

Sustainable Industries

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The Business Sustainability Roadmap

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Smart State– Sustainable State

The Environmental Protection Agency's Sustainable Industries Division assists Queensland industry to invest, compete and profit sustainably. Our vision is for a sustainable Queensland that is internationally competitive through its sustainable industries.

While laws and regulations demand compliance and are essential, they alone will not deliver a sustainable Queensland. The sustainable development of our state requires an integrated 'Triple Bottom Line' approach to environmental, social and economic issues. Competitive businesses with an eye to emerging market forces are increasingly addressing their performance in all three areas, reporting on the Triple Bottom Line.

Through partnerships which have engaged 28 industry associations and more than 1000 Queensland businesses, the Sustainable Industries Division has

worked to ensure that sustainable development is a core business strategy for Queensland industry.

Goals

Our priorities are to help Queensland industry to:

- Achieve competitive business advantage from improved environmental performance, particularly through process efficiency
- Develop new business opportunities through environmental stewardship and investment in Queensland's natural resources
- Develop and adopt sustainable technologies and systems
- Stimulate consumer awareness and commitment to buying sustainable products and services
- Adopt Triple Bottom Line accounting and reporting to raise awareness of the true costs and benefits
- Make sustainability a foundation of business strategy.

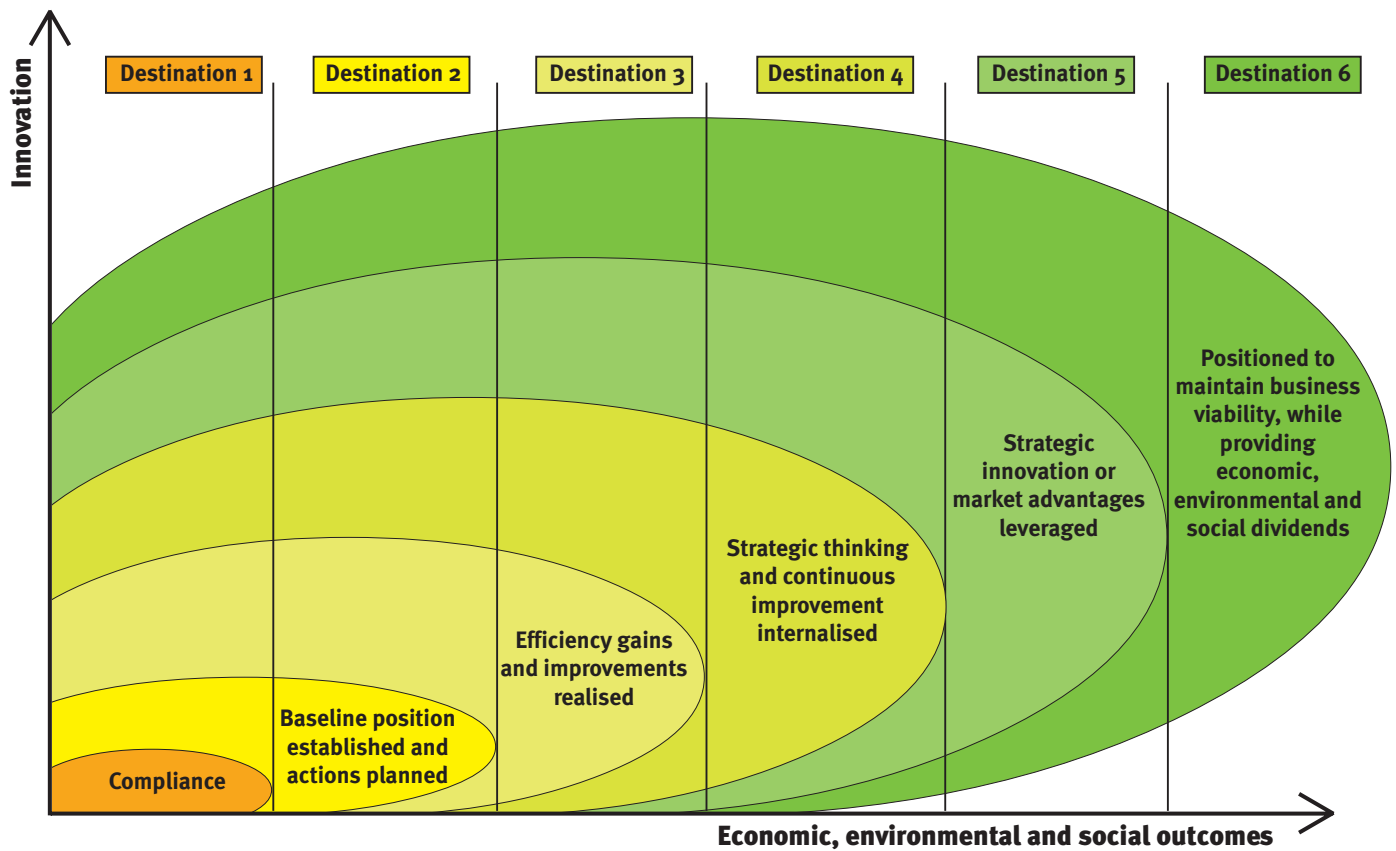
About the Business Sustainability Roadmap

The Business Sustainability Roadmap is a strategy map which provides a contextual framework for businesses serious about taking up the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. For each Destination on the Roadmap there are Milestones by which businesses can check their systems and practices.

The Business Sustainability Roadmap helps businesses to employ tools such as environmental management systems, cleaner production, environmental auditing, life-cycle assessment and environmental accounting. These tools can be applied to reduce risk, reduce costs, identify opportunities and enhance business reputation.

The Roadmap also assists us to measure our partners' progress and to evaluate program, product and service effectiveness and efficiency.

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Destinations and key questions	Indicative milestones
<p>1 What are our mandatory obligations? Are we meeting them? Businesses have compliance management systems in place and have engaged a champion to drive internalisation of sustainability issues and systems that promote due diligence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance management system in place for environmental, social and economic performance • Demonstrated compliance with relevant laws • Engaged champion to drive internalisation of sustainability.
<p>2 Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? Businesses establish their baseline position, measuring and benchmarking the water, energy, raw materials, waste, carbon and emissions intensity of their goods and services, and they develop strategies to improve performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline indicators established via inventory, mass balance, scoping study, audit or assessment • Performance targets or benchmarks developed or identified • Strategies to improve performance identified and implementation plan developed.
<p>3 What can we do now? What can we do in the future? Businesses identify and realise efficiency gains, and implement systems and technologies to reduce the water, energy, raw materials, waste, carbon and emissions intensity of their products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems or system improvements implemented • Technologies implemented • Process improvements implemented • Performance reporting process implemented • Community consultation process implemented • TBL accounting and reporting system implemented • By-product exchange program implemented.
<p>4 Is sustainability part of the way our business lives and breathes? Businesses develop a culture where strategic thinking and continuous improvement is internalised so that quality, efficiency and innovation become business as usual.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability awareness programs in place • All staff engaged in sustainability education • All staff participate in quality, efficiency, culture building and innovation activities • Sustainability report verified by a third party • Business advocates the benefits of sustainability to their industry and supply chain.
<p>5 What are the strategic business opportunities arising from our achievements? Businesses benefit from actions they have taken to reduce their environmental impact by leveraging strategic, innovation or market advantages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-labelling scheme requirements met • Socially responsible investment attracted • Spin-off technology or other business opportunity implemented • Market access or penetration increased • Business or product repositioned in the marketplace.
<p>6 Are we enhancing the viability of our business and providing environmental, social and economic dividends? Businesses have a net positive impact on the environment, society and the economy. They are positioned to adapt to the rapidly changing marketplace, to be ready to exploit new opportunities or to set future market realities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production systems are closed loop • Factor 10 productivity gains have been made (ie 90 percent more efficient / less resource intensive) • Business is renowned as a leader.

For more information

- visit www.epa.qld.gov.au/sustainable_industries
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