

# Sustainability Strategy Assessment

Embedding sustainability into corporate strategy.

## The opportunity.

True change comes with action, not just planning and analysis. It also means that we must often let go of past assumptions and forge a new path. There is no enterprise better equipped to help companies accelerate their transformation toward becoming a sustainable entity, than ESW. We firmly believe there is no inherent conflict between financial performance and societal benefit. Becoming a sustainable enterprise will not only open up growth opportunities, but will make you more efficient, productive, ethical and admired. Let ESW show you how.

### The process.

The first step in guiding companies toward a profitable and sustainable future, is to find out what their current reality is regarding sustainability. The assessment process thus begins by developing a common understanding of what "sustainability" means for a particular organization using the Sustainable Value Framework (see exhibit). Gaining clarity regarding the many terms, issues, and theories regarding sustainability is key at this stage.

Next, using a combination of interviews and interactive workshops involving functional and business executives, ESW inventories a company's current sustainability portfolio. ESW then works with the leadership team to assess any gaps in the company's sustainability strategy and develops new strategic initiatives to fill those gaps. The process concludes by having the leadership team jointly develop a set of corporate goals and vision regarding sustainability, focused on leveraging the new initiatives just identified. Using this process, a company's sustainability strategy is constructed from the "ground up" starting with its' current reality and created by the key players in the firm.

Finally, any gaps in knowledge, skill, and capability are noted and appropriate training, education, and capacity-building initiatives are developed.

#### The Sustainable Value Framework

Building Tomorrow's Opportunity		
Nurturing Internal Capabilities	Strategy Clean Technology Deploy the sustainable competencies of the future	Strategy Base of the Pyramid Co-create new businesses for meeting unmet needs
	Corporate Payoff Innovation & Repositioning  Sustainal	Corporate Payoff Growth & Trajectory
	Strategy Pollution Prevention Minimize waste and emis-	Strategy Product Stewardship Integrate stakeholder view into business process
Nur	sions from operations  Corporate Payoff Cost & Risk Reduction	Corporate Payoff Innovation & Legitimacy

**Managing Today's Business** 

This framework shows how the global challenges associated with sustainability – as viewed through a business lens – can help identify strategies and practices that contribute to a more sustainable world while at the same time drive shareholder value.



#### How do you begin?

It can be a challenging task knowing where and how to begin. Let us help you. Visit our website at e4sw.org or call us at 734-369-8060.