



ESG Excellence in Supply Chains: Strategies for Sustainable and Fair Sourcing

UNDERSTANDING THE DRIVERS

Global manufacturers face increasing demands for responsible supply chain practices from employees, consumers, investors, and regulators. As supply chains are more closely scrutinized, businesses are recognizing the value of incorporating environmental and social elements into their sourcing operations. Proactive supply chain management enables companies to effectively navigate potential climate-related disruptions, reputational risk, and sourcing delays.

UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS VALUE

Supply chain practices driven by environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategies significantly bolster corporate value and resilience. Companies embracing ESG see heightened investor confidence, shareholder value, operational efficiency, brand recognition, and recruiting and retention. These businesses create social value through improved labor practices, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. Such initiatives not only reduce risks of business interruption, but also improve supply chain reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

CRITICAL TOPICS IN YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

Environmental

- Climate risk
- Carbon emissions
- Renewable energy
- Resource dependence (water management, deforestation, raw material consumption)
- Waste and circularity
- Biodiversity

Social

- Fair labor practices
- Health and safety
- Forced labor
- Child labor
- Supplier code of conduct
- Capacity building & training
- Community resilience
- Indigenous relations

Governance

- Responsible sourcing
- Ethics code of conduct
- Grievance mechanisms
- Anti-corruption
- Anti-bribery
- Transparency & disclosure
- Regulatory compliance
- Data collection
- Product stewardship



TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

Stantec has embedded a robust ESG Advisory practice into a 30,000 person full service consultancy – providing access to not only leaders in ESG strategies to help you set your pathway, but also the technical experts who know how to get the work done. The result is implementable ESG strategies grounded in business acumen, science-based solutions, and engineering experience – a professional services firm who transforms ESG strategy into practical actions.

Whether you are taking the first step or enhancing a current ESG program, our advisory services can help you create a successful responsible sourcing program that spans the critical topics (see page 1). Applying practical solutions grounded in science, design, and engineering, our practitioners can support your ESG goals and help you transform your supply chain by evaluating and supporting improvements directly with you and your suppliers.

1 Map the Supply Chain Structure:

Detail each segment of the supply chain. Understand the flow of materials, labor, and product lifecycles from sourcing to distribution to identify areas where sustainable practices can be enhanced or implemented. Focus on capturing subcontractors, labor brokers, and other peripheral actors.

2 Supply Chain Assessment:

Assess key suppliers, focusing on sustainability practices, reliability, and quality across areas related to labor, environment, and product stewardship. Gather data to rank suppliers and review supplier selection processes. Investigate topics including sourcing methods, energy usage, labor practices, and waste management. Identify risks, gaps, and opportunities related to ESG standards.

3 Program Development:

Work with suppliers to build their capacity for sustainable practices through clear goals and key performance indicators. Develop policies and site implementation plans. Identify material risks, evaluate stakeholder interests, and engage in executive education. Ensure regulatory compliance tailored to geography and sector.

4 Capacity Building and Guidance:

Offer resources, training, and support to suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors. Implement targeted risk mitigation strategies. Provide guidance to meet sustainability standards and improve environmental and social impact. Institute grievance and reporting mechanisms.

5 Measure Performance and Re-Engage Suppliers:

Promote joint initiatives, engage with coalitions, share best practices, and involve suppliers in the development of innovative solutions. Operationalize client-specific, risk-informed supply chain practices. Implement monitoring and evaluation processes.



COLLABORTING TO DELIVER OUTCOMES

Stantec has more than 100 global practitioners working in key geographies around the world to help you address your supply chain challenges and maximize related opportunities. We embrace a collaborative approach to create a tailored, responsible sourcing program that evaluates, improves, and manages material risks to your business.

OUR CLIENTS

Our global ESG supply chain experience spans many sectors.

- Aerospace
- Agrichemical
- Agriculture
- Apparel and footwear
- Chemical
- Electronics
- Energy
- Entertainment
- Financial institutions
- Food and beverage
- Healthcare
- Information technology
- Manufacturing
- Media
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- Pharmaceutical
- R&D laboratories
- Textiles
- Toys
- Transportation



RELATED ITEMS

A few of our responsible sourcing projects.

[Supply Chain Water Sustainability Program](#)

[CSR program for a media and entertainment company](#)

[EHS and labor auditing for a retail supply chain](#)

[Pharmaceutical industry suppliers EHS audit](#)

[Supplier Social Responsibility Program for a Global Manufacturer](#)

CONTACT US

Speak to one of our supply chain specialists.

[Taylor Fallon](#)
Senior Sustainability Consultant/Principal Advisor II
[Ximena Alverde](#)
Senior ESG Advisor
[Marco Lassini](#)
Europe Climate Solutions Lead

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