

Sustainability 101 For The High Tech EHS Professional

Governments, activists, and the media have become adept at holding companies accountable for the environmental and social consequences of their business activities. The general population, regulatory community and investors are now expecting that companies conduct business activities today in a manner that not only ensures their economic success but also preserves the earth's resources and viability for future generations. As a result, sustainability (sustainable development, corporate social responsibility) has emerged as a top business imperative for companies in every country. The concept of sustainability joins two important ideas: 1) that protection of the environmental and preservation of earth's resources does not preclude economic development; and 2) that economic development must be socially and ecologically viable now and in the long run. Increasingly, EHS organizations have been handed the responsibility for developing, implementing and managing corporate sustainability programs and activities. Unfortunately, many EHS professionals do not have the background or knowledge base needed for this new role. This PDC will provide an overview of sustainability concepts, terms and key knowledge areas necessary for the EHS professional to begin assembling their sustainability skills "tool box".