

Sustainability

Client Centered

TLI Solutions, Inc. (a TechLaw Company) offers the proven tools and demonstrated expertise to help clients identify and prioritize their actions to maintain and improve operations, and fulfill commitments to sustainability.

Sustainability can be seen as a noteworthy principle, a commitment and an opportunity. Some of the primary questions that arise are:

1. What is sustainability?
2. What does it really mean in and to my organization?
3. How can we go about practicing sustainability in our ongoing activities?

Regarding question #1, much has been written, but the concepts are described in very broad terms and typically in quite a few words.

To start our discussions, TLI Solutions, Inc. (TLI) offers the following; Sustainability is the practice of identifying and managing our activities or operations so that they have the least practicable impact upon external resources or relationships for which others are, or may be dependent.

Practicing sustainability requires consideration of how an activity interacts with and changes the surrounding environment, (the natural, economic and social fabric of the world) and what should be done to decrease or control the resulting changes. There is even more reason now to value the perspectives and insights of stakeholders and peers and to engage them in opportunities for dialogue.

The work begins with providing the answers to the questions #2 and #3. Aligning the environmental health and safety (EH&S) Organization with Business Needs.

We offer proven skills and the readily available tools to help clients:

- Identify and characterize sustainability interactions
- Determine their sustainability objectives and targets
- Identify practices and procedures to meet these objectives and needs
- Select existing procedures and practices that can be adapted for use
- Develop any needed procedures and practices
- Implement these procedures and practices at all relevant levels and in all relevant functions
- Evaluate progress and performance, and make any needed adjustments or take additional actions to enhance sustainability

If this appears to follow the structure of an environmental management system (EMS) based on the Total Quality Management principles of Plan-Do-Check Act and, in turn, of ISO 14001—it does. TLI's client experience shows that real keys are to identify a limited number of key interactions and prioritize the actions to be taken based on the sustainability issues, needs, and expectations of those parties and organizations involved. A key in prioritizing actions is to identify and balance needs and expectations that can, at times, compete with each other. Another key is to keep the number of interactions to as small a number as possible—a list that is too large may be extremely comprehensive but it could also slow down progress. As with effective and efficient EMS development sustainability should be viewed as an ongoing effort to continually improve.

Sustainability

concluded

TLI has helped its clients focus on using EMS and sustainability programs as an evolving and ongoing commitment. When viewed from this perspective, progress can be attained in a shorter time frame and, more importantly, can be maintained and enhanced.

TLI's EMS ToolKit[®] is one of our readily available tools that can be used to fulfill all of the needs noted above from identification and prioritization through making any adjustments. The following is offered as an example of our use of the ToolKit[®] to begin development of a sustainability plan and program. This example uses the sustainability triple bottom line of the U.S. Army other sustainability focal points could be used depending on the client.

In the first step, TLI would work with its client to form a group of senior personnel who could identify a limited set of needs and major objectives within each circle. There could be a need for different "teams," (e.g., community relations specialists may support the Community efforts). Our professionals with decades of experience in such efforts can guide and facilitate the efforts of these teams.

Next, we would coordinate efforts of the teams to identify the issues, conflicts, and, most importantly, the areas where needs compliment each other in the areas where each circle overlaps another.

Continuing, TLI would use its tools and work with a select group of client senior management to develop its prioritization criteria. These criteria would be applied to each issue, conflict, and compliment identified through the overlap analysis. An example of one of our tools that has been used in such an effort is presented below.

These initial prioritizations would then be combined and evaluated (as a group) to identify the key issues, needs, and compliments where all three circles overlap. Our experience enables us to share best practices from others who have been constantly challenged to raise the bar. We can facilitate sessions that may lead to new ideas for product and process improvement. We all recognize that there are many opportunities with leadership to drive improved performance across the organization.

TLI would then work with its client's sustainability team to identify the organization's initial sustainability objectives and targets. With this information in hand we can guide

and facilitate the efforts to identify existing and develop additional procedures and practices to fulfill the objectives and targets and to implement these procedures and practices.



		Impact Score			
		0	1	2	3
Impact Evaluation Criteria	Volume/quantity used or stored	Negligible source or quantity	Moderate source or quantity	Comparatively large source or quantity	
	Human health toxicity	Known non-carcinogen, AND HMIS rating of 0 ¹ for all MSDSs in the process)	Possible carcinogen, or carcinogenicity unknown, OR HMIS rating of 1 or 2 ¹ in any category (for the highest rated MSDSs in the process)	Known or probable carcinogen, OR maximum HMIS rating of 3 or 4 ¹ in any category (for the highest rated MSDSs in the process)	
	Ecological harm	Easily biodegradable AND no harm to wildlife and plant species.	Somewhat or slowly biodegradable OR small harm to wildlife and plant species.	Not biodegradable OR moderate to high harm to wildlife and plant species.	
	Extent to which aspect is regulated ²	No regulations, permits, or legal requirements AND No industry codes or voluntary agreements.	No regulations, permits, or legal requirements BUT Some industry codes or voluntary agreements.	Regulations, permits, or legal requirements	
	Frequency/Duration		Rare emissions, discharges, or worker exposure to the aspect OR Occurs only during abnormal conditions	Infrequent or periodic emissions, discharges, or worker exposure to the aspect OR: Occurs only during TPM, maintenance, or scheduled cleaning	Recurring, routine, and/or continuous emissions, discharges, or worker exposure to the aspect OR: Occurs during normal process operation