

our environment *it's a living thing*

ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE

Department of **Environment & Climate Change** NSW





Successful business leaders create relevant and competitive futures for their organisations. Today, the community, customers and staff are seeking higher and higher standards of environmental accountability. Leaders need to respond to these demands for sustainability to ensure their future growth and prosperity.



ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE



Sustainability Advantage is a business support service from the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW (DECC). It is designed to help your organisation understand sustainability, successfully manage for a better environment and add business value.

We help you identify what you can do now and help you plan for the future. By taking part, you will receive support to reduce your organisation's risk in areas such as legislative compliance and climate change. You will also identify and take advantage of opportunities to improve your business through:

- innovation
- lower costs (eg resources, energy)
- improved productivity
- enhanced reputation as a supplier and employer of choice.

Sustainability Advantage helps you to identify what sustainability means to your business and gives you a comprehensive roadmap for environmental action.

To participate in the program, you:

1. Make an initial commitment of 18 months participation.
2. Complete the Sustainability Management Diagnostic.
3. Choose and undertake three or four of the seven Sustainability Advantage modules.
4. Attend meetings with other businesses in your industry or geographic area three to four times a year.
5. Report your progress and take part in evaluation.

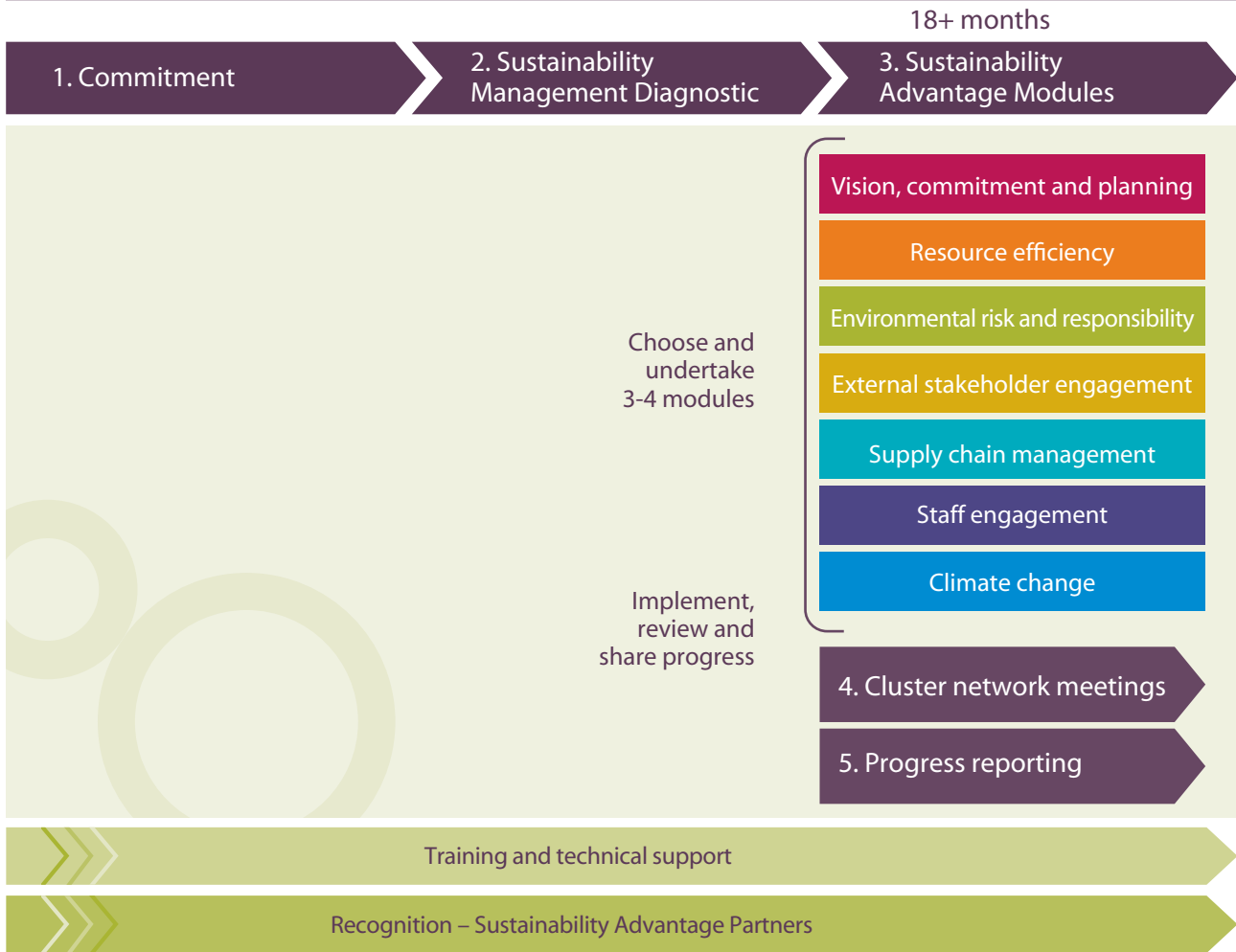
Our business specialists, experts in environmental management for improved business performance, work with you throughout your participation in the Sustainability Advantage Program. We provide practical, tailored support in the form of workshops and training, technical assistance and networking to help you plan and implement your environmental projects.

We give you valuable recognition as a Sustainability Advantage partner that you can use among your stakeholders.

Benefits

- Improve understanding of the relevance and benefits of sustainability to your business
- Lower costs and improve productivity
- Enhance reputation as a supplier and employer of choice
- Access to the latest environmental advice from business and government specialists
- Broaden your network – meet and share ideas with other organisations also addressing environmental issues
- Improve environmental performance and contribute to a healthier environment for present and future generations.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



1. Commitment

We will first meet with you to introduce you to the Sustainability Advantage Program.

Your commitment is important to the success of the program and to environmental improvements in your organisation.

To commit to Sustainability Advantage:

- your CEO or other senior executive endorses your organisation's initial participation for 18 months
- you pay a one-off fee up to \$3,000 (plus GST), depending on the size of your organisation
- you nominate a 'champion' to co-ordinate your organisation's involvement.

2. Sustainability Management Diagnostic

DECC has customised a Sustainability Management Diagnostic. The diagnostic helps your senior managers identify and prioritise environmental actions that minimise risk and create business opportunities.

In a two hour interactive session a DECC specialist leads you through a self-assessment of your current environmental capabilities and processes. You review organisational performance across ten areas essential to business success. See back page.

At end of the session you have five to eight critical environmental actions. You can use these to direct which Sustainability Advantage modules you will choose.

3. Sustainability Advantage Modules

Business opportunities come from many areas. Working through potential resource savings, keeping up with best practice and engaging your staff in new sustainability issues and practices can be challenging.

DECC has developed a series of modules to help guide and focus your environmental improvements. Using the outcomes of your Sustainability Management Diagnostic and other internal priorities, you choose three or four modules.

You undertake projects in these modules in 18 months, or longer if you wish to pursue continuous improvement. Specialists help you plan and implement your environmental projects using a range of tools, training and expert advice.

Vision, commitment and planning module

Develop a vision and a strategic sustainability plan to drive your environmental improvement.

Resource efficiency module

Assess what resources you use. Work with your staff to identify, prioritise and implement projects. Cut costs by lowering how much raw material, energy and water you use and by reducing waste from your business.

This module includes a new component, Sustainability Advantage **Energy Saver**. Specially developed for the NSW Government's Energy Efficiency Strategy, Energy Saver involves a subsidised energy audit based on the Australian Standard for Energy Auditing. As well, no-cost technical support and training is provided to help you convert opportunities identified by the audit into effective, practical projects that save money and protect the environment.

Environmental risk and responsibility module

Understand current environmental law and assess the risks of non-compliance to your business. Plan, train and act to ensure environmental responsibilities are met.

External stakeholder engagement module

Build stronger relationships with the community, government, shareholders, suppliers and customers. Use these relationships to identify environmental issues and solutions for your business.

Supply chain management module

Work with your suppliers and customers to add business value and jointly address environmental issues in your supply chain.

Staff engagement module

Engage your staff and strengthen their commitment to your organisation. Involve staff in environmental improvement projects and support them with sustainability education and training.

Climate change module

Measure your carbon footprint, analyse risks and opportunities from climate change and identify projects to help you adapt to climate change and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Meetings to share knowledge and progress

We organise 'cluster' meetings three or four times a year for you to attend. You meet with Sustainability Advantage participants in your local area, or industry sector. Hear how others have addressed challenges you may be facing, share your experiences and successes and meet others also keen to improve their environmental performance.

5. Reporting and evaluation

Continuous improvement involves reflection and evaluation. To participate in Sustainability Advantage you will need to:

- collect data on raw material, energy, water and waste and other information to implement and evaluate your projects
- report your progress every six months (including verbal reports at cluster meetings and contributing to project reports)
- share information and results that are not commercially sensitive.

You will benefit from the reports and achievements of other participants.

Register or find out more

Contact DECC's Business Partnerships by:

Email sustainbus@environment.nsw.gov.au

Phone 02 8837 6000

Recognition

We believe organisations that are committed to sustainability and achieving real improvements, deserve to be recognised.

We have five levels of recognition available to participants.



Upon joining the Sustainability Advantage Program you become a Member and have the opportunity to progress to Sustainability Advantage 'Bronze', 'Silver', 'Gold' or 'Platinum' Partner.



Recognises organisations that can demonstrate commitment to business sustainability.



Recognises organisations that can demonstrate significant environmental achievements.



Recognises organisations that can demonstrate outstanding environmental achievement and leadership.

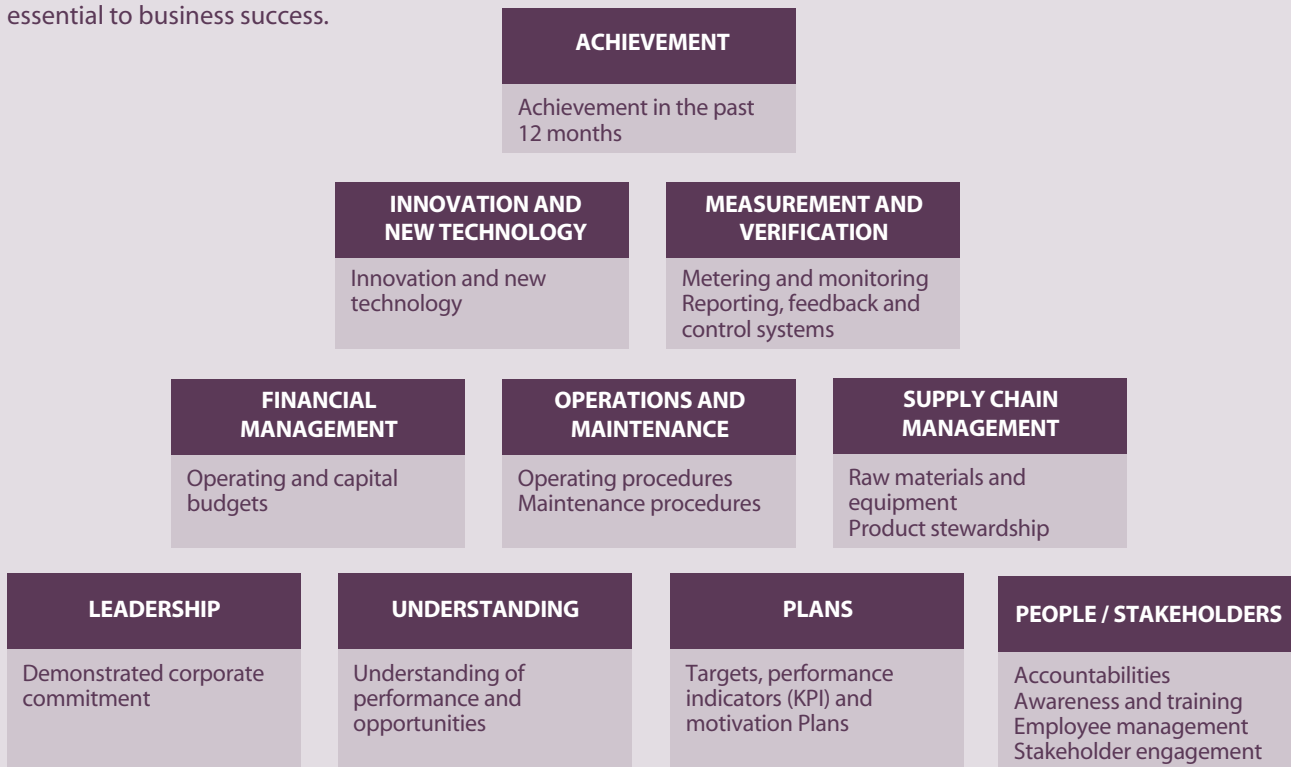


Recognises organisations that can demonstrate world's best practice in business sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT DIAGNOSTIC



The diagnostic uses a five star rating system to measure and benchmark your organisation, assessing ten areas essential to business success.



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