





Simple Ways to Integrate Sustainability

Even in a difficult business environment, businesses can find affordable and innovative ways to integrate sustainability. SMEs business operations and sustainability initiatives can be planned and implemented in connection with businesses' involvement in the Marketplace, Workplace, Community and Environment.

	Description	Examples of Action
 Marketplace	<p>Seeking to improve your company's technical solutions as well as the customer services. To do this you need to understand the customer markets, requirements and pressures. By reviewing and assessing your products and systems, innovations which will lead to greater impact and profits are bound to improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drive Innovation in Product and service delivery ● Create More affordable products and services ● Source raw materials locally ● Create independent business oversight by establishing a governance board
 Workplace	<p>Build an inclusive and safe workplace that is fair to all and has adequate input from the communities you work in. Such workplace initiatives make staff feel appreciated and provide opportunities for self-development and career growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employee engagement; town hall meetings, suggestion boxes ● Pay and Benefits: Enforce proper employee compensation in ● Safety at Work: Promote safety by providing proper work tools and an environment free of discrimination and harassment ● Work-life integration: enforcement of strict leave policies (maternal, paternal, casual, sick) ● Conduct frequent staff training and promote self-development ● Institute staff awards, Appreciation days ● Provide Health coverage and insurance for staff ● Provide free or subsidized lunch to staff to improve nutrition and health

 <p>Community</p>	<p>Partner with local communities in which you work by supporting local initiatives with lasting and meaningful impact. An SME can choose to focus on one or more issues where it can contribute.</p> <p>Focus areas could include education, skills development and enterprise, health and wellbeing and so on.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide residents of your host communities’ opportunities to be employees, suppliers, contractors etc. ● Free immunization (By a Hospital, Pharmaceutical Company) ● Food drive for the less privileged (By a Supermarket Chain) ● Filling erosion-damaged roads (By a Construction Firm)
 <p>Environment</p>	<p>Every business has some impact on the environment and should implement ways to minimize it. Accessing the steps of production and environmental inputs and outputs. SMEs can increase efficiency, reduce costs and waste, recycle where possible and minimize natural resource use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use energy-saving bulbs and electric fixtures ● Monitor fuel, and diesel usage and have a strict maintenance regimen to ensure the reduction of excessive CO2 Emissions ● Integration of alternative and renewable energy systems like solar and shared generating systems in building complexes ● Cut down travel through teleconferencing ● Participate in the circular economy by engaging Recyclers and Material Recovery Partners ● Sorting of various materials categories through use of separate bins for plastic, metal, organic/food and fabric waste

Don't forget to report progress in your corporate sustainability journey. The UN Global Compact also welcomes companies to use the [SME Sustainability Action Guide](#) and the [Global Reporting Initiative Academy](#) provides a learning platform to kick-start your reporting journey Always, remember to invite input from key stakeholders to keep your sustainability issues at the heart of your strategy.

Explore other support opportunities by visiting our website - <https://lbssustainabilitycentre.edu.ng/>

If you have any questions please contact us at sustainabilitycentre@lbs.edu.ng or +234 816 627 4211