Third-Party Reporting

All ECM content was independently developed and reviewed to be vendor, product and service provider neutral.

Description

Organizations taking a leading role in sustainability often join or participate in third-party programs. These initiatives increase the transparency of an organization's progress toward sustainability goals, involve a commitment from senior leadership and provide an opportunity to highlight successful organization operations. From a pay-forward perspective, the goal of participating in these initiatives is to facilitate faster adoption across many sectors.

Project Talking Points

- Selecting the right third-party reporting program(s) for your organization.

- Setting baselines, long-term goals and strategies to achieve outcomes associated with selected third-party programs.

- Developing resources that guide individuals to be conscious of behaviors that impact the organization's long-term goals.

Benefits

- **Cost benefits:** Third-party reporting will not directly reduce operating costs. However, the impact on operational efficiency will indirectly reduce costs. Also, operations credentialed by unbiased third parties can have a greater impact on attracting staff and patients than self-promoted operations.

- **Environmental benefits:** Although the environmental benefits are realized prior to third-party reporting, result validation and audits provide value to both health care staff and the communities they serve.

- **Social benefits:** Public reporting and third-party validation of sustainability practices have significant social benefit. More than other sectors, health care organizations hold a position of trust with the public and are viewed as essential members of communities. Participating in third-party reporting programs will allow for greater public awareness of sustainability issues and greater adoption of sustainability best practices across several sectors.

Purchasing Considerations

Implementing a third-party reporting program can have subscription, membership or filing fees associated with periodic (typically annual) reporting.

- Evaluate the right third-party reporting program for your region and your organization's sustainability initiatives to maximize impact.

How-To

1. Research local and regional third-party reporting programs in your operational footprint. Local and regional programs typically involve water management, recycling or community solar initiatives.

2. Determine which department or team will handle the third-party reporting requirements. Appropriate departments are generally environmental services, purchasing or facility management. In some cases, reporting may be facilitated by marketing or finance departments.

3. Gain leadership commitment to the third-party reporting program.

4. Enroll in the third-party reporting program.

5. Develop goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely.

6. Track your progress against a baseline to report on the required interval.

7. Celebrate your organization's success and share results with staff and the public.

Energy Conservation Measures Synergies

- Selecting the Right Sustainability KPIs
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Scope 1
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Scope 2
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Scope 3
- Sustainable Fleets
- Sustainable Procurement
- Water Management

Resources

- [ASHE Energy to Care](#) is a program that utilizes ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager tool to benchmark facilities in your portfolio. Participants gain access to cutting edge dashboards and an opportunity to participate in a national awards program each year.
- A well-recognized program with no enrollment cost, [ENERGY STAR Partners](#) gain access to industry best practices with a brand recognized by more than 90% of Americans.
  [CDP](#) is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. The gold standard of carbon footprint reporting with the richest and most comprehensive dataset on corporate and city action.
- [Practice Greenhealth](#) is a health care membership organization that provides sustainability solutions that benefit patients and employees, communities, financial security and the environment. Today, more than one in every three hospitals is part of their network.
- *[RE100](#)* is a global corporate renewable energy initiative for organizations committed to 100% renewable electricity.
- The [National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative)](#) provides a neutral platform for its participants to align around collective goals and actions for decarbonization based on evidence, shared solutions and a commitment to improve health equity. Members of the Climate Collaborative represent health and hospital systems, clinicians, private payors, biopharmaceutical and medical device companies, health care services, health professional education, academia, nonprofits and the federal government.
- The world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, the [United Nations Global Compact](#) promotes universal principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption.