# Implementing Sustainable Development Using the Accountable Development Model.

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- Sustainable Development.
  - development that "meets the needs of of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".
  - has evolved from a specific concern for the environment to a high level, vague concept that encompasses many environmental, technical and management issues.

- The diversity of definitions is overwhelming; it is appropriate for organizations to define sustainable development on their own terms.
- While defining sustainable development is important, exactly how sustainable development is defined within an organization is not as important.
- It will depend on who is doing the defining.

 Whatever the definition, the biggest challenge to implementing sustainable development has been putting the defined term into an organizational structure.

- Many tools, techniques and procedures have been developed to measure environmental components.
  - Base line assessment: EIA.
  - Economic assessment: risk management, costbenefit analysis, and full cost accounting.
  - Structured approaches: design for environment, life cycle assessment, P2, and environmental management systems.

- The principles of sustainable development give us the moral compass, but they do not give us the ability to make sustainable development occur.
- Environmental tools give us the ability to prevent or mitigate environmental concerns, but they cannot show us the way to sustainable development.

• Accountable development uses

STRATEGY to tie the principles of
sustainable development with the tools for
preventing and mitigating environmental
impacts.



- Strategy
  - "The creation of a unique and valuable position involving a different set of activities" <sup>1</sup>.
  - It is a deliberate trade-off of activities arising from an evaluation of the importance of the activity.
  - It is choosing what not to do.
  - 1. Porter, M.E., Harvard business review, November-December 1996.

- Strategy allows organizations to look at "environmental problems as business issues" <sup>2</sup>.
- It also allows organizations to look at business problems effecting the environment.

2. Reinhardt, F.L., Harvard business review, July-august 1999.

• The accountable development model strategy draws from an organization's business, social and environmental concerns using strategic environmental components (SEC).



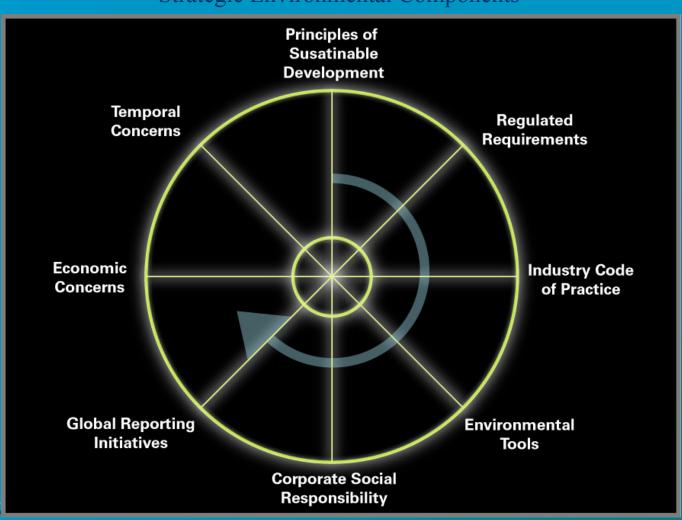
 Strategic environmental components are the specific ideas and activities used to describe sustainable development, or specific parts of sustainable development.

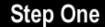
- The accountable development model begins with a radar diagram, where each arm of the radar diagram is a strategic environmental component.
- Strategic environmental components are common to all organizations and drawn from internal and global concerns.

Strategic Environmental Components

The Principles of Sustainable Development	Regulated Requirements
Industry Stewardship Initiatives	Environmental Tools
Corporate Social Responsibility	Global Reporting Initiatives
Economic Concerns	Temporal Concerns

Strategic Environmental Components





Strategic Environmental Components defined

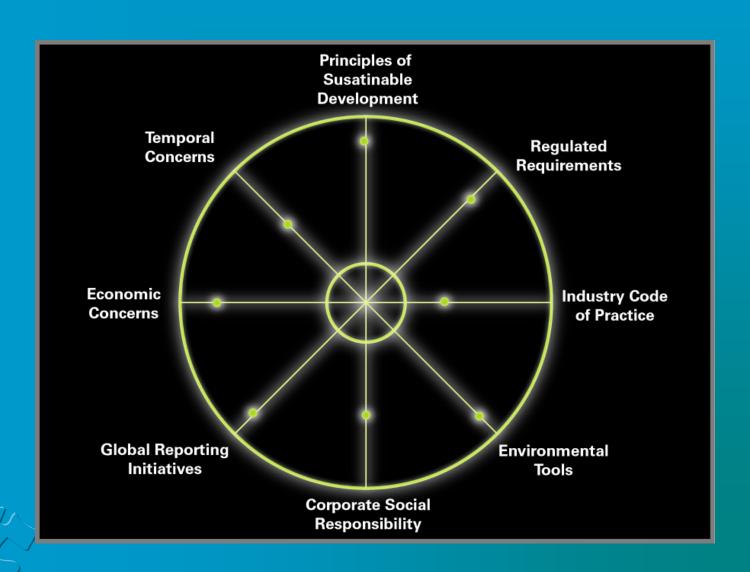


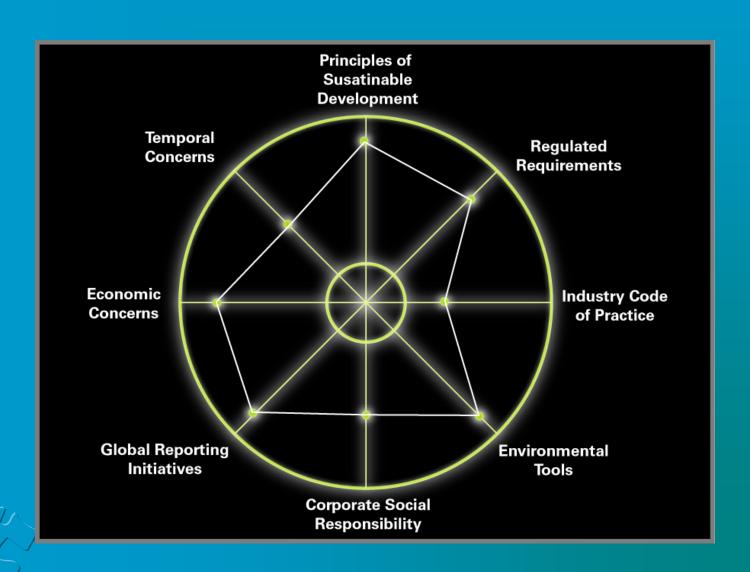
Consideration of the criteria for each Strategic Environmnet Component

- Using a menu based approach, specific criteria for each SEC considered.
- The organization scores where it believes it rates on the scale for each SEC. A maximum of 100 points (100%) can be allocated to each SEC.

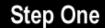
Examples of Criteria for the "Environmental Tools" SEC

Risk Management	Environmental Reporting
Life Cycle Assessment	ISO Standards
Cost – Benefit Analysis	Full Cost Accounting
Eco-efficiency	Pollution Prevention
Design for Environment	Environmental Impact Assessment





• This forms the basic shape of the radar diagram and is the baseline condition for the organization.



Strategic Environmental Components defined



#### Step Two

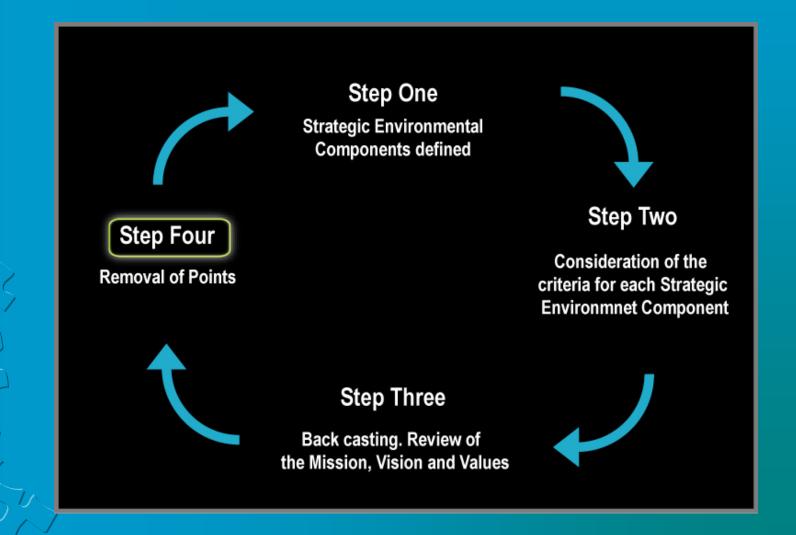
Consideration of the criteria for each Strategic Environmnet Component

#### Step Three

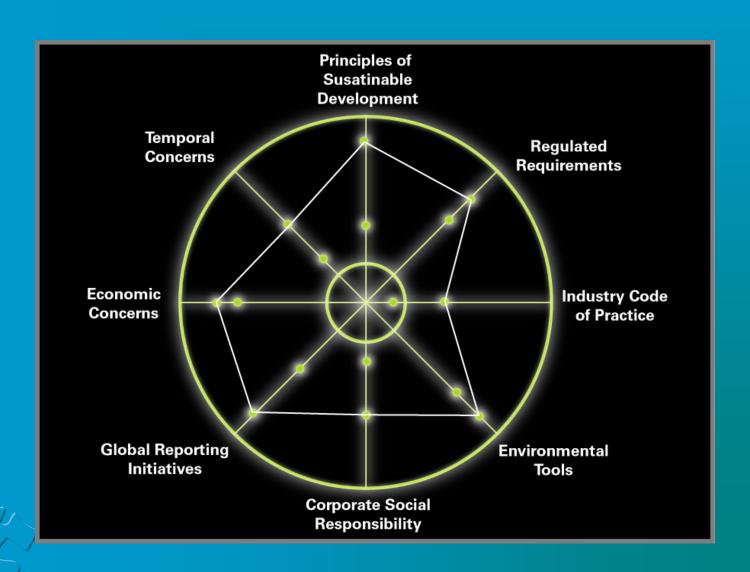
Back casting. Review of the Mission, Vision and Values

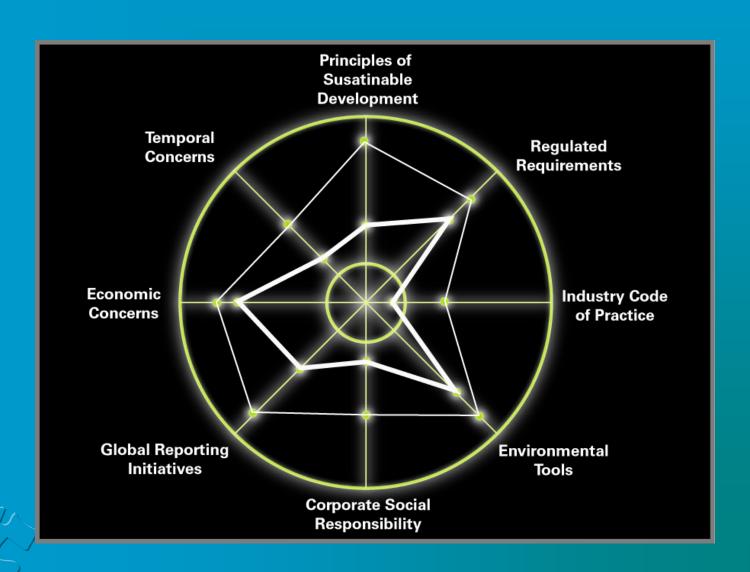


- Back casting is used here as a comparative test that allows the organization to check its assumptions with existing management thinking.
- By reviewing their mission, vision and value statements, organizations can ensure the strategic environmental components are consistent with other organizational goals.



- To determine the organization's strategy, management is now required to remove points from the diagram.
- This requires the removal of 15% of the total points. (120 points)
- Point removal is a sensitivity analysis and shows the trade-offs required.





- The model can be used:
  - By senior decision makers to show transparency and accountability.
  - To determine which SECs to focus the organizations resources on.
  - To allow middle management and operational staff to see the trade-offs considered.
  - Allow a mechanism for staff to implement sustainable development.

• Growing pressure on the environment, increased public concern, and the advent of new regulatory systems requires organizations to re-examine how they make environmental decisions.

 Accountable development provides a strategic model that marries the principles of sustainable development with various environmental tools and management
 systems in a manner that is similar to the processes already used by decision makers.

Please provide comments to:

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