

## The Solution Organisation and Sustainability...

Sustainable development is more than the 'buzz-word' of today – it is arguably the only way that an organisation will be able to remain active and profitable in the markets of the future.

### The Solution Organisation's definition of Sustainable Development is:

***A systematic set of objectives, and strategies to improve the financial performance of the organisation, while at the same time reducing its impact on the environment and developing a positive social effect.***

Annual environmental reporting is now a requirement for most listed Plc's, however sector leaders are already extending this to cover all aspects of sustainability. But, Sustainability is not as prescriptive as some may imagine. A sustainable solution must be appropriate for the organisation to which it is applied – inappropriate solutions are no solution at all. It is here that the capabilities of The Solution Organisation can be used to provide Sustainability assistance with necessary issue specific technical expertise. This includes support to achieve:

- validation and definition of existing and new objectives
- developing the strategy for achieving these objectives
- measurement of success
- incorporating achievements into continuous improvement



## The Solution Organisation

To build the solution, first define the problem



### What is sustainability?

- **Sustainability protects and promotes the future profitability of an organisation.**
- **Sustainability is the optimal combination of the environmental, social and economic aspects of any product or process at whatever level.**
- **Sustainability requires, and is the mechanism for, an organisation to define its short and long-term objectives.**

This is achieved through applying sustainable development thinking and processes to:

- the development of your strategy
- identification and management of risk at corporate/strategic/project levels
- annual and interim corporate auditing and reporting (including the organisation's annual sustainability report to shareholders)
- social responsibility planning
- environmental and social taxation mitigation, and revenue stream identification
- project auditing and reporting (including BREEAM)
- sustainable project management
- sustainable supply chain management

The requirement for organisations to act now is emphasised by emerging legislation from national and European governments and the pressure from institutional investors to reduce the risks associated with less ethical or environmentally damaging practices.

**What our clients think:**

**Mark Harris Product Manager – Sarnafil Ltd**

Sarna Group AG are one of the leading manufacturers of single-ply roofing in the world. As producers of a PVC-based product they have, for many years, been concerned with the environmental impacts of their products and manufacturing processes. Consequently they have developed a more sustainable business through various innovations including recycled PVC products and integrating an environmental urban drainage unit to their installations.

In seeking to build upon this excellent work, Sarnafil required external advice from specialists who understand their business: "Having known The Solution Organisation sustainability team for some time, I knew that they would help us to identify what we needed to do to build competitive advantage by applying sustainability thinking to the positive work we have already started.

I asked The Solution Organisation to work with us, and our supply chain partners, to help us in assessing and developing a number of strategies that will improve industry awareness of our sustainability credentials and the reduced environmental impact of our products. Their contribution has been very valuable, allowing us to develop our strategy for the future, for ourselves and our supply-chain partners".



**Historically many organisations know what needs to be done and may carry out positive work in discreet areas. However, at best this only contributes part of the answer.**

**Sustainability is the framework that combines all management processes and tools, and acts like an amplifier, improving the impacts of each component.**

Any single management tool or technique is being wasted if its use is not integrated into a wider understanding of the situation within which it is used. Sustainability requires an organisation to apply this wider perspective holistically using each of the contributing elements of social, environmental and economic issues.

**Our clients include:**

- Sarnafil Ltd**
- Schal Ltd**
- Solstice Associates**
- UMIST**
- Taylor Woodrow Construction**
- DTI**

**The Solution Organisation actively supports:**

- The Whole Life Cost Forum**
- Sponge**
- Schumacher College**
- Common Purpose**

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