Strategy, Materiality and Program Design

Developing sustainability strategies that drive business value

As the sustainability agenda has progressed, many organizations have recognized sustainability as a value driver and differentiator. A robust sustainability program can be the foundation for ongoing cost savings, product and service innovation, enhanced recruiting and retention, and improved relationships with customers, investors, suppliers and other stakeholders.

With a balance of strategic and technical expertise, and experience across sectors, WSP provides a unique perspective on what issues to address, how to structure programs, and where to prioritize effort to achieve the greatest benefit.

Our services
WSP’s sustainability strategy, materiality and program design services include:

- **Benchmarking and maturity assessment**: Evaluating company sustainability efforts relative to peers and market expectations to guide program direction.
- **Materiality assessment**: Identifying and prioritizing issues most important to an organization and its stakeholders, in alignment with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and other frameworks.
- **Policy development**: Reviewing and drafting policies and procedures that show commitment and guide action.
- **Strategic planning**: Developing actionable strategies with clear vision, focus, accountability and timing.
- **Program design and governance**: Structuring effort across functions to ensure optimal allocation of human, financial and technical resources.
- **Goal and target setting**: Setting ambitious goals (e.g. via SBTi, the Science Based Targets Initiative) and communicating anticipated results.
- **Stakeholder engagement**: Identifying and consulting internal and external stakeholders on program design, priorities and progress.
Our experience

DEVELOPED SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGE CLIENT

WSP worked across the organization to support supply chain energy, GHG, waste and water goals including conducting a maturity assessment, aligning corporate mission, vision and objectives, recommending an appropriate governance structure and outlining 3-year action plans by business function.

COORDINATED SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REFRESH FOR APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR CLIENT

Our team calculated a comprehensive value chain (scope 3) greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, evaluated energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, developed a science-based GHG target approved by SBTi, and assessed climate risks and opportunities in the supply chain.

SUPPORTED GHG REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES CLIENT

We provided guidance on calculating a comprehensive energy and GHG footprint, conducted energy audits at 15+ office locations globally to support improved facility-level energy management, and identified opportunities to reduce employee business travel.

ADVISED ON PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES CLIENT

WSP supported the client’s environmental, social and governance (ESG) program during materiality assessment, goal setting and goal achievement planning, and reporting strategy. We also led measurement of KPIs (energy, GHG, water, waste, green building, paper and food service) and responses to CDP, the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and CR100, among other frameworks.

About WSP USA

WSP USA is the U.S. operating company of WSP, one of the world’s leading engineering and professional services firms. Dedicated to serving local communities, we are engineers, planners, technical experts, strategic advisors and construction management professionals. WSP USA designs lasting solutions in the buildings, transportation, energy, water and environment markets. With more than 9,500 employees in 150 offices across the U.S., we partner with our clients to help communities prosper.

Our multidisciplinary sustainability, energy and climate change team has been providing related services for two decades. We support clients across sectors by providing strategy and planning as well as operational and technical expertise. We are passionate about contributing to our clients’ successes through our depth of expertise, collaborative approach and unique perspective on the market.

For more information on strategy, materiality and program design, or our sustainability, energy and climate change services, please contact:

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