management Social Responsibility

Identify Company Specific Priorities

1. Determine any specific mandatory reporting/regulatory requirements
2. Identify any specific company/industry requirements

Priority	Mandatory	Voluntary
Food Waste Reduction		
Energy Use Reduction		
Package Waste Reduction	X	
Responsible Sourcing		
Water Conservation		
Transparency and Traceability		
Climate Action		
Biodiversity Preservation		
Circular Economy		
Social Equity and Fair Trade	X	

Business Priorities

Hire and
retain
employees

Employee skill
development

Grow Revenue

New Products

New Markets

Improve
Profitability

Differentiation

Improve Brand

Priority Setting

- Set high level goals for meaningful improvements
- Identify the timeline to achieve the goal
- Cover mandatory priorities and voluntary
- Identify business benefits

Priority Area	Timeline	Measurement	Anticipated business benefit
Food Waste Reduction	December 2024	Reduce Kgs of organic waste by X%	
Energy Use Reduction	April 2025	Reduce Energy Use by X%	

End