



Pallets FOR THE Planet

[Printable Checklist]

Building a Sustainable Supply Chain

Presented by: 48forty Solutions

Is Your Business Practicing Sustainability?

Becoming an environmentally responsible and conscious business is an ongoing process. Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.*

A strategic approach to sustainability considers the following principles in decisions and actions, as appropriate:

- Conserve, protect, restore, and improve the supply and quality of natural resources and environmental media (energy, water, materials, ecosystems, land, and air) over the long term.
- Align and integrate programs, tools, incentives, and indicators to achieve as many positive outcomes as possible in environmental, economic, and social systems.
- Consider the full life cycles of multiple natural resources, processes, and pollutants in order to prevent pollution, reduce waste, and create a sustainable future.

Use these questions to take a closer look at your operation and identify opportunities for improving your sustainability.

- Does your business have the infrastructure, capacity, and governance to maintain a comprehensive sustainability program? If not, how can you build one?
- Consider your supply chain. What is your business doing to minimize waste during the production or transport of your product(s)?
- Consider the lifecycle of your products. How are you minimizing the footprint of your product — do you have a take-back program, a recycling partner, or something else?
- How are you minimizing the impact of your corporate office, production, and/or service facility?
- Environmental impact is important. Are you using a carbon calculator to determine if your recycling efforts are sufficient?
- Think about your suppliers. Do you know where your suppliers are sourcing their materials? Are their materials eco-friendly?
- Do you have an environmental policy that your organization adheres to? If not, how can you create one?
- Do you monitor your company's electricity, water and fuel consumption? Are you measuring improvement related to consumption?
- Have you developed a framework to track processes and milestones when it comes to your sustainability goals? If not, what do your sustainability goals look like and how can you track them?
- Think about the energy you're using. Has your business gone through an energy audit to help you understand your energy use?

Whether you've already developed environmental targets or you're just getting started, these questions can help you evaluate your existing efforts and implement your own sustainable goals.