
Professional Certificate in CSR and Nonprofit Partnerships

Sustainability Practices in CSR and Nonprofit Organizations

****Acid Rain**** – a type of precipitation with high levels of sulfuric or nitric acid, caused by the emission of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from factories, power plants, and vehicles. It can have detrimental effects on the environment, including damage to forests, lakes, and buildings.

Related terms: Air pollution, Emissions, Clean Air Act

****Carbon Footprint**** – the total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂). It includes emissions from fuel that powers our homes, offices, and transportation, as well as the waste we generate.

Related terms: Greenhouse gases, Climate change, Carbon offsetting

****Carbon Offsetting**** – the process of reducing, avoiding, or removing emissions of greenhouse gases to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. This can be achieved through various means, such as renewable energy projects, reforestation, or energy efficiency measures.

Related terms: Carbon footprint, Greenhouse gases, Carbon credits

****Circular Economy**** – an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources. It is characterized by three principles: design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems.

Related terms: Linear economy, Sustainable development, Waste management

****Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**** – a self-regulating business model that helps a company be socially accountable to itself, its stakeholders, and the public. It involves initiatives that benefit society, such as environmental conservation, philanthropy, ethical labor practices, and volunteerism.

Related terms: Triple bottom line, Stakeholder theory, Sustainability reporting

****CSR Reporting**** – the practice of communicating a company's social, environmental, and economic impacts to its stakeholders. It includes the company's CSR strategy, goals, performance, and future plans, and can take the form of an annual report, sustainability report, or integrated report.

Related terms: Triple bottom line, Sustainability reporting, Stakeholder engagement

****Eco-Efficiency**** – a business approach that aims to reduce the use of materials and energy in production processes while increasing the productivity of these resources. This results in reduced costs, improved competitiveness, and reduced environmental impact.

Related terms: Green economy, Circular economy, Sustainable development

****Ethical Consumption**** – the practice of making purchasing decisions based on social, environmental, and ethical considerations, such as fair labor practices, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability.

Related terms: Ethical sourcing, Conscious consumerism, Sustainable lifestyle

****Fair Trade**** – a movement that aims to ensure better trading conditions for producers in developing countries. It involves paying a fair price for products, providing safe working conditions, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Related terms: Ethical sourcing, Ethical consumption, Sustainable supply chain

****Green Building**** – a building that is designed, constructed, and operated to minimize its impact on the environment and maximize the health and well-being of its occupants. This is achieved through energy and water efficiency, use of sustainable materials, and improved indoor air quality.

Related terms: LEED certification, Green roof, Net-zero energy building

****Green Economy**** – an economy that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. It is characterized by low carbon emissions, efficient use of resources, and social equity.

Related terms: Circular economy, Eco-efficiency, Sustainable development

****Greenwashing**** – the practice of making false or misleading claims about the environmental benefits of a product, service, or organization. It is used to deceive consumers and improve a company's public image.

Related terms: Ethical consumption, Sustainability washing, Transparency

****Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**** – a method used to evaluate the environmental impact of a product or service throughout its entire life cycle, from raw material extraction to end-of-life disposal. It is used to identify areas of improvement and make informed decisions about product design and development.

Related terms: Carbon footprint, Eco-efficiency, Sustainable development

****Natural Capital**** – the stock of natural resources, such as air, water, land, and biodiversity, that provides benefits to society and the economy. It includes both renewable and non-renewable resources, and its depletion or degradation can have negative impacts on human well-being.

Related terms: Ecosystem services, Sustainable development, Green economy

****Non-governmental Organization (NGO)**** – a non-profit, voluntary organization that operates independently of government. NGOs work to promote social or environmental causes, and can include charities, advocacy groups, and community organizations.

Related terms: Non-profit organization, Civil society, Social enterprise

****Social Enterprise**** – a business that aims to address social or environmental issues while generating revenue. It is characterized by a dual mission of financial sustainability and social impact, and operates in a variety of sectors, including healthcare, education, and renewable energy.

Related terms: Non-profit organization, For-profit organization, Hybrid organization

****Social Impact**** – the positive or negative effect that a business, organization, or project has on society and the environment. It can be measured through various metrics, such as job creation, poverty reduction, and carbon emissions.

Related terms: Social responsibility, Sustainable development, Triple bottom line

****Stakeholder Engagement**** – the process of involving and communicating with stakeholders, such as customers, employees, and communities, in decision-making processes. It is used to build trust, foster collaboration, and ensure that the interests and concerns of stakeholders are taken into account.

Related terms: Corporate social responsibility, Triple bottom line, Sustainability reporting

****Sustainability**** – the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It encompasses economic, social, and environmental dimensions, and is often referred to as the triple bottom line.

Related terms: Triple bottom line, Sustainable development, Corporate social responsibility

****Sustainability Reporting**** – the practice of communicating a company's sustainability performance to its stakeholders. It includes the company's sustainability strategy, goals, performance, and future plans, and can take the form of an annual report, sustainability report, or integrated report.

Related terms: Triple bottom line, Sustainability reporting, Stakeholder engagement

****Triple Bottom Line**** – a framework for measuring a company's sustainability performance, encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. It is used to ensure that a company's activities are not only financially sustainable, but also socially responsible and environmentally friendly.

Related terms: Sustainability, Sustainability reporting, Corporate social responsibility

****United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)**** – a set of 17 interconnected global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015, aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all. The SDGs provide a roadmap for sustainable development, and are integrated into the policies and practices of governments, businesses, and organizations worldwide.

Related terms: Sustainable development, Global goals, United Nations

****Volunteerism**** – the practice of volunteering time, skills, and resources to support a cause or organization. It is a key aspect of corporate social responsibility, and can have positive impacts on both the volunteer and the community.

Related terms: Corporate social responsibility, Community engagement, Social responsibility

Waste Management – the process of collecting, transporting, processing, and disposing of waste materials in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. It includes reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery, and is a critical component of sustainable development.

Related terms: Circular economy, Zero waste, Sustainable development.